

Purchasing Card Program Cardholder Procedure Manual



Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103 Administration Offices

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INTRODUCTION

The p-Card program is designed to streamline your department's purchasing needs while at the same time providing the necessary financial controls to safeguard District 103's assets. The purchasing card program will assist in reducing the number of requisitions, purchase orders, petty cash funds, check requests as well as, reducing the need to use personal funds for business purposes. The program will provide greater flexibility, permit you to get merchandise more quickly, reduce paperwork, and enhance overall purchasing efficiency.

The Business Office is responsible for the implementation, maintenance, program compliance, auditing, payment processing, and bank relations to solve customer service issues. Each cardholder has the responsibility to review, reconcile, and submit their monthly account statement with the appropriate receipts and signatures for payment processing by the due date.

The purpose of this manual is to acquaint you with information about the p-Card program's policies and procedures. It describes many of your responsibilities as a cardholder and outlines the processes and procedures to facilitate secure, timely, and accurate purchasing transactions. It also includes helpful information and instructions for documentation, reconciliation, and review.

All procedures must be adhered to as outlined in this manual and the accounts payable section of the Business Services Procedure Manual. All purchasing policies, regulations and procedures apply. Failure to comply can result in the suspension from the p-Card program and also include disciplinary action that may result in termination of employment. The p-Card issued to the cardholder is the property of Lincolnshire Prairie-View School District 103 and can be cancelled at any time. Periodic audits will be conducted to ensure the cardholder is in compliance with set policies and procedures.

As the District's needs change and usage continues to grow it may be necessary to revise or supplement a portion of the manual from time to time as deemed appropriate. If questions arise in the meantime, please contact Assistant Superintendent for Business, Patrick Palbicke by phone or email. Please see contact information listed below.

p-Card Administrator – Patrick Palbicke
847-457-9307 (office)
ppalbicke@d103.org

p-Card Administrator Assistant – Sueanne Kim
847-457-9305 (office)
skim@d103.org

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct for Lincolnshire Prairie-View School District 103's Purchasing Card Program is designed to provide the cardholder a general philosophy and set of guidelines to follow regarding the use of the card.

- **Purchases**
p-Card purchases should be made so that the organization gains the maximum value and quality for each purchase.
- **Limitations on Vendors**
Cardholders must not make p-Card purchases from friends or relatives where the cardholder has a financial interest.
- **Vendor Gifts**
Decline all personal supplier gifts offered. Cardholders must not accept any gift from any source if offered, or appears to be offered, to influence decision-making regarding p-Card purchases.
- **p-Card Agreement**
The issuance of a p-Card is strictly prohibited prior to receipt of a signed agreement from the employee.
- **Personal Use of p-Card**
Only authorized business purchases may be completed with the p-Card. Any personal purchases are strictly prohibited.
- **p-Card Security**
The p-Card is the property of Lincolnshire Prairie-View School District 103 and as such should be kept in a secure location at all times.
- **Authorization**
Only the employee to whom the card is issued is authorized to use it. Delegating the use of the p-Card to another employee is strictly prohibited.
- **Vendor Selection**
Where required in accordance with District policy, all vendors should be offered an equal opportunity to participate in the organization's purchasing programs and to offer competitive pricing.
- **Vendor Disagreements/Disputes**
If a disagreement occurs with a vendor, the employee should make every effort to reach a reasonable and equitable settlement to the dispute. If it is not possible to settle the disagreement under reasonable circumstances, submit the details related to the dispute to the p-Card Administrator at ppalbicke@d103.org or Purchasing Assistant skim@d103.org.

- **Negotiations**
Cardholders are required to conduct themselves in a good faith manner when negotiating with suppliers. Any intentional misrepresentation is strictly prohibited.
- **Organization Policies**
Cardholders are to adhere to District policy as it relates to the p-Card Program.
- **Documentation**
All purchases using the p-Card program must be properly documented for business purposes. Any altered or forged documentation is strictly prohibited.
- **Purchase Restrictions**
The purchase of products, services or commodities on the restricted list in the Purchasing Card Procedure Manual as follows in Section 1 is strictly prohibited. Check with your Supervisor or the p-Card Administrator if you have any questions about whether a charge is valid under the p-Card program.
- **Purchase Limits**
All dollar value purchase limits will be adhered to under the program and any splitting of transactions to avoid authorized limits is strictly prohibited.
- **Returning Purchasing Cards**
The p-Card is the property of Lincolnshire Prairie-View School District 103. Upon separation of employment, the card must be surrendered immediately to the Business Office.
- **Business Practices**
In all vendor relationships and purchasing, promote and cooperate with trade and professional associations and with state, federal, local, and private agencies on encouraging fair, ethical, and legal business practices.

