## **Parent Purchasing Guide**

All funds distributed through the Empowering Parents Grant Program are to be used for the benefit of a eligible kindergarten through 12th grade student and for the purchase of eligible education expenses through an online Marketplace. Grant funds become available in the applicant's Digital Wallet within thirty (30) days of award. Parents have two calendar years from the date of award to spend the funds. Any funds remaining in an awardee's Digital Wallet after the date of expiration are returned to the Empowering Parents fund for redistribution to another awardee.

**Product Safety:** Parents are responsible for reviewing the manufacturer's recommended minimum age use and safety disclaimers when determining whether an education product is appropriate for their student.

**Returns and damages:** The State Board of Education is not responsible for returns or damaged goods or services. Purchases made through the Marketplace are subject to the return policies of each individual vendor.

**Misuse of Funds - Ineligible Purchases:** When a parent attempts to purchase an ineligible product or service, the purchase will be denied, and the parent will be notified. Future attempts to purchase ineligible items will be considered a misuse of funds.

**Misuse of Funds - Monetary Benefit:** Seeking a refund, or rebate of grant funds directly from a vendor is considered misuse of funds. Similarly, reselling products purchased through the Marketplace for monetary benefit is also considered a misuse of funds. All payments to vendors and all refunds or rebates due to the Awardee must be processed through the Digital Wallet.

**Reimbursements:** Reimbursements are not allowed. Grant funds are for the purchase of current or upcoming goods and services. Reimbursements and payments for past-due invoices are prohibited.

Fees: Late payment or refund payment fees are not allowed.

**Prepayment:** The prepayment of services is at the risk of the parent. The State Board of Education is not responsible for prepaid services that cannot be fulfilled by an online Marketplace vendor.

**Customer Service:** - The Empowering Parents online Marketplace is managed by a third-party contractor. The contractor is responsible for management of the Marketplace and transactions through the Digital Wallet. All customer service issues must be reported through the customer service line: 208-768-8132.

Misuse of grant funds will result in the denial of eligibility to make future purchases or to apply for future grants.

