

**STAPLES MOTLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY #714
FUND BALANCES (GASB 54)**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to create new fund balance classifications to allow for more useful fund balance reporting and for compliance with the reporting guidelines specified in Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

11. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of this school district is to comply with GASB Statement No. 54. To the extent a specific conflict occurs between this policy and the provisions of GASB Statement No. 54, the GASB Statement shall prevail.

111. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Assigned" Fund Balance represents amounts constrained by the school district's intent to be used for a specific purpose, but are or restricted or committed. Intent is expressed by the school board itself or a body (budget or finance committee) or an official (finance director) to which the school board has delegated the authority to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes. The actions to remove or modify assignment are not as strict as for committed fund balances. The assigned amounts are not allowed to go into deficit.
- B. "Committed" Fund Balance represents amounts constrained for a specific purpose by the district using the highest level of decision-making authority (generally the school board). It requires action by the same group to remove or change the constraints placed on the resources. The committed is not allowed to go into deficit.
- C. "Enabling legislation" means legislation that authorizes a school district to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources from external providers and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes listed in the legislation.
- D. "Fund balance" means the arithmetic difference between the assets and liabilities reported in a school district fund.
- E. "Nonspendable" fund balance represents amounts that cannot be spent due to form such as inventories and prepaid amounts. Also, long-term loan and notes receivables, and property held for resale would be reported here unless the proceeds are restricted, committed or assigned. This also includes amounts that must be maintained intact legally

or contractually (corpus or principal of a permanent fund). The nonspendable account is not allowed to go into deficit.

- F. "Restricted" Fund Balance represents amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by constitution, external resource providers, or through enabling legislation. Constraints are placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or imposed by law through constitutional provisions of enabling legislation.
- G. "Unassigned" used in Fund 01 to record Unassigned Fund Balance available to meet current and future years' expenditures. These are resources in Fund 01 that are not restricted and have not been committed or assigned. The fund balance may be positive or negative. Used in Fund 02, 04, 06, 07 and 47 Represents negative unassigned fund balances in fund other than Fund 01. The fund balance must be negative. When used in Fund 04, 06 and 07 this account records the deficits outside of those associated with any activity that closes to restricted/reserved accounts that are allowed to have a deficit. Deficits in restricted/reserved accounts that may record deficits must report deficits, if any, to permit statutory revenue formula calculations based on these accounts' fund balances reported on UFARS.
- H. "Unrestricted" fund balance is the amount of fund balance left after determining both non-spendable and restricted net resources. This amount can be determined by adding the committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balances.

IV. CLASSIFICATION OF FUND BALANCES

The school district shall classify its fund balances in its various funds in one or more of the following five classifications: non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

v. MINIMUM FUND BALANCE

The school district will strive to maintain a fund balance of ten percent of operating expenditures.

VI. ORDER OF RESOURCE USE

If resources from more than one fund balance classification could be spent, the school district will strive to spend resources from fund balance classifications in the following order (first to last): restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned or as special circumstances arise, pending board approval.

VII. COMMITTING FUND BALANCE

A majority vote of the school board is required to commit a fund balance to a specific purpose and subsequently to remove or change any constraint so adopted by the board.

VIII. ASSIGNING FUND BALANCE

The school board, by majority vote, may assign fund balances to be used for specific purposes when appropriate. The board also delegates the power to assign fund balances to the following; Superintendent, Business Manager and Finance Coordinator.

An appropriation of an existing fund balance to eliminate a projected budgetary deficit in the subsequent year's budget in an amount no greater than the projected excess of expected expenditures over expected revenues satisfies the criteria to be classified as an assignment of fund balance.

IX. REVIEW

The school board will conduct an annual review of the sufficiency of the minimum unassigned general fund balance level.

Legal References: Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Cross References: None