1. PURCHASING GUIDELINES AND LIMITS

Overview

Lincolnshire Prairie-View School District 103 allows only certain purchases to be made using the p-Card. All purchases must be made in compliance with the purchasing policies and the guidelines set forth in this manual and in the Purchasing Procedures Manual. Any violation will result in disciplinary action that may include termination of employment. Only the authorized cardholder may use the p-Card and no authority is permitted to the cardholder for the delegation of its use. Business Services establishes purchasing limits based on position and responsibilities and in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations. Lincolnshire Prairie-View School District 103 will perform periodic audits to verify adherence to policies and procedures.

Allowable Purchases

- General Supplies/Supplies not available in the District warehouse
- Membership Dues
- Registration for conferences and workshops
- Meeting expenses
- Travel (as permitted by District policy)
- Subscriptions (for business purposes only)
- Purchases from vendors who do not accept purchase orders

Prohibited Purchases

- Cash advances, wire transfers, or money orders
- Personal items
- Technology including computers, printers, and peripherals
- Software
- Copiers
- Audio Visual Equipment (projectors, cameras, etc.)
- Repairs
- Telephone expenses
- Alcohol purchases
- Donations
- Parking violations
- Gaming transactions including bets, lottery tickets, and casino gaming chips
- Independent contractors or other personal or professional services
- Maintenance contracts
- Equipment
- Automatic Renewals

Cardholder Spending Limits

Each cardholder has a designated credit limit for monthly purchases. In addition, purchases may be limited by total daily dollar volume, type of transaction, merchant category, and purpose of purchase. Any intentional circumvention of these limits is strictly prohibited. This includes splitting a transaction amount with the same vendor or multiple vendors for purchases that would otherwise exceed the cardholder's limits.

Sales Tax

Lincolnshire Prairie-View School District 103 is tax exempt. The cardholder should make the vendor aware of the District's tax-exempt status. Tax-Exempt Letters are available from the Purchasing Department. The letter can be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to the vendor.

How Can I Use the p-Card?

The p-Card may be used for the following type of transactions, subject to Statement of Authority limitations.

- Telephone Orders*
- Fax/Mail Orders*
- Online Purchases*
- Over the Counter

*With permission from Assistant Superintendent for Business or Supervisor.

To Place a Telephone Order

- Have your p-Card ready before placing the call.
- Always ask for the education or government sales representative.
- Inform the vendor of tax-exempt status.
- Be sure to specify the shipping address to the vendor, and confirm shipping costs.

To Place a Fax/Mail Order

- Complete all information needed on the order form and keep a copy for your records. For subscriptions this may be the only receipt provided.
- Double-check the ship to address.
- If necessary, fax or mail a tax-exempt certificate.

To Purchase Online

- Print out completed registration forms, confirmations, and invoices to be used as supporting documentation.
- ***Ensure that no sales tax is charged. If tax is charged it is the cardholder's responsibility to contact the vendor to have it removed and credited on the next statement.***

To Purchase Over the Counter

- Ensure that no sales tax is charged.
- Obtain detailed, itemized receipt at time of purchase.

Returns

- Merchandise returns must be completed within 10 days of receipt or sooner if required by vendor.

2. RECORDKEEPING & RECONCILIATION

The cardholder is responsible for maintaining receipts for all purchases made with the p-Card. The documentation retained should include sales receipts, packing lists (if applicable), and credit card transaction receipts. **Account statements are available electronically and will be emailed to the cardholder on the 21st or the next business day of each month.**

Any incorrect charges, duplicate transactions or missing credits must be addressed directly between the cardholder and the vendor. Each statement will require itemization of the purpose of the expense and the account number to which the expense is to be charged. Upon completion of the reconciliation, the account statement with all documentation must be submitted to the cardholder's supervisor for authorization on SDS. All documentation must be forwarded to Accounts Payable as support for payment.

Reconciling Prior to Submitting to Supervisor

- Establish a new PO under the vendor Mastercard on SDS
- Enter each expense as a separate line item
- In the Item Description, begin with the Vendor name followed by a description of the purpose of the purchase
- Enter the accurate account code for each expense; if the account code is not within your credentials, then contact the p-Card administrator assistant for direct input
- Compare expenses to receipts, confirm each transaction, and verify amounts charged
- Load all purchase receipt documentation and forward original copies to the p-Card administrative assistant by the due date

Missing Receipts

- If the cardholder is missing a receipt, the cardholder must submit a *Missing Receipt Form* available on the District website documenting the pertinent transaction information. This documentation must be approved by the cardholder's supervisor.

