## Examples of Local Purchasing Programs

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| Food            | **The Northern Illinois Independent Purchasing Cooperative (NIIPC)** began in 1995 through the joint effort of eleven charter districts ranging from 500 students to 40,000 students. They represent preschools through high school offering comprehensive food service programs that include breakfast, lunch, before and after school snacks, vending, concessions and catering. Members benefit significantly through the buying power NIIPC membership brings. The pricing history shows an average savings of 9%-35%. Other cost benefits include:  
- Full use of all USDA commodities meaning less waste and more choice.
- Direct-to-manufacturer pricing on selected, high-volume items. With the NIIPC, experts prepare a unified bid, which complies with all government regulations. Some members have said that the time they save in bid preparation alone is worth the price of membership. Time-saving benefits also include:  
- Rebate tracking by the distributor; rebates are automatically credited to your account.
- Nutritionally analyzed cycle menus that are coordinated with the bid items and USDA commodities. | Micheline Piekarski, MSM, SFNS  
District 200 Cook County  
Oak Park and River Forest High School  
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Website: [www.niipc.com](http://www.niipc.com) |
| Janitorial Supplies | **The Schools of Illinois Public Cooperative (SIPC)** is a school-based organization that offers districts an opportunity to achieve green cleaning certification by engaging in CleanGreen ScoreReport, a cost-managed curriculum designed to address the considerable challenges surrounding cleaning school buildings today. The program encompasses the use of eco-sensitive products and procedures along with a full and comprehensive training program that raises awareness and promotes health and safety. The SIPC’s utilization of IPHECD-3 contract for custodial goods and staff training has proven to be an excellent way to move the concept of coordinated purchases into school districts. This innovation has resulted in schools being able to stave off cuts to important areas, including teacher layoffs and program eliminations. | Dr. Kevin Settle  
SIPC Chairman and Superintendent of Mt. Vernon City Schools  
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Website: [www.schoolsofillinois.org](http://www.schoolsofillinois.org) |
The Illinois Learning Technology Purchase Program (ILTPP) was jointly developed by the Learning Technology Centers, the Regional Offices of Education and Intermediate Service Centers in response to needs assessment information provided by district personnel from around the state. The purpose of the ILTPP is to develop partnerships with major suppliers to make available quality software, hardware and peripherals to Illinois educational facilities at pricing that would normally only be available to larger entities.

The ILTPP is a consortium of suppliers that have met the following criteria:

- All suppliers that participate in the program have been referred by education personnel and have not been solicited from the general public.
- These companies are known to have provided exceptional service while providing high quality products.
- The reliability of each company is further researched by contacting three educational facilities that have purchased their products within the last year.
- Pricing and products are evaluated by an Advisory Committee that consists of LTC, ROE and ISC directors and ISBE officials.
- The company's products must enhance computer related curriculum and the prices must be the best available.