



# Long Valley Charter School

*A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation*

Procurement Procedures for Food Services		
Approved by: LVCS Board of Directors	Adopted: 12/20/23 Revised: 02/21/24	Policy #: 4007

Long Valley Charter School (LVCS) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that operates two individual charter schools: Long Valley School and Thompson Peak Charter School. This policy applies to both schools equally and the schools are collectively referred to as “Charter School.”

## Long Valley Charter School Food Service Department

### Procurement Procedures

#### Procurement Procedures General Information

Procurement is a multistep process for acquiring the best possible goods and services at the lowest possible price. The **Long Valley Charter School (LVCS)** will purchase goods and services for use in the School Nutrition Programs in compliance with Title 2, *Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR)*, sections 200.318–200.327; Title 7, *Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR)*, parts 210 and 220; and all applicable state and local rules.

(Note: In accordance with *Public Contract Code* Section 20111, the **LVCS Program Operator** cannot deliberately split transactions into amounts below the small purchase threshold to circumvent using the formal procurement method.) When making procurement decisions, the LVCS will follow the following four fundamental principles of procurement:

1. Comply with the Buy American Provision by purchasing, to the maximum extent possible, agricultural commodities and products grown and processed in the United States per *7 CFR*, Sections 210.21(d) and 220.16(d).
  2. Understand and comply with federal, state, and local requirements. This includes California *Food and Agriculture Code (FAC)* Sections 58595 and 58596.1-5 (when applicable).
  3. Ensure that full and open competition exists to the maximum extent possible as outlined in *2 CFR*, Section 200.319(a).
  4. Award contracts to responsible and responsive bidders.
- **Methods of Procurement (only refer to applicable procurement methods)**
    1. **Micropurchase Method (2 CFR, Section 200.320[a])**

Micropurchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations or comparing prices among qualified suppliers if the following two conditions are met:

- The aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed \$50,000. (Note: This amount may differ for all SFAs based on their internal controls). In accordance with 2 CFR, Section 200.320(a)(1)(iii), increasing the threshold up to \$50,000 requires a self-certification process.
- LVCS staff considers the price to be reasonable based on research, experience, purchase history, or other information. Documentation (e.g., receipts and invoices) must be maintained for three years plus the current program year or until the next California Department of Education (CDE) review, to document costs that are reasonable.

The LVCS will distribute micropurchases equitably among qualified suppliers to the extent practical. The LVCS will ensure that purchases are made at a variety of stores. The LVCS will not limit its purchases to only one store unless it is not practical to equitably distribute (e.g., due to the distance of another store from the district office).

Micropurchases are not intended to be used to avoid a small, informal or formal procurement.

## **2. Small Purchase Method (2 CFR, Section 200.320[a][2])**

The small purchase method is used to procure goods and services when the aggregate value of the purchase is equal to or less than the small purchase threshold adhered to by the LVCS.

If the LVCS does not have a local small purchase threshold; therefore, the LVCS is required to adhere to the federal small purchase threshold of \$250,000.

The LVCS will follow the following steps when conducting procurements using the small purchase method:

- **Step 1:** The LVCS Program Operator will develop and provide a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements of the goods or services to be procured from potential sources per 2 CFR, Section 200.319(d)(1), including the requirement to comply with the Buy American Provision per 7 CFR, sections 210.21(d) and 220.16(d), California FAC Sections 58595 and 58596.1-5 when procuring food. The same specifications will be provided to each potential vendor so that each vendor can provide price quotes on the same goods or services.

- **Step 2:** Price or rate quotations will be obtained from a minimum of two responsible and responsive sources. Price quotes must be documented in writing per LVCS's policy. [If price quotes are provided verbally, describe how you will document the information provided to the vendor and their responses. If you use a form, provide form number].  
LVCS Small Purchase Quotation forms and other forms of written quotes submitted by potential vendors will be retained by the LVCS Program Operator with other related procurement documentation (e.g., invoices) for the term of the contract plus extensions and three additional school years, or until the next review by the CDE, whichever is longer.
- **Step 3:** The LVCS Program Operator will evaluate the written quotes received based on stated evaluation criteria in order to determine responsiveness.
- **Step 4:** The LVCS Program Operator will evaluate the written responses and references received based on stated evaluation criteria to determine responsibility.
- **Step 5:** The LVCS Program Operator will award small purchases to the lowest priced responsible and responsive vendor.
- **Step 6:** The LVCS Program Operator will monitor the contract to ensure goods or services solicited for are the ones received and all deliverables are met per 2 *CFR*, Section 200.318(b).

The LVCS will check for any changes to the micropurchase and small purchase thresholds approved by the federal awarding agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### **3. Formal Purchase Methods (2 *CFR*, Section 200.320[c][d])**

The formal purchase method, used to procure goods and services when the estimated purchase price is above the federal small purchase threshold. Both Invitation for Bid (IFB) and Request for Proposal (RFP) methods are used by the LVCS.

The terms of formal contracts will be one year. Renewal options will be mutually agreed between LVCS and the awarded contractor.

The LVCS will complete the following steps when conducting formal procurements:

- **Step 1:** The LVCS Program Operator will describe how it performs a **cost or price analysis (2 *CFR*, Section 200.324)** for every procurement in

excess of the federal small purchase threshold including contract modifications. The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation, but as a starting point, the LVCS Program Operator will make independent estimates before receiving bids or proposals to ensure the bids or proposals received are reasonable.

- **Step 2:** The LVCS Program Operator will develop a written solicitation, which will incorporate:
  - A clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the goods or services to be procured per 2 *CFR*, sections 200.319(d)(1).
  - The requirement to comply with the Buy American Provision per 7 *CFR*, sections 210.21(d) and 220.16(d), and the California *FAC* Sections 58595 and 58596.1-5. All requirements that the offerors must fulfill, and all other factors (IFBs and RFPs) and their relative importance (RFPs only) used in evaluating bids or proposals per 2 *CFR*, Sections 200.319(d)(2)
  - All requirements that the offerors must fulfill and all other factors (IFBs and RFPs) and their relative importance (RFPs only) used in evaluating bids or proposals per 2 *CFR*, sections 200.319(c)(2) and 200.320(c)(d) to judge responsive and responsible firms
  - Instructions for responding vendors
  - The general terms and conditions of the contract
- **Step 3:** The LVCS purchasing manager will publicly advertise the solicitation in print and on websites 14 days prior to the deadline for submission of bids and proposals.
- **Step 4:** The LVCS FSD and purchasing manager will open bids resulting from IFBs at the time and place prescribed in the solicitation. RFPs will be opened according to LVCS's determination (2 *CFR* 200.320[b][2]).

The LVCS Program Operator and purchasing manager will evaluate offers from responding firms by using the evaluation criteria outlined in the solicitation for both IFBs and RFPs. If there is not a minimum of two respondents, the LVCS Program Operator and purchasing manager will review the solicitation to ensure that it is not limiting competition as

outlined in 2 *CFR*, Section 200.319, and consider expanding advertising efforts before reissuing the solicitation or accepting the single bid.

The offers will be ranked based on cost only for IFBs and on evaluation criteria (i.e., technical criteria) and cost for RFPs for all responsible and responsive responders. LVCS Program Operator and purchasing manager must describe their written method used to conduct a technical evaluation of all proposals received, as required by 2 *CFR*, Section 200.320(b)(2) for RFPs only. The LVCS purchasing manager will negotiate the technical aspects of each RFP prior to negotiating the cost aspect of the RFP. Any or all bids may be rejected if there is sound documented reason.

- **Step 5: Responsible and Responsive Contractors (2 *CFR*, Section 200.318[h])**

The LVCS will award contracts only to responsive and responsible contractors possessing the ability to conform to all of the SFA's stated terms and conditions and to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources. LVCS defines responsive as respondent conforms to all of LVCS's stated terms and conditions and defines responsible as respondent is capable of performing successfully under the terms and conditions of the contract.

- **Step 6:** The LVCS Program Operator will award the contract to the responsible and responsive bidder who offers the lowest price for IFBs. All IFBs will result in a firm, fixed-price contract.

For RFPs, the LVCS Program Operator will award the contract to the responsible and responsive respondent whose proposal is most advantageous to the LVCS, with price and other factors considered. All RFPs will result in either a fixed-price or cost reimbursable contract. **2 *CFR* Section 200.324(d)** prohibits the use of a cost plus a percentage of cost contracts.

- **Step 7:** The LVCS Program Operator will monitor the contract per 2 *CFR*, Section 200.318[b] by:
  - Overseeing deliveries to ensure that the goods solicited for were received
  - Periodic on-site visits to ensure services solicited are being satisfactorily performed

- Reviewing the contract's terms, conditions, and deliverables monthly to ensure that they are being met and done so in accordance with all federal, state, and local rules
- Ensuring that discounts, rebates, and credits in cost reimbursable contracts are provided

**4. Noncompetitive Procurement Method (2 CFR, Section 200.320[c])**

The LVCS will only enter into a noncompetitive agreement when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- The item is available only from a single source.
- Public urgency or emergency exists for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation.
- The LVCS received prior approval from the CDE after submitting a written request to the CDE with justification for conducting a noncompetitive procurement.
- After solicitation from a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

**• Purchasing Cooperatives and Intergovernmental Procurement (2 CFR, Section 200.318[e])**

The LVCS may choose to make purchases through a cooperative agreement with a group of other schools to increase purchasing power or the LVCS may piggyback on contracts awarded to a vendor from another school district when all procurement principles are followed.

While intergovernmental agreements can benefit the LVCS, the LVCS may only enter into an intergovernmental agreement with a local government (e.g., school district). LVCS may also join or piggyback onto a cooperative when that agreement was procured and awarded consistent with federal and state procurement regulations.

For cooperative purchasing, the LVCS purchasing manager must ensure the solicitation and contract, proof of advertising, and bid award documents (e.g., evaluation documentation) from the lead entity adhere to federal, State, and local regulations, laws, and standards. The LVCS purchasing manager must retain documentation for the term of the contract, plus any extensions, and three additional school years.

For piggybacking, the LVCS purchasing manager must obtain prior written permission from the lead entity awarding the bid and the vendor who was awarded the bid. A copy of the solicitation and contract, including the piggyback clause, proof of advertising, and

bid award documents (e.g., evaluation documentation) must be retained for the term of the contract plus extensions and three additional school years.

A copy of all documents listed above will be made available during a procurement review.

**Buy American Provision (7 CFR, sections 210.21[d] and 220.16[d]; U.S. Department of Agriculture Policy Memorandum SP 38-2017)**

Section 104(d) of the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 Public Law 105-336 added a provision, Section 12(n), to the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) (42 *United States Code* Section 1760[n]), that requires all school food authorities (SFA) to purchase, to the maximum extent practical, domestic commodities or products. Section 12(n) of the NSLA defines a domestic commodity or product as an agricultural commodity (i.e., meat/meat alternate [M/MA], grain, fruit, vegetable, and fluid milk) or processed product (i.e., processed food product that includes components that contribute to a reimbursable meal, such as a chicken patty that contains an M/MA and grain component) that is processed in the United States using substantial agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States. Substantial means that over 51 percent of the final processed product (by weight or volume) consists of agricultural commodities that are grown domestically. Products from Guam, American Samoa, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands are allowed under this provision as territories of the United States.

When funds are used from the nonprofit school food service account, SFAs must ensure that procurement transactions for food products comply with the Buy American Provision requirement in 7 CFR, sections 210.21(d) and 220.16(d), whether food products are purchased by SFAs or entities that are purchasing on their behalf.

**Note:** The SFA is not required to adhere to the domestic requirement for foods that are not creditable food components.

In compliance with this policy, the LVCS Program Operator will ensure that the solicitation and contract language include the requirement for domestic agricultural commodities and products and retain records documenting any exceptions in advance of accepting deliveries. Implementation of the Buy American Provision by LVCS Program Operator will be ensured by:

- Including the Buy American Provision requirement in food bid specifications, IFBs, RFPs, contracts, purchase orders, and other procurement documents issued
- Monitoring the contract to ensure that the domestic products solicited are the ones received
- Requiring suppliers to provide certification of domestic origin for all food products, from bids and proposals through receipts and invoices

- Conducting monthly reviews on storage facilities to ensure the domestic products received are the ones solicited for and awarded

Exceptions to the Buy American Provision will be used as a last resort and are only allowable for one of the two exceptions listed below and outlined in further detail in the USDA Policy Memorandum SP 38-2017: Compliance with and Enforcement of the Buy American Provision in the National School Lunch Program.

- The product is not produced or manufactured in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality.
- Competitive bids reveal the costs of a United States product are significantly higher than the nondomestic product as determined by LVCS over 15 percent higher.

The LVCS Program Operator or vendor must document exceptions to the Buy American Provision requirement prior to accepting each and every nondomestic agricultural commodity or product. This documentation must be on file for at least the current year plus three years, and must be made available during an on-site administrative review and an off-site procurement review.

The documented exception will include the following:

- A description of the nondomestic item and an evaluation of if there are domestic sources for the product
- Alternative domestic commodities or products that the LVCS Program Operator considered or the vendor offered and the reason they were not substituted for the nondomestic item
- A synopsis of what third-party verification (e.g., USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Run a Custom Report web page at <https://marketnews.usda.gov/mnp/fv-report-config-step1?type=termPrice>) was done by the vendor or the LVCS Program Operator to determine cost and availability
- Documentation by the vendor or the LVCS Program Operator outlining the price of both domestic and nondomestic commodities or products or lack of availability to justify the exception
- The dates that the: (1) vendor informed the LVCS Program Operator of the nondomestic commodity or product, (2) LVCS Program Operator agreed to



accept this food item in advance of delivery, and (3) commodity or product was received by the LVCS

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- **Senate Bill 490 (Statutes of 2022)**

Senate Bill 490 (statutes of 2022) added California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section 58596.3. This new law is operative January 1, 2024 through January 1, 2029, and applies to local educational agencies (LEAs) who operate the School Nutrition Programs and receive more than \$1,000,000 in annual federal meal reimbursement (which includes the National School Lunch Program, Seamless Summer Feeding Option, School Breakfast Program, and After School Snack Program).

If an LEA receives over \$1,000,000 in annual federal meal reimbursement, they must specify in their solicitation for bids and contracts that they will only purchase agricultural food products grown, packed, or processed domestically unless any of the following applies:

1. The bid or price of the nondomestic agricultural food product is more than 25 percent lower than the bid or price of the domestic agricultural food product.
2. The quality of the domestic agricultural food product is inferior to the quality of the agricultural food product grown, packed, or produced nondomestically.
3. The agricultural food product is not produced or manufactured domestically in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality to meet the needs of the public institution.

Note: If an LEA has an existing food contract in place with a contractor on January 1, 2024, this bill will apply upon the next successive contract.

- **Assembly Bill 778 (Statutes 2022)**

This law (effective January 1, 2023) adds LEAs to the FAC, Section 58595(c), which requires LEAs to accept a bid or price for that agricultural food product when it is grown in California before accepting a bid or price for a domestic agricultural food product that is grown outside the state, when both of the following are met:

1. The bid or price of the California-grown agricultural food product does not exceed the lowest bid or price for a domestic agricultural food product produced outside the state.
2. The quality of the California-grown agricultural food product is comparable to that domestic agricultural food product produced outside the state.

- **Farm Animal Confinement (Prop 12)**

Effective September 1, 2022, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Animal Health and Food Safety Services, adopted Title 3, California Code of Regulations (3 CCR), sections 1320-1326, which are related to Proposition 12 (2018), the Farm Animal Confinement Initiative. Proposition 12 amended *Health and Safety Code* to require that veal calves, breeding pigs, and egg laying hens be housed in confinement systems that comply with specific minimum standards for freedom of movement, cage-free designation, and minimum floor space.

When federal meal and state reimbursement funds are used, whether directly by a school food authority or on their behalf, CNP Operators must ensure all procurement transactions (excluding USDA foods) for food purchases are compliant with Proposition 12, this includes verifying compliance when monitoring contracts. Implementation should be achieved by including Proposition 12 in the following:

- Procurement procedures
- State agency prototypes documents
- Procurement solicitations
- Bid specifications

- **Small and Minority Businesses, Women’s Business Enterprises (2 CFR, Section 200.321)**

The LVCS purchasing manager will ensure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible by taking the following affirmative steps:

1. Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women’s business enterprises on solicitation lists
2. Assuring that small and minority businesses and women’s business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources
3. Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises
4. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises
5. Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of organizations such as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development of the

Department of Commerce

6. Requiring the prime contractor, if subcontracts are to be let, to take the affirmative steps listed in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this section

**Duplication of Goods or Services (2 CFR, Section 200.318[d])**

The LVCS will avoid the acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items by determining whether the goods or services are necessary and ensuring that their purchase does not duplicate items or bids that the LVCS already has in place. Where appropriate an analysis will be made of lease versus purchase alternatives and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach. The LVCS Program Operator will provide the LVCS purchasing manager with documentation justifying that the purchase of all goods and services requested are required and not duplicative prior to conducting a procurement.

- **Competition (2 CFR, Section 200.319[a][b][1–7])**

The LVCS will conduct all procurement transactions in a manner providing full and open competition. Situations where competition is limited will be avoided by the LVCS. Some of these situations include but are not limited to:

- Placing unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business
- Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding
- Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies
- Organizational conflicts of interest
- Specifying only a brand name product instead of allowing an equivalent product to be offered
- Any arbitrary action in the procurement process

When a procurement has been properly conducted, and there is only one respondent, LVCS will evaluate the scope of work or services requested to determine whether they were too restrictive by contacting potential respondents who did not participate, and by reviewing the requested services for possible modification. LVCS will then resolicit. If, after the second solicitation, there is only one respondent, LVCS will move forward with that award.

The LVCS will ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive

advantage by excluding contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, and IFBs and RFPs from competing for such procurements. The **LVCS Program Operator** will maintain documentation to prove that the appropriate procurement procedures were used, and that the final selection is the most efficient and economical for the LVCS.

- **Brand Name or Equivalent (2 CFR, Section 200.319[b][6])**

When using a brand name or product code in the specification, the LVCS will adhere to the following procedures:

- The LVCS Program Operator will ensure that the description in the specification will always include a clause that an equivalent product is acceptable.
- A copy of the specified brand or code will be posted on the LVCS website by the purchasing manager so vendors can verify that the product they are bidding on is actually an equal.
- Vendors bidding an item as an equal product to the brand name specified will be required to provide the LVCS Program Operator with a product specification sheet and a sample case of the product for taste testing and verification by all **LVCS nutrition department staff and a selected number of students** to ensure that the product is an equal product to the brand name specified.
- **Clear and Accurate Description of Technical Requirements Required (2 CFR, Section 200.319[d][1–2])**

The LVCS will have written procedures for procurement transactions. These procedures will ensure that all solicitations incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service being procured and will not contain features which unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product or service being procured and minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it must conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. A **brand name or equivalent** description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of procurement. The specific desired features of the named brand which must be met by offers must be clearly stated, along with all requirements which the offerors must fulfill, and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

- **Bid Protest (2 CFR, Section 200.318[k])**

The LVCS is responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation,

protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the LVCS of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

The LVCS accepts a prospective bidder's protest to a bid award if the protesting party believes the award is not in compliance with the law, does not follow bid procedures, or does not meet bid specifications. A protest must be filed with the LVCS designated point of contact for that bid. Such protests must be made in writing and received by the LVCS Business Services Office within five working days of the bid award date and shall include all documents supporting or justifying the protest. The protesting party must mail or deliver copies of the protest to the LVCS Business Services Office. A bidder's failure to file the protest documents in a timely manner shall constitute a waiver of their right to protest the award of the contract.

- **Termination for Cause and Convenience (2 CFR, 200, Appendix II[b])**

All contracts in excess of \$10,000 must address termination for cause and for convenience by the non-Federal entity including the manner by which it will be effected and the basis for settlement.

- **Maintenance of Records (2 CFR, Section 200.318[i])**

The LVCS will maintain records sufficient to detail the history of the procurement. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: Rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, a copy of the solicitation and contract, the basis for the contract price (the bidding history), rationale and approval for noncompetitive procurements, any contract amendments, billing and payment records, and a history of contractor claims for the full term of the contract plus extensions and three additional school years, or until the next review by the CDE. The CDE and USDA reviewers shall have full access to and the right to examine all procurement documentation.

- **Contract Management (2 CFR, Section 200.318[b])**

The **LVCS** must maintain oversight to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders. LVCS will perform the following tasks to ensure compliance:

- Monitor the vendors compliance with the terms of the contract or purchase order
- Review products and delivery invoices or receipts to ensure the items that were solicited and awarded, are the items that are received
- Conduct periodic reviews of storage facilities, freezers, refrigerators, dry storage, and warehouses to ensure the products received comply with the Buy American Provision

- **Certifications (including, but not limited to Appendix II to Part 200 of 2 CFR)**

The LVCS will require any successful respondent to provide proof of having and maintaining, during the life of any contract with the LVCS, Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance to protect themselves and the LVCS from all claims for personal injury, including accidental death, as well as from all claims for property damage arising from the operations any contract that the LVCS enters into. (23 CFR Section 646.105[a])

The LVCS will not enter into a contract with any company or individual that has been debarred or suspended. Vendors that are awarded contracts are required to submit a completed Debarment and Suspension Certificate, and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities. These forms must be completed prior to commencement of work.

The LVCS will require that vendors and potential vendors certify that pursuant to Education Code Section 45125.1, it has conducted criminal background checks, through the California Department of Justice, of all employees providing services to the District, and that none have been convicted of drug related, sex offenses or any felonies, as specified in Penal Code Sections 1192.79(c) and 667.5(c), respectively.

- **Continuing Education/Training Standards (7 CFR, sections 210.30[b][3],[c][1–5], [d][1–6], [e][1–2])**

The LVCS operates the School Nutrition Programs (SNP) and must ensure that all SNP directors (CFR, Section 210.30[b][3]), SNP managers (7 CFR, Section 210.30[c][1–5]), and staff (7 CFR, Section 210.30[d][1–6]) with responsibility for SNP, complete their required annual trainings. The annual training should include, but is not limited to, the following topics as applicable: training in procurement procedures, the identification of reimbursable meals at the point of service, nutrition, health and safety standards, and any other specific topics identified by USDA Food and Nutrition Service as needed to address program integrity or other critical issues. Annual training requirements for SNP managers, directors, and staff are summarized under 7 CFR, Section 210.30[e][1–2].

On August 23, 2023, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released SP 21-2023, Initial Implementation Memorandum: Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Integrity Final Rule. This final rule is intended to strengthen and streamline the oversight, accountability, and program integrity across the CNPs including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Special Milk Program, and Summer Food Service Program. Highlights of the final rule include:

1. Focusing on overall integrity process improvements
2. Introducing targeted flexibilities in the NSLP and SBP that streamline monitoring requirements and lower administrative burden for state agencies

3. Improving the ability of FNS and state agencies to address the rare instances of severe or repeated violations of program requirements in the CNP
4. Adding annual procurement training
5. Extending the School Nutrition Program Administrative Review and Food Service Management Company contract review from three to five years

**Contact Information**

For questions and concerns regarding procurement solicitations, contract evaluations, and awards, please contact the following LVCS staff:

Purchasing Manager: El Roper 530-827-2395

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.