

Food & Nutrition Program



Your Foodservice Solution

RPS and Equalis Group partnered to grow the USDA-compliant Food & Nutrition Program nationwide, secure aggressive discounts from food and supplies manufacturers, and provide school districts data and proprietary analytics to identify ongoing savings opportunities. There are no costs, dues, or obligations to join RPS & Equalis.

Rockies Procurement Services (**RPS**) formed as a foodservice purchasing cooperative in 2009. RPS delivers significant procurement efficiency and savings on food and supplies for urban, suburban, and rural member school districts.

Equalis Group is a cooperative purchasing organization that delivers USDA-compliant, publicly procured cooperative agreements school districts across the country utilize to: *i)* quickly acquire the products and services they need; *ii)* receive better pricing through the collective buying power of Equalis Group members; and, *iii)* save time through Equalis Group's legal and compliant alternative to conducting their own resource-consuming solicitation process.

Benefits of Membership

Cost Savings

The Food & Nutrition Program provides significant cost savings to member school districts by:

- Establishing USDA-compliant contracts with distributors and manufacturers across the country.
- Leveraging members' combined buying power to establish direct contracts with manufacturers and achieve additional savings.
- Actively managing manufacturer agreements to ensure the best price is always loaded for members.
- Utilizing proprietary analytics to identify ongoing savings opportunities for each member.

Reduced Administrative Burden

RPS and Equalis Group manage every aspect of the Food & Nutrition Program, including RFP development, procurement, contracting, USDA compliance, analytics, and continuous contract management.

USDA Compliance

All contracts are procured by a school foodservice authority (**SFA**) and follow the requirements set by the USDA food and nutrition service (**FNS**), consistent with 2 CFR Part 200.318-.326.

Member Influence Over Product Selection

Participating members provide direct input to RFP development, vendor selection, and products stocked.

Dedicated Distributor Support

Awarded distributors provide dedicated account executives and support personnel.

Relationships

Member school districts have the opportunity to connect throughout the year, build relationships, and learn from each other. Long-standing members provide mentoring for new participants.

Getting Started

Join the Food & Nutrition Program at Equalisgroup.org/Member-Registration-RPS. Contact Bradley Brown, Equalis Group's Senior Director of Supplier Development, to learn more. Email BBrown@EqualisGroup.org or dial direct 407.902.4302.

