

**The YEPA.US website**  
(By Larry Weeks)

The YEPA (Yuma Educational Purchasing Association) website is a useful tool for both school purchasers and vendors. The site is actually two sites in one; sharing information about buyers and projects to the vendors and providing information about vendors and bids to the buyers of YEPA. This article will discuss the vendor's section found at [www.yepa.us](http://www.yepa.us) .

At the core of the site are three pages. The first is the solicitations page. Logging into the solicitations page lets you view and download active bids. Sometimes a solicitation can be more than just one document. It can include a specification spreadsheet and perhaps an addendum. All of these documents can be downloaded from the solicitations page. As of the writing of this article there are 11 active bids available for download.

In addition to the solicitations page, there is an awards page. The awards page lists all of the closed and awarded projects. It shows the project's name and number and the vendor awarded the resulting contract. Experience has taught us that this type of follow up information is very helpful to vendors keeping up with their markets. As of the writing of this article there are 28 existing contracts being used by the school districts of the YEPA. The third core page is the vendor's corner page where vendors can go to make changes to their accounts.

When a vendor first visits the YEPA website, he/ she should go to the vendor form page. This is where vendors key up their contact and industry information. Once information is submitted, the vendor receives his/her login information via email. The vendor then has permission to login into solicitations and awarded bids. Vendor contact information is shared only with member buyers of the YEPA and is used for sending out automated bid notifications via email.

The mechanism that drives the website is complex; however the premise with which it was founded is simple. The site is a common sense tool that brings buyers and vendors together.

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