

**Policy Committee Meeting**  
Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

District Services Center

709 Portia Johnson Dr.

Duluth, MN 55811

4:30 PM

**1. AGENDA ITEMS**

**2. POLICIES FOR FIRST READING**

**3. POLICIES FOR SECOND READING**

**4. POLICIES FOR REVIEW**

A. 306 Administrator Code of Ethics

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B. 413 Harassment and Violence

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## **306 ADMINISTRATOR CODE OF ETHICS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the requirements of the school board that school administrators adhere to the standards of ethics and professional conduct in this policy and Minnesota law.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The standards of professional conduct are as follows:

- A. A school administrator must provide professional educational services in a nondiscriminatory manner.
- B. A school administrator must take reasonable action to protect students and staff from conditions harmful to health and safety.
- C. A school administrator must take reasonable action to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning.
- D. A school administrator must not use professional relationships with students, parents and caregivers, staff, or colleagues to private advantage.
- E. A school administrator must disclose confidential information about individuals only when a compelling professional purpose is served in accordance with state and federal laws and school district policies.
- F. A school administrator must not knowingly falsify or misrepresent records or facts relating to the administrator's qualifications or to the qualifications of other staff or personnel.
- G. A school administrator must not knowingly make false or malicious statements about students, students' families, staff, or colleagues.
- H. A school administrator must not accept gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment, nor offer any favor, service, or item of value to obtain special advantage.
- I. A school administrator must only accept a contract for a position when licensed for the position or when a school district is issued a variance by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators.
- J. A school administrator, in filling positions requiring licensure, must employ, recommend for employment, and assign only appropriately licensed personnel, or persons for whom the school district has been issued a variance by the appropriate state board or agency, unless, after making reasonable efforts to obtain a variance, an appropriately licensed person cannot be assigned and the position must be filled to meet a legitimate emergency educational need.
- K. A school administrator must not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, or misrepresentation in the performance of professional duties.

~~A. An educational administrator's professional behavior must conform to an ethical code. The code must be idealistic and at the same time practical, so that it can apply reasonably to all educational administrators. The administrator acknowledges that the schools belong to the public they serve for the purpose of providing educational opportunities to all. However, the administrator assumes responsibility for providing professional leadership in the school and community. This responsibility requires the administrator to maintain standards of exemplary professional conduct. It must be recognized that the administrator's actions will be viewed and appraised by the community, professional associates, and students. To these ends, the administrator must subscribe to the following standards.~~

~~B. The Educational Administrator:~~

- ~~1. Makes the well-being of students the fundamental value of all decision-making and actions.~~
- ~~2. Fulfills professional responsibilities with honesty and integrity.~~
- ~~3. Supports the principle of due process and protects the civil and human rights of all individuals.~~
- ~~4. Obeys local, state, and national laws and does not knowingly join or support organizations that advocate, directly or indirectly, the overthrow of the government.~~
- ~~5. Implements the school board's policies.~~
- ~~6. Pursues appropriate measures to correct those laws, policies, and regulations that are not consistent with sound educational goals.~~
- ~~7. Avoids using positions for personal gain through political, social, religious, economic, or other influence.~~
- ~~8. Accepts academic degrees or professional certification only from duly accredited institutions.~~
- ~~9. Maintains the standards and seeks to improve the effectiveness of the profession through research and continuing professional development.~~
- ~~10. Honors all contracts until fulfillment, release, or dissolution is mutually agreed upon by all parties to the contract.~~
- ~~11. Adheres to the Code of Ethics for School Administrators in Minnesota Rule.~~

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 122A.14, Subd. 4 (Duties of Board of School Administrators)  
Minn. Rules Part 3512.0100 (Definitions)  
Minn. Rules Part 3512.5200 (Code of Ethics for School Administrators)

**Cross References:** None

First Reading: 10.21.2025  
Second Reading: 11.13.2025  
Adopted: 11.18.2025  
Revised:

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## **413 HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability (Protected Class).

