



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

Jesse H. Ruiz
Chairman

Rod Blagojevich
Governor

Dr. Randy J. Dunn
State Superintendent of Education

June 16, 2005

Illinois School Leaders,

I am pleased to introduce US Communities as our partner in the new Illinois School Purchasing Network, our shared services initiative at the State Board. We chose to partner with US Communities because of its proven track record of saving money for school districts and its flexible, customer-friendly system. By partnering with US Communities, we are able to offer all school districts in Illinois access to high-quality products at some of the best available government prices.

As a former district superintendent, I appreciate the savings and flexibility this program offers. I believe you will find the contracts easy to use and the vendors responsive to your needs.

These contracts have already been bid by another government entity. The contracts and bidding documents have been reviewed by ISBE attorneys and have been certified by ISBE under the education purchasing provisions of SB 3000 (P.A. 93-1036). Your utilization of these contracts is exempt from bidding requirements under both the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (5 ILCS 220/1 et seq.) and Section 10-20.21 of the School Code (as modified by P.A. 93-1036). We believe these contracts will help you save money for your schools both through their pricing and by avoiding the red tape of the bidding process.

District testimonials are often the best representation of the quality of a purchasing program. I'd like to share with you the experience that Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202 has had in working with a US Communities vendor in purchasing its office supplies.

Plainfield has been participating in the US Communities program for seven months by using its Office Depot contract. On average the district saves about \$6,000 per month, or \$72,000 per year. Those savings translate to a new teacher salary and benefits in that district! Another advantage the district notes is the ability to purchase online with next day delivery (eliminating the need to buy in bulk and warehouse items).

I encourage you to register with US Communities so that like Plainfield, your district will have access to the thousands of products from multiple vendors available through its contracts. By registering for the program you are neither committing to participate nor binding the district in any manner; your district will still have the ability to make choices outside of US Communities. You can register today at www.uscommunities.org or through the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net/savings.

If you have any questions about the Illinois School Purchasing Network, please contact us at 217-782-0249 or ispn@isb.net.

Sincerely,

Randy Dunn
State Superintendent of Schools