



TO: NIESC/NWIESC Member School Corporations and Participating Produce Vendors

FROM: Lisa Abell, Assistant Director and Director of Cooperative Purchasing

DATE: May 21, 2021

RE: Awarding of Produce RFP

Proposals for produce products were due on April 22, 2022. The East Central Education Service Center, Wabash Valley Education Center, Northwest Educational Service Center, and NIESC combined our produce volume into one RFP. The consortium of member food service directors and ESC Team Leaders met on May 10, 2021 in Plymouth, May 11, 2021 via Zoom, and May 12, 2021 at East Central ESC to review pricing, proposal details, and to evaluate and score their vendor submissions.

NIESC received two completed proposals. One from Piazza Produce and one from Creation Gardens-a new vendor to our consortium. The produce proposal contract will run from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 with an option to renew.

Piazza included all districts in their proposal. Piazza does not have a fuel surcharge on their proposal and did not list a minimum order. Some districts have listed preferred delivery days on their evaluation forms. This information will be shared with the vendor.

Creation Gardens included all participating districts in their proposal. Creation Gardens does not have a fuel surcharge on their proposal and listed a minimum order of \$125. Some districts have listed preferred delivery days on their evaluation forms. This information will be shared with the vendor.

Creation Gardens included an exception to the admin fee per district and proposed a three cent per case admin fee and this was accepted by the group as well as the flexibility of working with districts on delivery schedules.

- *The following corporations awarded their produce proposal to **Piazza**:*

<u>NIESC Members:</u>	<u>WVEC Members:</u>	<u>ECESC Members:</u>
Culver	Eastern Howard	Eastern Hancock
Eastern Pulaski	Lewis Cass	Edinburgh
John Glenn	Logansport	
LaPorte	North Newton	
Tippecanoe Valley	North White	
Wawasee	Pioneer	
West Central	Western	

- *The following corporations awarded their produce proposal to **Creation Gardens**:*

<u>NIESC Members:</u>	<u>NWIESC Members:</u>	<u>WVEC Members:</u>
Argos	New Prairie	MSD of Warren
Fairfield	Oregon-Davis	South Newton
Goshen	Prairie Heights	Porter Township
Lakeland	School City of Mishawaka	School City of Hobart
Michigan City	South Central	
MSD of New Durham	Wa-Nee	

ECESC Members:
Northern Rush
*Randolph Central**

**Award Pending:* Randolph Central School District is currently out for bid for a Food Service Management Company. The award above is pending the outcome of their board accepting or rejecting the bids on June 8, 2021. Vendors will accept this as a condition of the award and will be notified by June 10, 2021 if this award is cancelled.

Pricing, scoring, and additional information will be sent to corporations and to the vendors. Vendors will need to contact the schools to make final arrangements and to establish delivery start dates.

Please call me at 800-326-5642 or e-mail me at: labell@niesc.k12.in.us with any questions or concerns. Thank you for participating in this proposal.