

BUSINESS AND NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: Financial Reports and Accountability

The Governing Board is committed to ensuring the fiscal health of the district and providing public accountability. The Board shall adopt sound fiscal policies, oversee the district's financial condition, and ensure that the financial systems support the district's goals for student achievement.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)
(cf. 3110 - Transfer of Funds)
(cf. 3300 - Expenditures and Purchases)
(cf. 3430 - Investing)
(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with financial reports throughout the year in accordance with law and as otherwise requested by the Board.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all financial reports are prepared in accordance with law and in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and financial reporting standards stipulated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board and the California Department of Education. The district's goal is to properly account for the financial and economic resources of the district and to enhance the understandability and usefulness of external financial reports for the community.

(cf. 3400 - Management of District Assets/Accounts)
(cf. 3440 - Inventories)

The Board shall regularly communicate the district's financial position to the public and shall use financial reports to determine what actions and budget amendments, if any, are needed to ensure the district's financial stability.

If district conditions predict fiscal distress or indicate that the district might not be able to meet its fiscal obligations, the Board and Superintendent or designee shall act quickly to identify and resolve these conditions. The Board shall work cooperatively with the County Superintendent of Schools to improve the district's fiscal health and may contract with an external individual or organization to advise the district on fiscal matters.

Audit Committee

The Board may establish an audit committee composed of staff knowledgeable in fiscal matters, other staff, Board representatives and representatives of the community. The committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Board and shall:

1. Make recommendations regarding the selection of the external independent auditor

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2. Review the plan for the audit process with the independent auditor to determine the adequacy of the nature, scope, and timetable of the audit
3. Review the results of the audit and participate with the independent auditor and management in preparing final recommendations and responses
4. Participate with the independent auditor in presenting the audit report to the Board
5. Review Board policies and administrative regulations to recommend any revisions needed to ensure effective financial reporting
6. Provide input on the effectiveness of the independent auditor
7. Periodically report to the Board regarding the status of previous audit recommendations for improving the accounting and internal control systems

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

Fiscal Policy Team

The Board may establish a fiscal policy team to periodically review the district's fiscal policies and procedures and advise the Board regarding long-range fiscal management plans. The fiscal policy team may be assigned to examine the fiscal and economic information needs of the district, the impact of budget allocations on district priorities, the financial health of the district, or other duties specified by the Board. The team shall work with the district's budget and audit committees and appropriate staff in carrying out its functions.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 14500-14508 Financial and compliance audits
- 17150 Public disclosure of non-voter-approved debt
- 33127 Standards and criteria for local budgets and expenditures
- 33128 Standards and criteria; inclusions
- 33129 Standards and criteria; use by local agencies
- 35035 Powers and duties of superintendent
- 41010-41023 Accounting system
- 41326 Emergency apportionment
- 41344 Repayment of apportionment significant audit exceptions
- 41344.1 Appeals of audit findings
- 41455 Examination of financial problems of local districts
- 42100-42105 Requirement to prepare and file annual statement
- 42127.6 School district operations monitoring; financial obligation nonpayment

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42130-42134 Financial reports and certifications
42140-42142 Public disclosure of fiscal obligations
GOVERNMENT CODE
3540.2 School district; qualified or negative certification; proposed agreement review and comment
16429.1 Local agency investment fund
53646 Reports of investment policy and compliance
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
15070 Submission of reports using standardized account code structure
15453-15463 Criteria and standards for school district interim reports

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Maximizing School Board Governance: Fiscal Accountability, 2005

CDE COMMUNICATIONS

1208.00 Audit Resolution Process: Repayment Plans

GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD

Statement 34, Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis - For State and Local Governments, June 1999

Statement 45, Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Post-employment Benefits Other Than Pensions, June 2004

U.S. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE AND PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY (PCIE) PUBLICATIONS

Financial Audit Manual, revised 2003

STATE CONTROLLER PUBLICATIONS

Standards and Procedures for Audits of California K-12 Local Educational Agencies (annual publication)

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Association of School Business Officials: <http://www.casbo.org>

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association:
<http://www.ccsesa.org>

California Department of Education, Finance and Grants: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg>

Education Audit Appeals Panel: <http://www.eaap.ca.gov>

Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team: <http://www.fcmat.org>

Governmental Accounting Standards Board: <http://www.gasb.org>

School Services of California: <http://www.sscal.com>

State Controller's Office: <http://www.sco.ca.gov>

U.S. Government Accounting Office: <http://www.gao.gov>