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Weslaco Independent School District

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Dr. Richard Rivera
Superintendent of Schools

CFO – Frequently Asked Questions & Answers For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

1. **When does the budget process begin for next school year?**
 - Begins in January of the following year with the intent of having the Board of Trustees approve an Operating Budget by June 30th.
2. **How do I request additional budget dollars for my campus/department?**
 - A memo detailing the need, amount, if this is a one-time purchase or recurring annually. The request would need to be signed by a cabinet member and would need to be emailed to the CFO's office.
3. **What is the beginning and ending of the fiscal year?**
 - Begins July 1st through June 30th of the following year.
4. **What is the process for purchasing something over \$50,000?**
 - Short answer, call Purchasing Department for assistance. Long answer, we would need to select a procurement method and follow that process. If the price of the service or item (collectively) is over \$50-\$100 thousand, this purchase would need Superintendent of Schools approval. If over \$100 thousand, the purchase would need Board of Trustees approval.
5. **What does Customer Service mean to the CFO?**
 - When a WISD employee or Weslaco Community member calls, emails, or even visits the Business Office, our staff, from the Office Receptionist to the CFO, and all in between, will show respect, be courteous, be friendly, be proud of Weslaco ISD, and try to be of assistance.
6. **What is an operational budget?**
 - A school district has three budgets that the Board of Trustees has to approve each year: General Fund, Food Service Fund, & Debt Service Fund.
7. **What is Financial Transparency for Weslaco ISD?**
 - Weslaco ISD believes in providing our patrons and staff with the information necessary to make informed decisions about the financial position of the District. Weslaco ISD ensures that our stakeholders are provided with trustworthy and accurate financial data. We are committed to Financial Transparency and it is our goal to provide you with easy access and easy to understand documents.
8. **What is the FIRST rating?**
 - The state's school financial accountability rating system, known as the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST), ensures that Texas public schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and that they improve these practices.