

New Jersey School Boards Association

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NEWS RELEASE

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ACES Program Achieves \$30 Million in Savings for New Jersey School Districts

March 25, 2015 – The price that more than 400 New Jersey school districts will pay for electricity during the two-year period ending in May 2017 will fall by about 14% as a result of the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services' (ACES) successful bid for lower cost power. For the first time, districts also have the opportunity to select a Voluntary Enhanced Renewable Energy Product that provides increased green power, consisting of 20% renewable energy.

ACES awarded contracts to South Jersey Energy and Integrys Energy Services to provide electric supply to the ACES member school districts beginning in May 2015 and running through May 2017. The members will save approximately \$30 million, or 14%, on their electric bills over the 24-month contract term. Six bids were received through a competitive process that included over 3,000 accounts representing over 1 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) of annual usage.

ACES saves money for New Jersey's public schools by aggregating the electricity purchases of many school districts, increasing their purchasing power and reducing the price they pay in the competitive electricity marketplace. Since ACES was established in 1999, it has saved participating districts over \$200 million in energy costs by lowering the electric generation costs on their monthly electric bills.

The New Jersey School Board Association (NJSBA) welcomed the considerable savings that the ACES program continues to achieve. "For over a decade, ACES has set an extraordinary example of the continued success that can result from a proactive and organized aggregation group. Today's bid represents another win for taxpayers and our public schools," said Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, Executive Director of the NJSBA.

"In addition to energy savings and price stability, this bid also incorporated the opportunity to support renewable energy and improve environmental quality – the core principles to achieving a sustainable future and empowering our students," said Robert Chilton, the Executive Vice President of Gabel Associates, the energy consultant for the ACES program.

Districts who selected the Voluntary Enhanced Renewable Energy Product will also be eligible to receive 10 points towards their Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification goals. Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a statewide organization, founded

in 2014, that promotes sustainable practices. Currently, 448 schools and 175 school districts participate in the program. This certification aims to recognize districts that are committed to enhancing environmental integrity.

ACES, the largest energy-aggregation program in the state, is an energy-purchasing program formed in 1999 by NJSBA, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO), and the New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA).

ACES has long focused on helping school districts buy electricity and natural gas through an aggregated approach to achieve group savings. In 2014, the ACES service offerings were expanded to include ACESplus, which facilitates the implementation of energy sustainability projects at schools by providing easy access to energy experts and customized support.

The competitive process was administered by Gabel Associates, a Highland Park-based energy consulting firm that has served as the Consultant/Administrator for the ACES program for over 15 years. The firm provides strategic and creative advice around energy issues with a specialized focus on the New Jersey marketplace. Gabel Associates has pioneered procurement approaches in New Jersey, including the development of an eBidding structure (the first electronic energy purchasing program approved by the State of New Jersey) and the incorporation of renewable products.

For additional information, contact Carol Friedman at Gabel Associates (732/296-0770) or view the ACES website at: www.aces-nj.com.