

Public Gifts/Donations to the Schools

The Board assumes responsibility, within its financial capabilities, for providing at public expense all items of equipment, supplies, and services that may be required in the interest of education in the school units under its jurisdiction. Gifts, donations, grants, or bequests will be accepted and the action recorded, provided the conditions of acceptance do not remove any degree of control from the school district.

A gift shall be defined as money, real or personal property and personal services provided without consideration. Gifts from organizations, community groups, and/or individuals that will benefit the district shall be encouraged by the district administration. Individuals or groups contemplating presenting a gift to a school or the district shall be encouraged to discuss, in advance, with the building principal or the superintendent what gifts are appropriate and needed.

Community groups or individuals may donate equipment to the district. Such equipment shall be added to the district's inventory, provided it is operative at the time of donation and meets an educational purpose of the district.

The district reserves the right to accept or decline any proposed gifts. In determining whether a gift will be accepted, consideration shall be given to district policies, goals, and objectives and adherence to the basic principles outlined in board-approved regulations.

Any person or organization desiring to give a gift or make a donation, grant, or bequest to the board should contact the superintendent who may accept the gift, thank the donors, and inform the board, except that offers of real property will be accepted only by the board. Also, where the appropriateness of a gift is in doubt, the superintendent will refer the matter to the board for its acceptance or rejection. For example, single gifts of considerable value exhibiting the donor's name or business shall be considered on an individual basis by the board.

All conditional gifts must be approved by the board.

Any gift or grant accepted by the board or the superintendent as its executive officer shall become the property of the board of education and will comply with all state and federal laws.

The following basic principles shall apply to all gifts accepted by the school district:

1. Gifts to employ "regular" full- or part-time personnel shall be discouraged.
2. Gifts that involve significant costs for installation or maintenance, or initial or continuing financial commitments from school funds shall be discouraged.

3. Gifts to individual members of the staff by students, parents, or organizations shall be discouraged.
4. Gifts on a matching basis requiring money, property, or services by the district shall be discouraged.
5. Gifts to the school district become the property of the district and are subject to the same controls and regulations that govern the use of all district-owned property.
6. Any purchase to be funded by a cash donation must be processed in accordance with district policy.
7. Gifts that meet the definition of a fixed asset as outlined in the district policy on inventories must be added to the school's fixed assets inventory.
8. At the time of acceptance of the gift, there will be a definite understanding with regard to the use of the gift, including whether it is intended for the use of one particular school or all schools in the district.

Legal Reference: Title IX, Education Amendment of 1972, 20 U.S.C §1681, et seq.

Policy History:

Adopted on: February 19, 2015

Revised on: