

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, GRANTS AND BEQUESTS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Board may accept gifts, grants and/or bequests of money, real or personal property, as well as other merchandise which, in view of the Board, add to the overall welfare of the School District, provided that such acceptance is in accordance with existing laws and regulations. However, the Board is not required to accept any gift, grant or bequest and does so at its discretion, basing its judgment on the best interests of the District. Furthermore, the Board will not accept any gift, grant or bequest which constitutes a conflict of interest and/or gives an appearance of impropriety.

At the same time, the Board will safeguard the District, the staff and students from commercial exploitation, from special interest groups, and the like.

The Board will not accept any gifts or grants which will place encumbrances on future Boards, or result in unreasonable additional or hidden costs to the District.

The Board of Education will not formally consider the acceptance of gifts or grants until and unless it receives the offer in writing from the donor/grantor. Any such gifts or grants donated to the Board and accepted on behalf of the School District must be by official action and resolution passed by Board majority. The Board would prefer the gift or grant to be a general offer rather than a specific one. Consequently, the Board would suggest that the donor/grantor work first with the school administrators in determining the nature of the gift or grant prior to formal consideration for acceptance by the Board. However, the Board, in its discretion, may direct the Superintendent of Schools to apply such gift or grant for the benefit of a specific school or school program.

In granting or withholding its consent, the Board will review the following factors:

- a) The terms of the gift must identify:
 - 1. The subject of the gift;
 - 2. The purpose of the gift;
 - 3. The beneficiary or beneficiaries if any;
 - 4. All conditions or restrictions that may apply.
- b) The gift must not benefit a particular or named individual or individuals.
- c) If the purpose of the gift is an award to a single student, the determination of the recipient of such award shall be made on the basis that all students shall have an equal opportunity to qualify for it and shall not be denied its receipt on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability.
- d) If the gift is in trust, the obligation of the investment and reinvestment of the principal shall be clearly specified and the application of the income or investment proceeds shall be clearly set forth.
- e) No gift or trust will be accepted by the Board unless:

1. It is in support of and a benefit to all or to a particular public school in the District; or
2. It is for a purpose for which the School District could legally expend its own funds; or
3. It is for the purpose of awarding scholarships to students graduating from the District.

Any gift rejected by the Board shall be returned to the donor or his/her estate within sixty (60) days together with a statement indicating the reasons for the rejection of such gift.

The Board is prohibited, in accordance with the New York State Constitution, from making gifts/charitable contributions with School District funds.

Gifts and/or grants of money to the District shall be annually accounted for under the trust and agency account in the bank designated by the Board of Education.

All gifts, grants and/or bequests shall become School District property. A letter of appreciation, signed by the President of the Board and the Superintendent, may be sent to a donor/grantor in recognition of his/her contribution to the School District.

Gift Giving

The Board of Education recognizes that gift giving, especially during the holiday season, may be a common practice for many District employees. While the giving or exchanging of gifts may be acceptable among staff members, the Board strongly encourages District employees and students to show appreciation through written notes or greeting cards.

Additionally, all business contacts will be informed that gifts exceeding seventy-five dollars (\$75) to District employees will be returned or donated to charity.

New York State Constitution Article 8, Section 1
Education Law Sections 1709(12), 1709(12-a) and 1718(2)
General Municipal Law Section 805-a(1)

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