

BUSINESS

Budget

The Board of Trustees recognizes its critical responsibility for adopting a sound budget for each fiscal year which is aligned with the district's vision, goals, and priorities. The district budget shall guide administrative decisions and actions throughout the year and shall serve as a tool for monitoring the fiscal health of the district.

The district budget shall show a complete plan and itemized statement of all proposed expenditures and all estimated revenues for the following fiscal year, together with a comparison of revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year. The budget shall also include the appropriations limit and the total annual appropriations subject to limitation as determined pursuant to Government Code 7900-7914. (Education Code 42122)

Budget Development and Adoption Process

The Chief Business Official or designee shall establish an annual budget development process and calendar in accordance with the single budget adoption process described in Education Code 42127(i). He/she shall annually notify the County Superintendent of Schools of the district's decision to use the single budget adoption process in the subsequent year.

In order to provide guidance in the development of the budget, the Board shall annually establish budget priorities based on identified district needs and goals and on realistic projections of available funds.

The Chief Business Official or designee shall oversee the preparation of a proposed district budget for approval by the Board and shall involve appropriate staff in the development of budget projections.

The Board encourages public input in the budget development process and shall hold public hearings and meetings in accordance with Education Code 42103 and 42127.

The budget that is formally adopted by the Board shall be in the format prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Chief Business Official or designee may supplement this format with additional information as necessary to effectively communicate the budget to the Board, staff, and public.

Budget Advisory Committee

The Superintendent or designee may appoint a budget advisory committee composed of staff, Board representatives, and/or members of the community.

The committee shall develop recommendations during the budget development process and its duties shall be assigned each year based on district needs. All recommendations

of the committee shall be advisory only and shall not be binding on the Board or the Superintendent or designee.

Budget Criteria and Standards

In developing the district budget, the Chief Business Officer or designee shall analyze criteria and standards adopted by the State Board of Education which address estimation of funded average daily attendance (ADA), projected enrollment, ratio of ADA to enrollment, projected revenue limit, salaries and benefits, other revenues and expenditures, facilities maintenance, deficit spending, fund balance, and reserves. The budget review shall also identify supplemental information regarding contingent liabilities, use of one-time revenues for ongoing expenditures, use of ongoing revenues for one-time expenditures, contingent revenues, contributions, long-term commitments, unfunded liabilities, and the status of labor agreements. (Education Code 33127, 33128, 33129; 5 CCR 15440-15451)

The Board shall establish and maintain a general fund reserve for economic uncertainty that meets or exceeds the requirements of law. (Education Code 33128.3; 5 CCR 15450)

The Board may establish other budget assumptions or parameters which may take into consideration the stability of funding sources, legal requirements and constraints on the use of funds, anticipated increases and/or decreases in the cost of services and supplies, categorical program requirements, and any other factors necessary to ensure that the budget is a realistic plan for district revenues and expenditures.

Fund Balance

The Board shall adopt a formal resolution that provides for classification of fund balances in the general fund and is compliant with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 54. The resolution also shall:

1. Establish specific steps for committing funds that cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board takes action to remove or change the constraint
2. Express the authority of the Board and/or delegate authority to other person(s) to identify intended uses of assigned funds
3. Establish the order in which fund balances will be spent when multiple fund balance types are available for an expenditure
4. Address the minimum fund balance in the general fund by establishing an appropriate level of unrestricted fund balance that will be maintained in the general fund, the circumstances under which the unrestricted fund balance can be spent down, and the procedure for replenishing deficiencies

The Board reserves the authority to review and amend this resolution as needed to reflect

changing circumstances and district needs.

Long-Term Financial Obligations

The district's current-year budget and multi-year projections shall include adequate provisions for addressing the district's long-term financial obligations, including, but not limited to, long-term obligations resulting from collective bargaining agreements, financing of facilities projects, unfunded or future liability for retiree benefits, and accrued workers' compensation claims.

The Board shall approve a plan for meeting the district's long-term obligations to fund nonpension, other postemployment benefits (OPEBs). This plan shall include a specific funding strategy and the method that will be used to finance the district's annual fiscal obligations for such benefits in a manner that continually reduces the deficit to the district to the extent possible. The Board reserves the authority to review and amend the funding strategy as necessary to ensure that it continues to serve the best interests of the district and maintains flexibility to adjust for changing budgetary considerations.

When the Chief Business Official or designee presents a report to the Board on the estimated accrued but unfunded cost of OPEBs, the Board shall disclose, as a separate agenda item at the same meeting, whether or not it will reserve a sufficient amount of money in its budget to fund the present value of the benefits of existing retirees and/or the future cost of employees who are eligible for benefits in the current fiscal year.
(Education Code 42140)

Budget Amendments

Whenever revenues and expenditures change significantly throughout the year, the Chief Business Official or designee shall recommend budget amendments to ensure accurate projections of the district's net ending balance. When final figures for the prior-year budget are available, this information shall be used as soon as possible to update the current-year budget's beginning balance and projected revenues and expenditures.

In addition, budget amendments shall be submitted for Board approval when the state budget is adopted, collective bargaining agreements are accepted, district income declines, increased revenues or unanticipated savings are made available to the district, program proposals are significantly different from those approved during budget adoption, interfund transfers are needed to meet actual program expenditures, and/or other significant changes occur that impact budget projections.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1240 Duties of county superintendent of schools

33127-33131 Standards and criteria for local budgets and expenditures

35035 Powers and duties of superintendent
35161 Powers and duties, generally, of governing boards
42103 Public hearing on proposed budget; requirements for content of proposed budget
42122-42129 Budget requirements
42130-42134 Financial certifications
42140-42141 Disclosure of fiscal obligations
42602 Use of unbudgeted funds
42605 Tier 3 categorical flexibility
42610 Appropriation of excess funds and limitation thereon
44518-44519.2 Chief business officer training program
45253 Annual budget of personnel commission
45254 First year budget of personnel commission
GOVERNMENT CODE
7900-7914 Appropriations limit
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
15060 Standardized account code structure
15440-15451 Criteria and standards for school district budgets

Policy Adopted: January 15, 2002
Revised Policy Adopted: May 17, 2011