

## National/IPA Contract Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: What is National/IPA?**

A: National/IPA is a national purchasing cooperative that contracts with vendors to provide good and services to participating public agencies..

### **Q: Who is eligible to participate and purchase with National/IPA contracts?**

A: Eligible entities include:.

- K-12 School Districts
- Charter Schools
- Cities/Municipalities
- Public Schools
- Churches
- Counties
- Charitable Organizations
- State Agencies
- Private Schools
- State Colleges/Universities
- Private Colleges/Universities

### **Q: What advantage does National/IPA afford to participants?**

A: Most public sector buyers are required to follow a time-consuming bidding process for procurement. National/IPA allows these buyers to make compliant purchases without the inconvenience of bidding, while taking advantage of combined buying power and discounted pricing.

A lead government agency, Region 4 Educational Service Center, publicly solicits national vendors to participate in a documented, formal bidding process. National/IPA awards contracts to successful applicants, and allows agencies to take advantage of combined buying power regardless of their size.

### **Q: What if a prospective customer is not a participant?**

A: As long as they are an eligible entity (see above), they may easily register online at the National/IPA website to participate. Registration is free and there are no restrictions on the amount or size of an order.

### **Q: What advantage does National/IPA afford to participants?**

A: Most public sector buyers are required to follow a time-consuming bidding process for procurement. National/IPA allows these buyers to make compliant purchases without the bidding hassle while taking advantage of combined buying power and discounted pricing.