

# Arkansas Purchasing Price Threshold for Bidding Commodities in School Year 2025-2026

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**Issue Number:** CNU E-Memo 01-2026

**Correspondence Date:** 07/10/2025

**Regulatory Authority:** Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-304

**Response Required:** No

**Attention:** Superintendents, Child Nutrition Directors and Business Managers

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The small purchase threshold also referred to as the simplified acquisition threshold is adjusted annually. In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-304 which requires the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to adjust the purchasing threshold for bidding amounts under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-304(a)(1)(A) by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers or its successor. This adjustment shall be made by July 1 of each year. The state finance unit released information related to the purchasing threshold for school year 2025-2026 via email on May 22, 2025.

The increase in the CPI for this category during the 12-month period ending in April 2025 was 2.74%. Statute allows the final amount as adjusted under subdivision (a)(1)(B)(i) to be rounded up to the nearest one hundred dollars. Therefore, the purchasing threshold for bidding under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-304 will increase from \$25,700 to \$26,500 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Please note that, if your district sets a lower threshold in policy, you must adhere to the district's more restrictive policy. Additionally, for purchases using federal funds, you must consult federal procurement law and use the more restrictive threshold.

It is also important to understand that aggregate purchases are defined as the total of multiple purchases made to a single vendor over the course of a school year. When determining which procurement method to use, districts must consider the cumulative amount expected to be spent with each vendor. Cost or price analysis, as well as regular monitoring of expenditures by vendor, can help determine whether the total amount will exceed the micro-purchase or small purchase thresholds. This analysis ensures that appropriate procurement procedures are followed, and competitive practices are used when required.

Contact your Area Specialist via email or at 501-324-9502 for further details.