

Budget

The Governing Board accepts 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. (Education Code 42122)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish an annual budget development process and calendar in accordance with the single budget adoption process described in Education Code 42127.

The Superintendent shall oversee the preparation of a proposed district budget for approval by the Board and shall involve appropriate staff at all levels 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 law.

The Superintendent or designee may appoint a budget advisory committee composed of members of the community and staff. The committee shall provide recommendations to the Superintendent during the budget development process. Duties of the committee shall be clearly defined and communicated to all members.

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 Board also shall establish budget assumptions or parameters which may take into consideration the stability of funding sources, enrollment trends, legal requirements and constraints, anticipated increases and/or decreases in the cost of services and supplies, use of one-time resources, categorical program requirements, scheduled salary increases, and any other factors necessary to ensure that the budget is a realistic plan for district revenues and expenditures.

The Board shall establish and maintain a general fund reserve for economic uncertainty that meets or exceeds the requirements of 5 CCR 15443.

Prior to adopting the budget, the Board shall conduct a first-tier review, and if necessary a second-tier review, to ensure that the budget meets standards and criteria adopted by the State Board of Education. (Education Code 33127, 33128, 33129; 5 CCR 15440-15452)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district budget is clearly presented and effectively communicated to the Board, staff, and public. He/she may adapt or supplement the state-required budget format as necessary for these purposes.

Whenever revenues and expenditures change significantly throughout the year, the Superintendent 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, and/or other significant changes occur that impact budget projections.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 32001 Fire alarms and drills
- 33127 Development of standards and criteria for local budgets and expenditures
- 33128 Standards and criteria
- 33129 Standards and criteria; use by local agencies
- 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; publication of notice of hearing
- 42120-42129 Budget requirements
- 42132 Resolutions identifying estimated appropriations limit
- 42602 Use of unbudgeted funds
- 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 Expenditure limitations

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 15060 Standardized account code structure
- 15440-15452 Criteria and standards for school district budgets

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Maximizing School Board Governance: Budget Planning and Adoption, 2005

Maximizing School Board Governance: Understanding District Budgets, 2005

CDE PUBLICATIONS

California School Accounting Manual

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

WEB SITES

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

Association of California School Administrators: <http://www.acsa.org>

California Department of Education, Finance and Grants:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg>

California Department of Finance: <http://www.dof.ca.gov>

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

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

Legislative Analyst's Office: <http://www.lao.ca.gov>

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

Board Approved: 6/13/06