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The policy of the school district is to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of Protected Class. The school district prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class. Harassment and violence of any kind towards any individual is prohibited in Duluth Public Schools.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel harasses a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel through conduct or communication based on a person's Protected Class, as defined by this policy. (For purposes of this policy, school district personnel include school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors, or persons subject to the supervision and control of the district.)
- C. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel inflicts, threatens to inflict, or attempts to inflict violence upon any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel based on a person's Protected Class.
- D. The school district will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of harassment or violence based on a person's Protected Class, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel found to have violated this policy.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Assault" is:
  - 1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
  - 2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
  - 3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.
- B. "Harassment" prohibited by this policy consists of physical or verbal conduct, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, relating to an individual's or group of individuals' race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability, when the conduct:
  - 1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment;

2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
  3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.
- C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D. Protected Classifications
1. "Disability" means, with respect to an individual who
    - a. has a physical sensory or mental impairment that materially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
    - b. has a record of such an impairment;
    - c. is regarded as having such an impairment; or
    - d. has an impairment that is episodic or in remission and would materially limit a major life activity when active.
  2. "Familial status" means the condition of one or more minors having legal status or custody with:
    - a. the minor's parent or parents or the minor's legal guardian or guardians; or
    - b. the designee of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians with the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians. Familial status also means residing with and caring for one or more individuals who lack the ability to meet essential requirements for physical health, safety, or self-care because the individual or individuals are unable to receive and evaluate information or make or communicate decisions. The protections afforded against harassment or discrimination on the basis of family status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of an individual who has not attained the age of majority.
  3. "Marital status" means whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse and, in employment cases, includes protection against harassment or discrimination on the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.
  4. "National origin" means the place of birth of an individual or of any of the individual's lineal ancestors.
  5. "Sex" includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.
  6. "Sexual orientation" means to whom someone is, or is perceived of as being, emotionally, physically, or sexually attracted to based on sex or gender identity. A person may be attracted to men, women, both, neither, or to people who are genderqueer, androgynous, or have other gender identities.

7. "Status with regard to public assistance" means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.
- E. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct acts of harassment or violence, prevent acts of harassment or violence from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of acts of harassment or violence.
- F. Sexual Harassment
1. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
    - a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining employment or an education; or
    - b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or
    - c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or educational environment.
  2. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:
    - a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;
    - b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;
    - c. unwelcome, sexually motivated, or inappropriate patting, pinching, or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of student(s) by teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;
    - d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;
    - e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status; or
    - f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression.

G. Sexual Violence

1. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression or force or the threat thereof that involves the touching of another's intimate parts or forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts. Intimate parts, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.341, includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast, as well as the clothing covering these areas.
2. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:
  - a. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts
  - b. coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts;
  - c. coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another; or
  - d. threatening to force or coerce sexual acts, including the touching of intimate parts or intercourse, on another.

H. Violence

Violence prohibited by this policy is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another or group of individuals because of, or in a manner reasonably related to an individual's Protected Class.

**IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class by a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment or violence prohibited by this policy toward a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report conduct that may constitute harassment or violence anonymously. If you choose to report anonymously, you will not be informed once an investigation is complete. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- C. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.
- D. In Each School Building

The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. If the

complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant. The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.

- E. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include acts of harassment or violence. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- F. Upon receipt of a report, the building report taker must notify the school district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The building report taker may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the building report taker to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the building report taker shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the building report taker.
- G. In the District  
The school board hereby designates Theresa Severance, Executive Director of Human Resources and Operations, [theresa.severance@isd709.org](mailto:theresa.severance@isd709.org) as the school district human rights officer(s) to receive reports or complaints of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the superintendent.
- H. The school district shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
- I. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- J. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.
- K. Reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.
- L. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.
- M. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of violence or harassment is prohibited.
- N. False accusations or reports of violence or harassment against another person are prohibited.

- O. A person who engages in an act of violence or harassment, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of violence or harassment, or permits, condones, or tolerates violence or harassment shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, or are a party to, prohibited acts of violence or harassment or who engage in reprisal or intentional false reporting may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate violence or harassment or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of violence or harassment may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of violence or harassment may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

## **V. INVESTIGATION**

- A. By authority of the school district, the human rights officer, within three (3) days of the receipt of a report or complaint alleging harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, shall undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school district officials or by a third party designated by the school district.
- B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.
- C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the school district should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved, and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.
- D. In addition, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the target or victim, the complainant, and students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy.
- E. The alleged perpetrator of the act(s) of harassment or violence shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- F. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The school district human rights officer shall make a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, the report may be filed directly with the school board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

## **VI. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION**

- A. Upon completion of an investigation that determines a violation of this policy has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law, and applicable school district policies and regulations.
- B. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the targets or victims and alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of targets or victims of harassment or violence and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence who have been involved in a reported and confirmed harassment or violence incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- C. In order to prevent or respond to acts of harassment or violence committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in acts of harassment or violence.

