

Descriptor Term: FUNDRAISING

Descriptor Code: JHBA

Rescinds: JHBA

Board Approved: 6/6/2016

Previously Approved: 1/9/2012

The Board of Trustees of the Gulfport School District recognizes the need for limited student fundraising activities. In the Gulfport School District fundraising is defined as a method for raising money to finance specific programs and projects. Fundraising projects must support the goals of the school district and be related to educational, charitable, or philanthropic purposes. Requests to raise funds of any kind must be submitted, in writing, on an official fundraising request form and approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee prior to the particular activity.

Fundraising should not be a burden to school staff, parent volunteers, or students, it should not compete with school lunch and nutrition programs, should protect the instructional integrity of each school, will not interfere with regular instructional periods of any student and no class time will be used to collect money for fundraising activities. The Board prohibits any fundraising activity that promotes a game of chance or is in the nature of or equivalent to a raffle.

Students must never be asked to sell door-to-door to raise funds.

Each fundraising activity will be supervised by a certified staff member who will be held personally responsible for the completion of the project including post-activity profit reconciliation showing accountability for purchase and sales of goods resulting in profits.

Whenever a sale or rental of any merchandise such as school pictures, caps, and gowns is conducted as a fundraising activity, a disclosure statement must be made available to prospective purchasers which at a minimum must read, "Notice – this sale is being conducted as a fundraising event. A portion of the sales price will be contributed to the local school activity fund."

Crowdfunding is a unique form of fundraising that collects money from a group of people (friends, family and individual investors) primarily online to support projects, trips, events, platforms, etc. Crowdfunding includes, but is not limited to, sources such as GoFundMe, DonorsChoose.org, FundTube, and Classwish. The following guidelines will apply whenever the District, a District employee, or other volunteer or agent of the District seeks gifts and donations through a crowdfunding website intended to benefit the District, District employees, acting in their capacity as District employees, or the District's students. Before donations are requested, the project must be approved as stated above. All donations or gifts that are requested using the District's name, referencing the employee's position with the District even if the District is not named, or requested on behalf of District students specifically or in general are considered District property. Checks are required to be made out to the school and must be deposited into our Activity Fund accounts.