Examples of Receipt Documentation

- Cash register original, itemized receipt
- Airline itinerary and sales receipt (if "e-ticket" attach the email documentation)
- Itemized hotel bills
- Itemized restaurant bills

Sales Tax

- If sales tax is to be reimbursed there must be a note submitted documenting such.
- It is the p-Card users responsibility to watch for appropriate credit on future statements. If reimbursement does not occur on the next statement it is the cardholder's responsibility to follow up with the vendor to ensure reimbursement is received.
- The p-Card holder will be held responsible for inappropriate charges, including sales tax.

3. BILLING AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The p-Card billing cycle ends on the 20th of each month. **ALL RECONCILED STATEMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ACCOUNTS PAYABLE BY THE DUE DATE ESTABLISHED BY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE EACH MONTH.** Any problems that have not been resolved should be notated as pending.

Any account statements missing the proper approvals and documentation will be returned to the cardholder's supervisor for appropriate resubmission. If a cardholder is consistently delinquent in submitting their reconciled account statement to the Accounts Payable Department, the p-Card administrator, and the cardholder's supervisor may review their status as a participant in the program and suspend their privileges until an adequate resolution is achieved.

Key Dates

- The bank's monthly billing cycle runs from the 21st of one month to the 20th of the following month.
- The cardholder receives the monthly account statement on the 21st or the following business day of each month.
- Cardholder enters the reconciled account statement with appropriate documentation onto SDS, obtains approval from the supervisor, and submits to Accounts Payable by the due date of each month.
- Accounts Payable posts payments for each cardholder account in accordance with the regular disbursement dates.

4. DISPUTED TRANSACTIONS

At times there may be disputed transactions appearing on the cardholder's account statement. The dispute may arise due to non-delivery of the goods or services, incorrect billing, duplicate billing, missing a valid credit not processed to the account for a return, altered charges or defective merchandise. **In these situations it is important for the cardholder to immediately seek resolution with the vendor.**

Disputes

Any disputes that cannot be resolved by the cardholder directly with the vendor may contact the p-Card Administrator for assistance. The cardholder will assist in ensuring that appropriate credits for reported disputed items or billing errors appear on subsequent statements.

Key Dates

- Returns must be completed within 10 days of receipt of merchandise or sooner if required by vendor.
- The cardholder has 10 days from the date the merchandise is returned to receive credit. If credit has not been received begin the dispute process with the vendor.
- The p-Card Administrator must notify bank of any disputed transactions within 30 days of the statement date.

Helpful Tips for Returns, Damaged Goods, Credit

- Items should be returned directly to the vendor by whichever means the vendor requires.
- Always retain boxes, containers, materials, packing slips, etc. until it is certain that the goods will not be returned.
- Read all enclosed instructions carefully. Phone numbers and special instructions are often included on packing slips or delivery receipts.
- Many vendors require a "Return Authorization Number" before they will accept a return. If this information is not provided with the return, the package may be refused and no credit will be given.
- If the vendor does not intend to pay for shipping charges the merchandise should be brought to the school secretary packaged and ready to be shipped. Please provide the vendor name, return address, and packing slip to the secretary. The secretary will assist in coordinating a carrier to return the items. Items will be shipped and the appropriate account will be charged.
- It is the cardholder's responsibility to determine that proper credit is posted for any returned item on a subsequent statement.

5. ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE

The cardholder's personal information may require updating periodically. Updating the account information takes approximately three (3) working days after submission by the p-Card Administrator to the bank.

Personal Information Updates

- Cardholder name change
- Cardholder location change
- Credit limit
- Type of purchasing allowed by the cardholder
- Cancellation of the cardholder's account
- Suspension of the cardholder's account

6. TRAVEL

All appropriate travel documentation must be attached to the statement, approved by the supervisor, and submitted to the Accounts Payable Department for payment. The cardholder must adhere to the District's travel procedures. All travel must be for business purposes only and any personal use is strictly prohibited.