## **VII. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL**

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of retaliation or alleged harassment or violence, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the harassment or violence. Remedial responses to the harassment or violence shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

## **VIII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights or another state or federal agency, initiating civil action, or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

## **IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE**

- A. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Minnesota law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260E may be applicable.
- B. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the school district from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence, or abuse.

**X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING**

- A. This policy shall be conspicuously posted throughout each school building in areas accessible to students and staff members.
- B. This policy shall be given to each school district employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the school district.
- C. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- D. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.
- E. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent and reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, resourcefulness, and/or sexual abuse prevention.
- F. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.234 (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.03, Subd. 2 (Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.341 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)  
20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688 (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)  
29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.* (Age Discrimination in Employment Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)  
42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Civil Action for Deprivation of Rights)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.* (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act)  
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 102 (Equal Educational Opportunity)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 401 (Equal Employment Opportunity)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination, Grievance Procedures and Process)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 526 (Hazing Prohibition)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 528 (Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status  
Nondiscrimination)

Replacing: Policy 4015  
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**04-19-2016 ISD 709** (*Renumbering only*)  
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First Reading: 04-15-2025  
Second Reading: 05-13-2025  
Adopted: 05-20-2025  
Reviewed:

## **511 FUNDRAISING**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to address fundraising efforts by students and employees of the Duluth Public Schools.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The school board recognizes a desire and a need by some student organizations for fundraising. The school board also recognizes a need for some constraint to prevent fundraising activities from becoming too numerous and overly demanding on employees, students, and the general public. All fundraising activities must be approved by both administration and the School Board before they begin.

### **III. DEFINITION**

A. Fundraising examples include, but are not limited to, grocery bagging for tips, gift and discount card sales, book fairs, food sales, plant sales, Box Tops for Education, and crowdfunding activities. Any activity for the purpose of raising funds for a club, team, or school is considered a fundraiser.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. The building administrators shall be responsible for developing recommendations to the superintendent that will result in a level of activity deemed acceptable by employees, parents, and students. Fundraising must be conducted in a manner that will not result in embarrassment on the part of individual students, employees, or the school.
- B. All fundraising activities must be approved, in advance, by both the administration and school board. Participation in nonapproved activities shall be considered a violation of school district policy.
- C. The superintendent shall be responsible for providing coordination of student fundraising throughout the school district as deemed appropriate.
- D. The school district expects all students who participate in approved fundraising activities to represent the school, the student organization, and the community in a responsible manner. All rules pertaining to student conduct and student discipline extend to student fundraising activities.
- E. The school district expects all employees who plan, supervise, coordinate, or participate in student fundraising activities to act in the best interests of the students and to represent the school, the student organization, and the community in a responsible manner.
- F. The building administrators shall be responsible for complying with the District's Wellness Policy (Policy 533).

- G. When a fundraising event is taking place at a district site, the Facility Use Coordinator must be contacted.

#### IV. MONTHLY ANNUAL REPORT

All fundraisers The superintendent shall be reported to the school board, at least annually, on a monthly basis and will describe the nature and scope of student fundraising activities approved pursuant to this policy.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (~~Age Limitations; Pupils Admission to Public School~~)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 8 (~~Duties Boards of Independent School Districts~~)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (Authorized Fees)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 713 (Student Activity Accounting)

**Other References:** 2019 UFARS Chapter 14 Student Activity Accounting

New Policy  
Replacing: 1050  
First Reading: 11-19-2019  
Adopted: 12-17-2019  
Revised:

## **606 TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for selection of textbooks and instructional materials.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The school board recognizes that selection of textbooks and instructional materials is a vital component of the school district's curriculum. The school board also recognizes that it has the authority to make final decisions on selection of all textbooks and instructional materials.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITY OF SELECTION**

