

Determination of Budget Priorities

In order to fulfill its trustee obligation with regard to district resources, the Board must know how resources are currently allocated, whether such allocation is effective and what changes should be made to achieve the greatest educational returns. The superintendent shall develop a comprehensive and ongoing system to collect and analyze resource allocation information. The analysis of this information shall form the basis for the budget prepared by the superintendent for presentation to the Board. The system shall:

1. determine how resources are currently allocated by school, grade and program
2. link specific inputs with results for students and determine whether the current allocation of resources is effective in raising student achievement
3. identify ways to better use resources to achieve the district's educational objectives and improve teaching and learning

As part of the budget preparation process, each school-level accountability committee shall make recommendations to the principal relative to priorities for expenditures of district funds by the school. The principal shall consider these recommendations when formulating budget requests to be presented to the superintendent. The superintendent shall also consider the accountability committee recommendations when preparing the budget to be presented to the Board of Education. A copy of the school-level accountability recommendations shall be sent to the district accountability committee and to the Board.

The district accountability committee shall make recommendations to the Board relative to priorities for expenditures of district funds and provide a copy of the recommendations to the superintendent. The Board shall consider these priorities when it adopts the annual budget. The superintendent shall consider the district accountability committee recommendations when preparing the budget to be presented to the Board.

Accordingly, the budget prepared and presented by the superintendent shall:

1. be derived from a five-year plan
2. include contingency plans in the event budget assumptions prove erroneous
3. be in a summary format understandable by a lay person
4. itemize district expenditures by fund
5. adequately describe proposed expenditures
6. show the amount budgeted for the current fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the ensuing fiscal year

7. comply with spending limitations in the state constitution
8. consider recommendations made by each school-level accountability committee relative to priorities for expenditures of district funds
9. contain enough information to enable credible projections of revenue and expenses
10. disclose budget planning assumptions
11. not excessively rely on nonrecurring revenues
12. not provide for expenditures, interfund transfers or reserves in excess of available revenues and beginning fund balances
13. not include the use of beginning fund balance unless the Board has adopted a resolution as described in state law specifically authorizing such use
14. not reduce without approval of the Board, the current cash reserves at any time to less than the minimum amount required by spending limitations set forth in the state constitution
15. take into consideration fiscal soundness in future years and plans for the building of organization capabilities sufficient to achieve the Board's goals in future years
16. reflect anticipated changes in employee compensation
17. comply with state and federal law
18. provide sufficient resources to address the district's facility needs

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Revised: March 1994

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Revised: October 26, 2011

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-11-302 (1)(a) (*district accountability committee budget recommendations*)
C.R.S. 22-11-402 (1)(a) (*school-level accountability committee budget recommendations*)
C.R.S. 22-44-105 (1.5) (*budget parameters regarding expenses not exceeding revenue and use of beginning fund balance*)

CROSS REF.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment

Fountain-Fort Carson School District #8, Fountain, Colorado