

## Supply Catalog Rollout unveils more than 1,100 discounted items

To launch our 2017-2018 Supply Catalog, Choice Partners hosted a special rollout event in April, inviting vendors with awarded contracts for supplies to network with member school districts and other entities.



At Harris County Department of Education's Westview location, vendors who have been awarded contracts for art supplies, athletic supplies, office supplies and more helped procurement professionals learn how they can purchase supplies using the catalog. The annual



supply catalog, which now exists almost entirely online, offers more than 1,100 hard bid line items, providing members with best pricing and an easier-to-use procurement process.

Butler Business Products, Buckeye International and NAO Global Health were among the vendors who exhibited at the rollout event. ◆

## Contracts for athletic surfaces, event rentals and more awarded

New contracts for athletic surfaces, event rentals and more were awarded at recent board meeting of Harris County Department of Education and are accessible through HCDE Choice Partners cooperative. Newly awarded contracts include

**Athletic Surfaces (JOC-IDIQ):** Dynamic Sports Construction, Inc.; Fisher Tracks, Inc.; and Playgrounds Today, Inc. doing business as PTI Sports and Recreation Construction; and

**Bottled Drinking Water, Coolers and Related Products:** DS Services of America, Inc. doing business as Sparkletts; Lone Star Coffee, LLC; Nestle Waters North America doing business as ReadyRefresh by Nestle, a division of Nestle Waters North America; and Quench USA, Inc.

**Bread Products:** Kurz & Co.;

**Dairy and Related Products:** Borden Dairy Company doing business as Borden Dairy Company of Texas, LLC; and

**Event Rentals:** Sky High Party Rentals; and Southern Sound System, Inc. doing business as Southern Sound & Lighting.

See all our contracts at [www.choicepartners.org](http://www.choicepartners.org). ◆

## Lookabaugh named executive director of Facilities Support Services

Gregory Lookabaugh is the new executive director of Harris County Department of Education's Facilities Support Services division. Formerly senior manager of facilities planning, Lookabaugh brings more than 35 years of experience working with educational institutions to his new role at HCDE. His main duties include leading an extensive team of employees as they consult in departmental operational reviews, training, facility design and construction management assistance, as well as facility maintenance and operations management.

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Jeff Drury, Director

Joann Nichols, Assistant Director

Trisha Jensen, Assistant Director

Greg Lookabaugh, Sr. Manager of  
Facilities Planning

Karen Chesky, Contract Manager

Carol Greb, Contract Manager

Kristi Helton-Dion, Contract Manager

Mary Causey, Contract Coordinator

Laura Sprehe, Food Contract Coordinator

Jan Arnold, Client Services Coordinator

Stephen Kendrick, Contract Compliance  
Specialist

Arlita Kyles, Contract Specialist

Fred Calhoun, Field Representative

Don Elder, Jr., Marketing Consultant

Jim Owens, Contract Auditor/Consultant

Janet Wachs, Membership Manager

Gregory Lookabaugh  
Executive Director

James Colbert, Jr.  
HCDE County School Superintendent

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Find us on:



## Welcome new members

Organizations and governmental entities that became members when contracts were approved recently by the HCDE Board of Trustees include **Bay City Library Association**, Bay City, Texas; **Celeste ISD**, Celeste, Texas; **city of Cerritos**; **city of Duncanville**; **Farmersville ISD**, Farmersville, Texas; **city of Harlingen**; **Hays County**, San Marcos, Texas; **Howard College**, Big Spring, Texas; **Hutto ISD**, Hutto, Texas; **Kennedale ISD**, Kennedale, Texas; **city of Lake Jackson**, Lake Jackson, Texas; **city of Missouri City**; **Pilot Point ISD**,

Pilot Point, Texas; **Purple Hearts, Inc.**, Fort Worth, Texas;

**Reeves County**, Pecos, Texas; **Riverbend Retreat Center**, Glen Rose, Texas; **Santa Fe Public School District**, Santa Fe, N.M.;

**city of Wallis**; **Washington County**, Brenham, Texas; and **Whitesboro ISD**, Whitesboro, Texas.



New out-of-state members include **Boston Public Schools**, Boston, Mass.; **Florida Polytechnic University**, Lakeland, Fla.;

**Francis Howell School District**, St. Charles, Mo.; **Franklin County**, Columbus, Ohio;

**Jacksonville Water Works, Gas & Sewer**, Jacksonville, Ala.; **Kenosha County**, Kenosha,

Wis.; **Nassau County School District**, Fernandina Beach, Fla.; **Raytown Quality Schools**,

Raytown, Mo.; **Suffolk Public Schools**, Suffolk, Va.; **Superior Court of California, County**

**of Sutter**, Yuba City, Calif.; **Thompson School District R2-J**, Loveland, Colo.; **University**

**of North Carolina Greensboro**, Greensboro, N.C.; **University of North Florida**,

Jacksonville, Fla.; and **Vail Unified School District #20**, Vail, Ariz. ♦

## Buckeye expands nationally

Here we grow again! Buckeye International is expanding usage of its Choice Partners contract outside Texas.

Members in Florida, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Carolina and Tennessee have recently committed to using Buckeye's cooperative purchasing contract. School districts in particular are fans of Buckeye's cleaning products and unbeatable customer service. Also, its online distributor locator allows users to search by state (<http://choicepartners.buckeyeinternational.com/>).