- A. While the school board retains its authority to make final decisions on the selection of textbooks and instructional materials, the school board recognizes the expertise of the professional staff and the vital need of such staff to be primarily involved in the recommendation of textbooks and instructional materials. Accordingly, the school board delegates to the superintendent the responsibility to direct the professional staff in formulating recommendations to the school board on textbooks and other instructional materials.
- B. In reviewing textbooks and instructional materials during the selection process, the professional staff shall select materials that:
  - 1. support the goals and objectives of the education programs;
  - 2. consider the needs, age, and maturity of students;
  - 3. foster respect and appreciation for cultural diversity and varied opinion;
  - 4. fit within the constraints of the school district budget;
  - 5. are in the English language. Another language may be used, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, 124D.59 to 124D.61;
  - 6. permit grade-level instruction for students to read and study America's founding documents, including documents that contributed to the foundation or maintenance of America's representative form of limited government, the Bill of Rights, our free-market economic system, and patriotism; and
  - 7. do not censor or restrain instruction in American or Minnesota state history or heritage based on religious references in original source documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or records.
- C. The superintendent shall be responsible for developing procedures and guidelines to establish an orderly process for the review and recommendation of textbooks and other instructional materials by the professional staff. Such procedures and guidelines shall provide opportunity for input and consideration of the views of students, parents, and other interested members of the school district community. This procedure shall be coordinated with the school district's curriculum development effort and may utilize advisory committees.

#### IV. SELECTION OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The superintendent shall be responsible for keeping the school board informed of progress on the part of staff and others involved in the textbook and other instructional materials review and selection process.
- B. The superintendent shall present a recommendation to the school board on the selection of textbooks and other instructional materials after completion of the review process as outlined in this policy.

#### V. RECONSIDERATION OF TEXTBOOKS OR OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The school board recognizes differences of opinion on the part of some members of the school district community relating to certain areas of the instruction program. Interested persons may request an opportunity to review materials and submit a request for reconsideration of the use of certain textbooks or instructional materials. Access to the materials in question shall not be restricted until the procedures listed below have been fully completed and a decision to remove or restrict the materials has been made.

##### B. Formal Request for Reconsideration of a Textbook or Other Instructional Resource

- 1. A Formal Request for Reconsideration of a textbook or other instructional resource is initiated upon submission of a completed [Formal Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Resource or Specific Library Collection Material](#) form. The form must be completed in its entirety for each resource that is subject to a request for reconsideration and submitted to the school principal. The principal shall notify the superintendent or the superintendent's designee of receipt of a completed Formal Request form.

The district will respond to Formal Request for Reconsideration within 60 school contract days. One challenge will be addressed by the committee at a time.

If specific instructional material is the subject of a Formal Request for Reconsideration and a final decision is made to retain the specific instructional material, then the specific instructional material shall not be subject to additional requests for reconsideration for three years following the date of final resolution of the initial Formal Request for Reconsideration.

- 2. The Superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall appoint an Instructional Materials Review Committee (Review Committee) upon receipt of a Formal Request for Reconsideration. This committee shall include:
  - a. One member of the school district administration
  - b. One principal
  - c. Two teachers of the discipline named in the complaint (one of which shall be the content area lead teacher)
  - d. Two members of the school district community with no direct connection with the request for reconsideration
  - e. Two student representatives (as appropriate to the specific request).
- 3. The Review Committee chair shall establish a date upon which it will discuss

the request and whether the specific instructional material conforms to the selection criteria set forth in this policy.

4. The Review Committee

- a. may consult individuals, organizations, and other resources with relevant professional knowledge on instructional material;
- b. shall examine the specific instructional material's area of concern;
- c. shall examine the specific instructional material as to its conformance with the criteria for selection of instructional materials; and
- d. shall submit a written report to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee containing the Review Committee's decision on whether to retain, to remove, or to take other action regarding the specific instructional material.

5. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall inform the requestor and the school board of the Review Committee's decision.

6. The requestor shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Review Committee to the superintendent and the school board.

