GRO42 K-12 School Nutrition Products: Produce, Groceries, and Locally Sourced Foods



The Operational Services Division (OSD) is pleased to offer Statewide Contract GRO42 K-12 School Nutrition Products focusing on the nutritional needs of K-12 schools and other state entities. GRO42 provides:

- **Category 1 Produce**
- **Category 2 Groceries**
- **Category 3 Locally Sourced Foods** (Available December 2026)

Contract Highlights

- Selection of businesses experienced in effectively managing medium- to large-scale distribution
- Produce, groceries, and locally sourced foods include high-quality fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, groceries, and locally sourced foods (organic and non-organic) which comply with federal and state standards and requirements
- Market Basket — Large selection of frequently purchased/popular items, enabling immediate price comparisons and ability to negotiate pricing to achieve significant cost savings
- Statewide Coverage, including western Massachusetts, Cape, and the Islands
- Food choices with clearly identified third-party certifications and standards (certified organic, locally sourced, certified non-GMO, etc.)
- Satisfies USDA Buy American Provision
- Pricing — Vendors provide a *do not exceed maximum rate* and are prepared to negotiate weekly rates with buyers that are fair, competitive, and transparent. Awarded vendors offer a Weekly Vendor Order Guide for current pricing, and buyers are encouraged to negotiate prices and/or seek alternative quotes from other GRO42 awarded vendors. Pricing information is posted under each vendor's MBPO in COMMBUYS, linkable from the GRO42 Contract User Guide. Link to the GRO42 Vendor List. Awarded Categories and Regional Coverage are clearly defined.
- Pricing from vendors is inclusive of all business expenses; Fuel surcharges by vendors are not permitted.
- Will Call Orders are available to satisfy more immediate buyer needs.

See the reverse side for purchasing details and frequently asked questions.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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GRO42 K-12 School Nutrition Products Continued



FAQs

Q: Where can I find more details about GRO42?
A: The GRO42 Contract User Guide provides quote requirements, the awarded vendor list, links to pricing documents, Statewide of Work requirements, delivery terms and schedule information, and other contract details. Go to mass.gov/osd. Select the Find a Statewide Contract User Guide link. Select the GRO- Food and Food Services Supplies category to locate the GRO42 Contract User Guide.

Q: How do I find pricing?
A: Each vendor offers a *do not exceed maximum rate* price file located as an attachment to their MBPO in COMMBUYS. Link to each vendor's price file from the Vendor List in the GRO42 Contract User Guide. Contact vendors to discuss/negotiate weekly rates.

Q: Where can I find additional contract details, such as Delivery Ticket requirements or Substitution and Return policies?
A: The GRO42 Request for Response (RFR) document provides details related to these and other contract areas. The RFR is posted on COMMBUYS under the GRO42 Master Contract Record, linkable from the Vendor List in the GRO42 Contract User Guide. Buyers are encouraged to reach out to GRO42 vendors with specific questions. Contact the OSD Help Desk at 888-627-8283 if you need assistance locating the GRO42 Master Contract Record or price files.

Q: Some of the GRO42 offerings are similar to products offered on other contracts. Will GRO42 replace any existing contracts?
A: The GRO42 Contract will not replace the GRO38 Prime Grocers, the GRO39 Drinking Water, nor the GRO41 Dairy Products and Baked Goods Statewide Contracts, though some overlaps exist.

Contact Us!

For assistance in locating GRO42 documents, contact the OSD Help Desk at 888-627-8283. For contract-specific questions, reach out to the GRO Category Management Team:

Kelly Minichello: Kelly.Minichello@mass.gov or Michael Barry: Michael.Barry3@mass.gov

