

**APPROVE PAYMENT TO NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION (NCA)  
FOR ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ACCREDITATION DUES**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Approve payment of annual accreditation dues to North Central Association for 70 high schools for the 2002-2003 school year at a cost of \$35,000.00. The North Central Association has been the accrediting agency for the Chicago Public high schools for the past 100 plus years. Continued membership is required for accreditation and is affected by payment of the annual membership fee. Therefore, no written agreement is required for payment of annual accreditation dues. Pertinent information is stated below.

**SPECIFICATION NO.:** 02-250195

**VENDOR:** North Central Association  
Arizona State University  
P.O. Box 873011  
Tempe, AZ 85287-3011  
(800) 525-9517  
Vendor # 28574

**USER:** Office of Accountability  
125 South Clark Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Adalbert Kouba  
(773) 553-2335

**DESCRIPTION OF ACCREDITATION:** The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools is an independent accreditation and evaluation organization that provides assurance that schools are meeting minimal standards of quality that have been established, enforced, and continually updated by educators for over 100 years. NCA has quantitative standards that describe the resources and staff training needed to offer a quality instructional program for students. It also imposes both input and process standards and provides a high quality of school improvement model, a network for peer support and staff development materials.

**DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE:** Membership dues are \$500.00 per school and for the 2002-2003 school year there are 70 Chicago Public High Schools that are NCA members. Payment provides that each high school is included in the accreditation and evaluation process which indicates that each school must meet agreed upon standards established by the seventeen states involved in the association. The dues paid will cover the 70 high schools that currently issue diplomas in the name of the school and cover the accreditation for the period from July 1, 2002 through June 30 2003.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Pursuant to Section 3.7 of the Revised Remedial Plan for Minority and Women Business Enterprise Contract Participation (M/WBE Plan) this contract is exempt from review because this is a unique transaction.

**LSC REVIEW:** Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

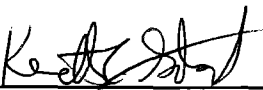
**FINANCIAL:** Charge to the Office of Accountability \$35,000.00  
Budget Classification: 0920-210-000-7081-5420

Fiscal Year 2003  
Source of Funds: Gen. Ed Fund


**Approved for Consideration:**

  
Anita Rocha  
Acting Chief Purchasing Officer

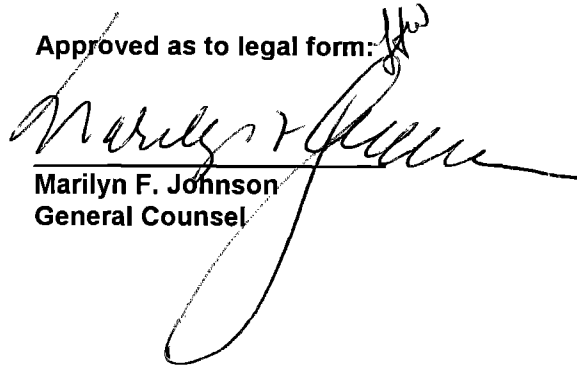
**Within Appropriation:**

  
Kenneth C. Gotsch  
Chief Fiscal Officer

**Approved:**

  
Arne Duncan  
Chief Executive Officer

**Approved as to legal form:**

  
Marilyn F. Johnson  
General Counsel