

Adopted: 4/26/11

Reviewed: 12/13/11, 12/18/12

Revised:

714 FUND BALANCE POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to create new fund balance classifications to allow for more useful fund balance reporting and for compliance with the reporting guidelines specified in Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of this school district is to comply with GASB Statement No. 54. To the extent a specific conflict occurs between this policy and the provisions of GASB Statement No. 54, the GASB Statement shall prevail.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Assigned" fund balance amounts are comprised of unrestricted funds constrained by the school district's intent that they be used for specific purposes, but that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In funds other than the general fund, the assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. The assigned fund balance category will cover the portion of a fund balance that reflects the school district's intended use of those resources. The action to assign a fund balance may be taken after the end of the fiscal year. An assigned fund balance cannot be a negative number.
- B. "Committed" fund balance amounts are comprised of unrestricted funds used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the school board and that remain binding unless removed by the school board by subsequent formal action. The formal action to commit a fund balance must occur prior to fiscal year end; however, the specific amounts actually committed can be determined in the subsequent fiscal year. A committed fund balance cannot be a negative number.
- C. "Enabling legislation" means legislation that authorizes a school district to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources from external providers and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes listed in the legislation.

- D. "Fund balance" means the arithmetic difference between the assets and liabilities reported in a school district fund.
- E. "Nonspendable" fund balance amounts are comprised of funds that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. They include items that are inherently unspendable, such as, but not limited to, inventories, prepaid items, long-term receivables, non-financial assets held for resale, or the permanent principal of endowment funds.
- F. "Restricted" fund balance amounts are comprised of funds that have legally enforceable constraints placed on their use that either are externally imposed by resource providers or creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, voters, or laws or regulations of other governments, or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- G. "Unassigned" fund balance amounts are the residual amounts in the general fund not reported in any other classification. Unassigned amounts in the general fund are technically available for expenditure for any purpose. The general fund is the only fund that can report a positive unassigned fund balance. Other funds would report a negative unassigned fund balance should the total of nonspendable, restricted, and committed fund balances exceed the total net resources of that fund.
- H. "Unrestricted" fund balance is the amount of fund balance left after determining both nonspendable and restricted net resources. This amount can be determined by adding the committed, assigned and unassigned fund balances.

IV. CLASSIFICATION OF FUND BALANCES

The school district shall classify its fund balances in its various funds in one or more of the following five classifications: nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

V. MINIMUM FUND BALANCE

The school district's goal shall be to maintain an unrestricted general fund balance, including committed, assigned and unassigned categories, of not less than 10% and not more than 15% of the General Fund operating budget. When the unrestricted general fund balance is projected to drop below 10%, the district shall initiate measures to either generate additional revenue or to reduce expenditures through a budget reduction, or a combination of both.

VI. ORDER OF RESOURCE USE

The school board hereby establishes the following order for resource use: restricted funds shall be spent first followed by unrestricted funds. For unrestricted funds, committed fund

balances should be spent first, followed by assigned fund balances and lastly unassigned fund balances for amounts in which any of those fund balances may be used.

VII. COMMITTING FUND BALANCE

A majority vote of the school board is required to commit a fund balance to a specific purpose and subsequently to remove or change any constraint so adopted by the board. Examples of committed general fund balances are funds set aside for legal expenditures.

VIII. ASSIGNING FUND BALANCE

The school board, by majority vote, may assign fund balances to be used for specific purposes when appropriate. The board also delegates the power to assign fund balances to the following: Director of Special Education and Business Manager. Examples of assigned general fund balances are funds designated for fiscal agent programs. Assignments so made shall be reported to the school board.

IX. REVIEW

The school board will conduct an annual review of the sufficiency of the minimum unassigned general fund balance level.

Legal References: Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Cross References: MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 7, Education Funding