- C. All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary material which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any applicable program shall be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the students.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 9 (Compulsory Instruction ~~—Knowledge and Skills~~)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.235 (American Heritage Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 2 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 8 (School Board Responsibilities)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.59-124D.61 (Education for English Learners Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 127A.10 (State Officials and School Board Members to be Disinterested; Penalty)  
**20 U.S.C. 1232h(a) (Protection of Pupil Rights)**  
Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)  
Pratt v. Independent Sch. Dist. No. 831, 670 F.2d 771 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1982)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)

Replaces: Policies 6030, 6035 & 6040  
First Reading: 12.19.2023  
Second Reading: 01.23.2024  
Adopted: 01.23.2024  
Reviewed: 01.28.2025  
Revised:

## 701 ESTABLISHMENT AND ADOPTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish lines of authority and procedures for the establishment of the school district's revenue and expenditure budgets.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the school district is to establish its revenue and expenditure budgets in accordance with the applicable provisions of law. Budget planning is an integral part of program planning so that the annual budget will effectively express and implement school board goals, **and the mission, values** and priorities of the school district.

### III. REQUIREMENTS

- A. The superintendent or such other school official as designated by the superintendent or the school board, shall each year prepare preliminary revenue and expenditure budgets for review **in April**, by the school board or its designated committee or committees. ~~The preliminary budgets shall be accompanied by such written commentary as may be necessary for them to be clearly understood by the members of the school board and the public. The school board shall review the projected revenues and expenditures for the school district for the next fiscal year, and make such adjustments in the expenditure budget as necessary to carry out the education program within the revenues projected.~~ When projected expenditures exceed projected revenues, the school board may consider use of an available fund balance, if one exists.
- B. ~~The school district must maintain separate accounts to identify revenues and expenditures for each building.~~ Expenditures shall be reported in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, § section 123B.76.
- C. Prior to July 1 of each year, the school board **shall must** approve and adopt its **initial** revenue and expenditure budgets for the next school year. The ~~adopted expenditure~~ budget document ~~so adopted must shall~~ be considered ~~the school board's an~~ expenditure ~~authorizing or appropriations document authorization for that school year.~~ No funds ~~may shall~~ be expended for any purpose in any school year prior to the adoption of the budget document which authorizes that expenditure for that year, or prior to the adoption of an amendment to that budget document by the school board to authorize that expenditure for that year.
- D. Each year, the school district **shall must** publish its adopted revenue and expenditure budgets for the current year, the actual revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for the prior year, and the projected fund balances for the current year in the form prescribed by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (Commissioner) within one week of the acceptance of the final audit by the school board, or November 30, whichever is earlier. A statement **shall must** be included in the publication that the complete budget in detail may be inspected by any resident of the school district upon request to the superintendent. ~~A summary of this information and the address of the school district's official website where the information can be found must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district.~~ At the same time as this publication, the school district shall publish the other information required by Minnesota Statutes, § section 123B.10.

- E. At the public hearing on the adoption of the school district's proposed property tax levy, the school board shall review its current budget and the proposed property taxes payable in the following calendar year.
- F. The school district must also post the materials specified in Paragraph III.D. above **in a conspicuous place** on the school district's official website, including a link to the school district's school report card on the Minnesota Department of Education's website. ~~and publish a summary of information and the address of the school district's website where the information can be found in a qualified newspaper of general circulation in the district.~~

**IV. IMPLEMENTATION**

- A. The school board places the responsibility for administering the adopted budget with the superintendent. The superintendent may delegate duties related thereto to other school officials, but maintains the ultimate responsibility for this function.
- B. The program-oriented budgeting system will be supported by a program-oriented accounting structure organized and operated on a fund basis as provided for in Minnesota statutes through the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards for Minnesota School Districts (UFARS).
- C. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee is authorized to make payments of claims or salaries authorized by the adopted or amended budget prior to school board approval.
- D. Supplies and capital equipment can be ordered prior to budget adoption only by authority of the school board. If additional personnel are provided in the proposed budget, actual hiring may not occur until the budget is adopted unless otherwise approved by the school board. Other funds to be expended in a subsequent school year may not be encumbered prior to budget adoption unless specifically approved by the school board.
- E. The school district shall make such reports to the Commissioner as required relating to initial allocations of revenue, reallocations of revenue, and expenditures of funds.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 123B.10 (Publication of Financial Information)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.76 (Expenditures; Reporting)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.77 (Accounting, Budgeting, and Reporting Requirements)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 701.1 (Modification of School District Budget)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 702 (Accounting)  
~~MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 7, Education Funding~~

