

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Chester, New Jersey

FILE CODE: 3280

☐ **Monitored**

☐ **Mandated**

☒ **Other Reasons**

Policy

GIFTS, GRANTS AND BEQUESTS

The Chester Board of Education encourages assistance to the schools by individual citizens, businesses, and organizations. This assistance may be in the form of services, monetary gifts, materials, and equipment.

Only the board of education may accept for the school district, any bequest or gift of money, property or goods, except that the chief school administrator may accept on behalf of the board any such gift of less than \$1000.00 in value.

The board reserves the right to refuse to accept any gift that does not contribute to the achievement of district goals or could deplete the resources of the district.

Any gift accepted by the board or the chief school administrator shall become the property of the board, may not be returned without the approval of the board, and is subject to the same controls and regulations as are other properties of the board. The board shall be responsible for the maintenance of any gift it accepts.

The board will make every effort to honor the intent of the donor in its use of the gift, but reserves the right to use any gift it accepts in the best interest of the educational program of the district. In no case shall acceptance of a gift be considered to be an endorsement by the board of a commercial product or business enterprise or institution of learning.

Grants

Staff members are encouraged to seek out sources of grants and gifts, and bring them to the attention of the chief school administrator, who shall investigate the conditions of such grants and make recommendations to the board regarding the advisability of seeking them.

Educational Foundation

An educational foundation shall be created for the purpose of soliciting and raising monetary gifts and donations for the school district. This foundation shall be governed by a board of directors that shall recommend expenditures of funds in educational areas not ordinarily covered by the school budget and in accordance with criteria in its bylaws. Members of the board of education and/or the administration shall not serve on the board of directors of the educational foundation. Policies and regulations on gifts to the district shall apply to funds raised by the foundation.

The Educational Foundation of The Chesters (the "Foundation") and the Chester PTO (the "PTO") each raise money to fund projects and programs for the Chester School District, consistent with the respective by-laws and policies of each of these organizations. While each organization is independent of the board and of each other, each works cooperatively with the administration and board and welcomes participation of the administration, board and community.

The Foundation and the PTO may submit to the building principal for review and acceptance, gifts and grants up to \$2500. Gifts and grants over \$2500 shall be submitted to the chief school administrator for review and acceptance.

The Foundation or PTO shall have the authority to designate the place, purpose and use of the gift or grant donated to the district. The gift/grant will remain so designated for a period of three years. At the end of the three year period the board shall consult with the donor entity and may request a change or alternate designation for the gift/grant. The board shall assume the authority to re-designate unused gift/grant

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allocations at the end of the three year period. Consent of the donor entity to alter the designation of the gift/grant while requested shall not be required after the end of the three year period.

Specific requests or applications for gifts/grants by teachers, group of teachers or teaching teams may be made to the Foundation and PTO. All gifts/grants awarded shall be reviewed by the building principal and/or chief school administrator in accordance to this policy. The gifts/grants shall remain designated for the specified purpose for a period of three years, or until the funded activity has been discontinued or concluded.

At the end of the three year period or following the discontinuation of the funded activity (at or prior to three years) for any reason, the board shall consult with the donor and may request a change or alternate designation for the gift/grant. The board shall assume the authority to re-designate unused gift/grant allocations. Consent of the donor entity to alter the designation of the gift/grant while requested shall not be required after the end of the three year period or following the discontinuation of the funded activity.

Adopted: July 31, 2003
 NJSBA Review/Update: August 2008, August 2016, September 2018
 Readopted: April 27, 2009, September 17 2018, August 16, 2021, January 2024

Key Words

Gifts, Grants, Bequests

<u>Legal References:</u>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:6-33.1 through -33.12 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:18A-15.1 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:20-4 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:20-11 through -16 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:29A-1 through -7 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:71A-1 <u>et seq.</u> <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:71B-1 <u>et seq.</u> <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:71C-1 <u>et seq.</u> <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-7.4	Incentive Grants Payment for goods or services; funds received from a bequest, legacy or gift Acceptance and use of gifts Property devised in trust Governor's Annual Teacher Recognition Act Authority Structure and General Provisions Student Financial Aid Student Loans Approval of land acquisition
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Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1230 School-connected organizations 3200 Income *3220/3230 State funds; federal funds *3453 School activity funds *5126 Awards for achievement *6163.1 Media center/library
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*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.