Travel Tips and Reminders

- The p-Card must not be used for gasoline for your personal vehicle when it is used for business purposes. Business travel incurred when using your personal vehicle will be reimbursed by claiming mileage on the appropriate District mileage reimbursement form. If you are traveling with a rental car, then gasoline may be purchased using the p-Card.
- The p-Card may be used to pay for qualified purchases on itemized hotel bills.
- The District does not provide ATM privileges with the p-Card program.

7. AUDITS

Auditing p-Card Activity

All cardholder accounts are subject to periodic audits to ensure compliance with the District's overall policies and the policies outlined in this manual. The p-Card administrator, or p-Card Administrator's Assistant will review daily, monthly, and annual transaction activity reports as deemed necessary to ensure adherence to the p-Card policies. If an audit reveals a policy violation, the cardholder and their supervisor will be contacted and disciplinary action assessed based on the type of violation.

Violations

- Unauthorized purchases
- Purchase of prohibited products, service, or merchandise outlined in the organization's policies and in this manual
- Intentional splitting of transactions to circumvent the credit limit including single day and single transaction limits
- Consistently delinquent accounts submitted for processing and payment
- Personal use of p-Card
- Allowing an unauthorized persons to use the p-Card
- Fraudulent transactions with a vendor
- Violation of the District's Purchasing Policies

8. LOST OR STOLEN CARDS

If the card is lost or stolen, the cardholder must immediately **contact BMO by phone at 800-361-3361** or by fax at 888-224-5394. The Assistant Superintendent for Business Services must be notified of possible loss, theft, or unauthorized use of the p-Card. Important contact information is provided below.

Upon notification, the card will be suspended immediately, and any charges posted to the account after the “missing date” will be denied. The Assistant Superintendent for Business Services will contact you once a new card has been issued and activated.

Card Security Tips

- The p-Card should be retained in a secure location at all times.
- Sign the back of your p-Card and also write “See ID” next to the signature to remind the vendor to look at your personal identification to authenticate the transaction.
- When presenting your card for purchases, provide your driver’s license to identify you as the authorized user of the card.
- A cancelled card should be returned as soon as possible to p-Card Administrator for disposal.
- Do not provide your card account number to unsolicited marketing calls.

Important Contact Information

- **BMO/Harris Bank**
 - 1-800-361-3361 (Lost/Stolen - Emergency Replacement)
 - 1-888-224-5394 - fax

- **p-Card Administrator**
 - Patrick Palbicke, Assistant Superintendent for Business
 - 847-457-9307 - office
 - ppalbicke@d103.org

- **p-Card Administrator Assistant**
 - Sueanne Kim
 - 847-457-9305 - office
 - skim@d103.org

9. GENERAL SUMMARY & IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Cardholder's Responsibilities ---

- Sign the back of the p-Card.
- Ensure the p-Card is used for legitimate business purposes only.
- Maintain the p-Card in a secure location at all times.
- Do not allow other individuals to use the p-Card.
- Adhere to the purchase limits and restrictions of the p-Card and ensure the total transaction amount of any single purchase does not exceed personal limits.
- Obtain a receipt and/or packing slip for all transactions.
- Reconcile the statement to the receipts each month.
- Enter a reconciled PO on SDS and submit original itemized receipts to Accounts Payable.
- Attempt to resolve billing disputes directly with vendors. If unable to resolve the dispute the cardholder, email the p-Card Administrator at ppalbicke@d103.org. Any disputed transactions must be resolved within 30 days of the statement date. (See page 9 for more specific information.)
- Ensure that appropriate credits for reported disputed items or billing errors appear on subsequent statements.
- **Immediately** report a lost or stolen card to BMO by phone at 1-800-361-3361 or fax at 1-888-224-5394. A lost or stolen card reported by telephone is blocked immediately so it is important to call regardless of the date or time. The Assistant Superintendent for Business Services (847-457-9307) should also be notified at the first opportunity. A replacement card must be requested by contacting the p-Card Administrator.
- **Immediately** report unauthorized or fraudulent charges to BMO by phone at 1-800-361-3361 or by fax at 1-888-224-5394 and notify the Assistant Superintendent for Business (847-457-9307).
- Return the p-Card to the p-Card Administrator upon termination of employment from School District 103.

The p-Card Can Be Revoked If ---

- The cardholder accepts a cash refund from a vendor for returned items.
- The card is used for personal or unauthorized purposes.
- An individual other than the cardholder uses the card.
- A purchase is split to circumvent the limitations of the card.
- Receipts are not provided for all transactions.
- The approved statement and accompanying itemized receipts are not submitted by the monthly deadline.
- The cardholder demonstrates a disregard for p-Card procedures.