New Policy  
Replacing: 3005, 3015, 3100, 3105, 3110  
First Reading: 08-21-2018  
Adopted: 09-18-2018  
Revised:

## **701.1 MODIFICATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the modification of the school district's adopted revenue and expenditure budgets.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The policy of this school district is to modify its revenue and expenditure budgets in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

### **III. REQUIREMENT**

- A. The school district's adopted expenditure budget shall be considered the school board's expenditure authorization for that school year.
- B. If revisions or modifications in the adopted expenditure budget are determined to be advisable by the administration, the superintendent shall recommend the proposed changes to the school board. The proposed changes shall be accompanied by sufficient and appropriate background information on the revenue and policy issues involved to allow the school board to make an informed decision. A school board member may also propose modifications on that board member's own motion, provided, however, the school board member is encouraged to review the proposed modifications with the superintendent prior to their being proposed so that the administration may prepare necessary background materials for the school board prior to its consideration of those proposed modifications.
- C. If sufficient funds are not included in the expenditure budget in a particular fund to allow the proposed expenditure, funds for this purpose may not be expended from that fund prior to the adoption of an expenditure budget amendment by the school board to authorize that expenditure for that school year. An amended expenditure shall not exceed the projected revenues available for that purpose in that fund.
- D. The school district's revenue budget shall be amended from time to time during a fiscal year to reflect updated or revised revenue estimates. The superintendent shall make recommendations to the school board for appropriate revisions. If necessary, the school board shall also make necessary revisions in the expenditure budget if it appears that expenditures would otherwise exceed revenues and fund balances in a fund.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 123B.77 (Accounting, Budgeting, and Reporting Requirement)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 701 (Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget)

~~MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 7, Education Funding~~

New Policy  
Replacing: 3010  
First Reading: 08-21-2018  
Adopted: 09-18-2018  
Revised:

Name of Person Filing Complaint (Complainant): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (School/Work Location)

Status of Person Filing the Complaint:  Student  Employee  Parent  Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Specify)

Type of Complaint:  Sexual  General  Protected Group (select group from list below)

Protected Group:  Race  Color  Creed  Religion  National Origin  Sex  Age  Marital Status  
 Disability  Public Assistance  Sexual Orientation  Gender Identity/Expression  Other Protected Group

Name of Person You Are Reporting (Respondent): \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Person You Are Reporting:  Student  Employee  Parent  Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Specify)

Statement of Complaint (Include type of harassment/violence, who was involved in the specific incidents in which it occurred, names of witnesses, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Continue on reverse side or attach pages as needed.)

**I UNDERSTAND THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH DISTRICT POLICY #413, INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709 WILL ADDRESS THIS COMPLAINT.**

Signature of Complainant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Person Receiving The Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Person Receiving The Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Building Administrator (if different from person receiving initial complaint): \_\_\_\_\_

Original to Human Resources Date Distributed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Human Resources will distribute a copy to the District's Climate Coordinator)

Copies Distributed To:  Building Administrator Date Distributed: \_\_\_\_\_

**(To be completed by Human Resources)**  
REPORT NUMBER: Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Building Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Number In Sequence By Year: \_\_\_\_\_

## 511R FUNDRAISING

The following information will help you coordinate your fundraising efforts and includes guidelines and procedures for District staff when wanting to initiate a fundraiser.

**Note: Fundraising may not begin until approved by completing the following steps.**

### I. DEFINITIONS

There are two sections below based on the type of fundraising you want to do:

**General fundraising** (examples below, this is not an all-inclusive list)

- o Box Tops
- o Sale of coupon books
- o Bagging groceries
- o Percentage of sales at local businesses
- o Sale of wreaths, wrapping paper, food

#### **Crowdfunding**

- o The practice of funding a project or idea by raising small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the internet. The following is a list of approved crowdfunding sites:
  - Adopt-A-Classroom
  - ClassWish
  - DonorsChoose
  - GoFundMe
  - PledgeCents
  - TeacherLists
  - Boost My School