"We're proud to have Buckeye as one of our awarded vendors," said Jeff Drury, director, Choice Partners. "And we're very pleased to see that members across the U.S. are taking advantage of Buckeye's commitment to excellence."

Learn more about Buckeye's contract at <https://www.choicepartners.org/vendors/buckeye-cleaning-center-6>. ♦

## Host a Member Meeting

Want to network with our vendors and members while learning essential procurement info?

Would you like Choice Partners to hold a public training in your area?

Do you have a space large enough to hold 50-75 people?

If you answered yes to all three questions, send an email to Joann Nichols at

**[joann@choicepartners.org](mailto:joann@choicepartners.org)** with the subject line "Member Meeting" or call 877-696-2122.

## HCDE Facilities Support Services now under Lookabaugh's leadership (continued from front)

Lookabaugh holds a bachelor's degree in engineering/industrial technology from Lamar University. His many professional accomplishments include serving as a life member of the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) and as a board member of the



Custodial Management Association of Texas (CMAT). In 2009, Lookabaugh assisted the United States Department of Energy (DOE) in preparing the Guide to Operating and Maintaining Energy Smart Schools to educate school districts across the nation in energy conservation.

Many conferences and organizations have sought Lookabaugh's expertise in facilities management. He was a keynote speaker at the Ohio Association of School Business Officials Facility Masters Conference in 2016, and he regularly presents at both the

annual and midwinter TASBO conferences.

A veteran of the US Navy, he received an honorable discharge in 1981. He lives in Montgomery, Texas. ♦

## Laura Sprehe joins Choice Partners as food contract coordinator



We recently welcomed a new member to our team. Laura Sprehe, who previously worked as a registered dietitian for Aldine ISD, joined Choice Partners as our new food contract coordinator.

Sprehe earned a bachelor's degree in nutritional science from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree in management, policy and community health practice from the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Her new role has her working closely with Trisha Jensen, assistant director, Choice Partners. More than 85 million school lunches are served annually with the help of Choice Partners' food program.. ♦

## Membership meeting in Dallas-Fort Worth area a success

Choice Partners hosted a member workshop in Grapevine on April 5. The event was geared toward helping members in the Dallas-Fort Worth area learn about Choice Partners' procurement and contract solutions, as well as to introduce them to new contracts that were recently board-approved.

Members in attendance heard from HCDE staff about how Choice Partners contracts meet the federal EDGAR guidelines for using federal grant money. They also received a brief tutorial on using the Choice Partners website to make purchasing easier and more user-friendly. ♦



**Stay tuned to [www.choicepartners.org/events](http://www.choicepartners.org/events) for upcoming Choice Partners events.**

## JOC Trades contract saves time and lowers overhead

Choice Partners held our rollout event for member entities to discuss a new contract that will increase efficiency. Thirty-five members and 16 vendors attended the JOC Trades Rollout in March, where they networked and heard a presentation about the intricacies of government purchasing.

“Very useful,” said co-op member Bahman Yazdani, associate director, Energy Systems Laboratory, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station. Yazdani exchanged business cards with a rep from Aggieland Construction, one of the newly-awarded contract holders also present.

The on-call JOC trades contract “lowers overhead cost,” said Stephen Kendrick, contract compliance specialist, HCDE. It also simplifies the procurement process by allowing member entities to contract directly with trades specialists, rather than going through a larger contractor and sub-contracting for specific needs. ♦



## Spread the word about roofing CSP and finance RFP

The following CSP and RFP will be on the street soon. Check out [www.choicepartners.org/current-rfps](http://www.choicepartners.org/current-rfps) for proposal due dates.

- CSP for Roofing/Waterproofing IDIQ-JOC
- RFP for Financial and Operations Analysis, Evaluation and Reporting System

Let your contacts who are quality vendors know about these opportunities. They must register in our e-bid system at [www.choicepartners.org/become-a-vendor](http://www.choicepartners.org/become-a-vendor) to do business with us. ♦



## FIND CHOICE PARTNERS AT THESE EVENTS

**June 7 – 8**

South Texas Association of School Maintenance Officials (STASMO), *SOUTH PADRE ISLAND*

**June 14 – 16**

Texas Public Purchasing Association (TXPPA) Summer Momentum, *GALVESTON*

**June 19 – 21**

Texas Association of School Nutrition (TASN) Annual Conference, *HOUSTON*

**June 19 – 21**

2017 Summer TASBO Conference, *GALVESTON*

**June 20 – 23**

TACCBO 2017 ANNUAL Conference, *DALLAS*

**June 22**

Eighth Annual Hill Country M&O Conference, *FREDERICKSBURG*

**June 28 – 30**

ISM RGV Summer Session, *SOUTH PADRE ISLAND*

**August 22 – 24**

Texas Association of Counties Legislative Conference 2017, *AUSTIN*

**September 27 – 29**

ISM RGV Timeline 2018, *SOUTH PADRE ISLAND*

**October 3 – 6**

Texas Municipal League 2017 Annual Conference, *HOUSTON*

**October 6 – 8**

TASA/TASB 2017 Annual Conference, *DALLAS*