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Rachel Laurie Riddle
Chief Examiner

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Alabama City and County Boards of Education

To Whom It May Concern,

In accordance with Section 16-13B-2(a)(13), *Ala. Code* 1975, as amended by Act No. 2021-485, the Department has reviewed the competitive bidding process used by E&I Cooperative Services ("E&I"), a national purchasing cooperative, for the contracts awarded as of the date of this letter. The Department did not identify any matters that were contrary to proper purchasing procedures or routine procurement practices. Each contract was awarded through a competitive bid process by various non-governmental entities.

Based on the Department's review, the competitive bid process used by E&I is approved for use through **December 31, 2026**. This approval authorizes the purchase, lease, or lease/purchase of certain goods or services, other than voice or data wireless communication services, when certain statutory conditions are fulfilled. See Section 16-13B-2(a)(13), *Ala. Code* 1975, as amended by Act No. 2021-485. This approval does **not** apply to entities subject to Section 41-16-50, *Ala. Code* 1975.

Prior to utilizing E&I, each governmental entity must verify that the goods or services to be purchased, leased, or lease/purchased are either not at the time available on the state purchasing program or are available at a price equal to or less than that on the state purchase program. *Id.* Any such purchases, leases, or lease/purchases must be made through a participating Alabama vendor holding an Alabama business license if such a vendor exists. *Id.* Further, all purchases must comply with the requirements of *Uniform Guidance*.

Should the Department receive notice that E&I, its awarding authorities, or its awarded vendors are allowing Alabama governmental entities to make unauthorized purchases or other unlawful business transactions, E&I's competitive bid process approval will subject to immediate revocation by the Department.

If the Department can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Rachel Laurie Riddle
CHIEF EXAMINER

RLR/lbm