### II. PROCEDURES

#### **General fundraising**

1. Building staff must complete the District Fundraising Google form indicating that there is an active fundraising request. General fundraising includes activities like Box Tops, sale of coupon books, bagging groceries, sale of clothing, food, etc.
  - Fundraisers completed by an outside organization (not the school itself) such as a PTA, parent group or school foundation are not reported to the Board.
  - If any monies from these fundraisers are donated to a school, they would be reported as a donation by the school's clerical staff using the District Google Donation form located on the [Business Services intranet page](#).
  - District Fundraising Google form located on the [Business Services intranet page](#).
  - Answer all the questions including staff person coordinating the fundraising, building and/or program, amount of request, description of use of funds, estimated gross and net revenues and start and end date of fundraising.
  - Ignore the crowdfunding questions as they do not apply to general fundraising (follow instructions on Google form).

- If the fundraising effort results in non-monetary items (supplies, equipment, etc.), the items must be sent to the District and become property of the District.
  - All monetary donations must be recorded by the District and deposited into a District account. A check should be requested to be mailed to the school in the District's name, not an individual person. The District will ensure appropriate accounting. Items cannot be purchased until the donation is received by the District and approved through the District finance department.
2. Business Services staff will compile all fundraiser information on a monthly basis and report it to the School Board for approval. The School Board currently meets on a monthly basis so plan accordingly.
  3. After the School Board meeting, Business Services staff will notify the fundraiser coordinators if their fundraising requests were approved or denied by the School Board.

### **Crowdfunding**

1. Building staff must complete the District Fundraising Google form indicating that there is an active crowdfunding request. All requests must follow the Approval Criteria Guidelines. You will be asked to verify that you discussed with the appropriate parties and that they approve of your request:
  - Requests that involve **athletics** must have Athletic Director approval before moving to final approval.
  - Requests that involve **technology** must have Technology Department approval before moving to final approval. Examples include hardware such as Chromebooks, laptops, and software.
  - Requests that involve **curriculum**, such as workbooks, textbooks, or learning materials must have Curriculum Director approval before moving to final approval.
  - Requests that involve **facility** considerations, such as electrical, plumbing, or construction must have Facilities Manager approval before moving to final approval.
2. Following notification of final approval, the staff member can create the crowdfunding page through one of the District approved crowdfunding sites. **The following is a list of approved crowdfunding sites:**
  - Adopt-A-Classroom
  - ClassWish
  - DonorsChoose
  - GoFundMe
  - PledgeCents
  - TeacherLists
  - Boost My School
  - Staff should be aware that some sites may retain a portion/percentage of the donations.
  - Staff should consider that if a specific goal is reached and there is no alternate designation for use of funds, any additional funds received would be returned to the donors.

- If the crowdfunding effort results in non-monetary items (supplies, equipment, etc.), the items must be sent to the District and become property of the District.
- No purchases can be made prior to successfully reaching the fundraising goal or the end of the crowdfunding campaign.
- The District will not fund the remainder of projects receiving partial funding from donors.
- All monetary donations must be recorded by the District and deposited into a District account. A check should be requested to be mailed to the school in the District's name, not an individual person. The District will ensure appropriate accounting. Items cannot be purchased until the donation is received by the District and approved through the District finance department.
- The Business Office must be notified of any unspent funds and will determine the appropriate way to spend or return the unused funds.

### **III. APPROVAL CRITERIA GUIDELINES FOR ALL FUNDRAISING**

- Proposals that support the curriculum must be standards-based.
- The proposal must not conflict with the current and/or planned curriculum and instruction activities set forth by the District.
- Proposals must support district priorities.
- Proposals may not request materials that could be substituted by similar materials that are already supplied by the District or could be supplied by the District.
- Proposals may not start a program that would require the continued use of materials or funding beyond what is obtained through the proposal.
- The proposal cannot result in demands on staff not involved in the proposal.
- The proposal cannot request athletic equipment in conflict with the athletic programs of the District.
- The proposal must not cast a negative light on the District or any of its programs or employees.
- Campaigns cannot benefit individuals.
- Proposals must follow District policy, including the Wellness Policy.
- Crowdfunding campaigns cannot be contingent on additional District spending or require matching funds from the District or other organization.
- Crowdfunding campaigns may not raise money to be used by outside groups or vendors such as booster clubs, PTA/PTO, scholarships, or foundations.
- Crowdfunding campaigns cannot contain language that suggests or states that an item for which the donations are being sought are required for or integral to a student's special education program, necessary for a student to achieve their IEP goals, or necessary to

ensure participation of a student of students with disabilities in school or any program offered by the District.

**NOTE:** The District will take into account the volume of requests as well as the above criteria and reserve the right to limit the number of requests approved.

#### **IV. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the publication of student images (or names) is not authorized except as to specified permitted categories of "directory information," and even then for specific purposes. Even if directory information is used properly, parents have a right to opt their children out. **ONLY PHOTOS OF UNIDENTIFIABLE CHILDREN** (ex., the backs of heads) may be used on your crowdfunding application page.
- Administrators will verify that statements regarding special education programs are consistent with Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA).
- All items/materials obtained through District approved crowdfunding are the property of the District. While preference is given for the items/materials to be used and maintained by the employee who originally obtained them through crowdfunding, the District reserves the right to transfer such items/materials to another classroom and/or teacher, where necessary.

**Questions on Criteria or Eligibility should be sent to the District Finance Manager.**

**Questions on forms and submissions should be sent to Business Services.**

Reviewed: 01-21-2020  
Revised: 05-12-2026

## 511R FUNDRAISING

The following information will help you coordinate your fundraising efforts and includes guidelines and procedures for District staff when wanting to initiate a fundraiser.

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- DonorsChoose
- GoFundMe
- PledgeCents
- TeacherLists
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### II. PROCEDURES

#### **General fundraising**

1. Building staff must complete the District Fundraising Google form indicating that there is an active fundraising request. General fundraising includes activities like Box Tops, ~~school pictures~~, sale of coupon books, bagging groceries, sale of clothing, food, etc.
  - Fundraisers completed by an outside organization (not the school itself) such as a PTA, parent group or school foundation are not reported to the Board.
  - If any monies from these fundraisers are donated to a school, they would be reported as a donation by the school's clerical staff using the District Google Donation form located on the [Business Services intranet page](#).
  - District Fundraising Google form located on the [Business Services intranet page](#).
  - Answer all the questions including staff person coordinating the fundraising, building and/or program, amount of request, description of use of funds, estimated gross and net revenues and start and end date of fundraising.
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  - Requests that involve **curriculum**, such as workbooks, textbooks, or learning materials must have Curriculum Director approval before moving to final approval.
  - Requests that involve **facility** considerations, such as electrical, plumbing, or construction must have Facilities Manager approval before moving to final approval.
- ~~2. Once initial approvals occurs (step #1 above), Business Services will forward crowdfunding applications for final approval by District Cabinet. The District Cabinet meets every two weeks so plan accordingly.~~
  - ~~• District Cabinet will confirm data and approvals from appropriate directors.~~
  - ~~• District Cabinet will review Approval Criteria Guidelines to determine final approval.~~
  - ~~• Business Services will notify building administration or program directors of application status.~~
- 32.** Following notification of final approval, the staff member can create the crowdfunding page through one of the District approved crowdfunding sites. **The following is a list of approved crowdfunding sites:**
  - Adopt-A-Classroom
  - ClassWish

- DonorsChoose
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  - TeacherLists
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- Staff should be aware that some sites may retain a portion/percentage of the donations.
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- The proposal must not cast a negative light on the District or any of its programs or employees.
- Campaigns cannot benefit individuals.

- Proposals must follow District policy, including the Wellness Policy.
- Crowdfunding campaigns cannot be contingent on additional District spending or require matching funds from the District or other organization.
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**NOTE:** The District will take into account the volume of requests as well as the above criteria and reserve the right to limit the number of requests approved.

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- Administrators will verify that statements regarding special education programs are consistent with Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA).
- All items/materials obtained through District approved crowdfunding are the property of the District. While preference is given for the items/materials to be used and maintained by the employee who originally obtained them through crowdfunding, the District reserves the right to transfer such items/materials to another classroom and/or teacher, where necessary.

**Questions on Criteria or Eligibility should be sent to the District Finance Manager.**

**Questions on forms and submissions should be sent to Business Services.**

Reviewed: 01-21-2020  
Revised: