

**ROBBINSDALE AREA SCHOOLS
ACCOUNTING and OPERATIONS MANUAL
FOR
BOOSTER CLUBS,
PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS,
AND
PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS**



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References: Minnesota Department of Education, "Manual for Activity Fund Accounting." Robbinsdale Area School Staff

INTRODUCTION

Booster Clubs and Parent-Teacher Organizations or Associations are organizations that are separate entities from the school district. As such, they have their own federal tax identification number, independent governing board, establish their own policies and maintain their own set of accounting records. They also maintain a separate checking account. For fundraising purposes, these organizations are formed as non-profit entities which must be registered and follow federal and state regulations to maintain their exemption statuses. These organizations MUST NOT take advantage of or use the District's tax identification number.

These valuable organizations provide a needed source of financial support for school activities. However, a separation between these organizations and the school district must be maintained so that third parties are not misled into believing that the organization is part of the school district. It is imperative that strict and proper accounting practices are followed in order to ensure this separation.

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS – BOOSTER CLUBS/PTO/PTA

These organizations are created by interested adult groups and managed by adults with various adults as officers. They raise funds through fundraising events, dues payments from adult members or from contributions from other organizations. They may operate concessions at special events and other projects on school property with student help with prior board approval. In all cases, adults implement, monitor and control the activities. The adult members of the organization make the decisions. There should be periodic meetings of the organization with minutes supporting these meetings.

REQUIRED NOTIFICATION TO THE DISTRICT

1. The names of the organizations' officers and contact information including: home and email addresses and current phone number should be submitted to the school office at the beginning of each school year and/or when there is a change in the officers.
2. Name of financial institution where the organization maintains its checking account.
3. Names and contact information of the organization's authorized signatories.

AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

The following guidelines ensure a great working partnership between the District and the booster clubs, PTA, and PTO organizations

1. The organization's income must not be from students. Collecting dues or other fees from students makes the organization resemble a District sanctioned student organization.
2. Organizations running non-school sponsored events should have separate insurance policies ([AIM Insurance](#)) to protect the organization and its members.
3. Use of district kitchens will be made in coordination with the Child Nutrition department to ensure compliance with the Minnesota food code and Hennepin County licensing protocols.
4. Use of district facilities will be made in coordination with the school secretary where the event will be held. Please note that certain requests may be referred to the facilities scheduler.

PROCEDURES

The following management and accounting guidelines are recommended for booster clubs and parent-teacher organizations or associations.

1. Information regarding the financial activities of the organization should be maintained in an organized and easily accessible format. This information should include receipts, the source of the receipts, expenditures including the payee's information and description of the purchase or service provided and beginning and ending balances.
2. Whenever it is practical, the organization should establish a separation of duties as a mechanism of supporting its officers. This separation may entail the following:
 - A designated officer, other than the treasurer, should initial and sign each invoice or request for payment.
 - The bank statement should be mailed to the president of the organization and passed on to the treasurer to reconcile and create reports for the membership or leadership team.
 - All fundraising activities and donations should be approved by the membership or leadership team.
 - All requests for payments of invoices or donations to the school district should be approved by the membership.
3. The treasurer or bookkeeper should prepare an annual financial report for the membership. This report should include the beginning and ending balances of the organization's accounts, the ending checking account and investment balances, the total amount of receipts by payer, a list of payments by vendor, with the amounts and purpose of the expenditure.
4. Expenditures must be deemed necessary for the organization's fundraising activities and for the management of the organization. No District related expenses may be purchased or paid for directly by these organizations. School district related expenses must be sent to the school as donations and accepted by the school board as a gift through the district gift procedure. Expenditures for school equipment, stipends for district employees, coach salaries, payments for bus trips are examples of expenditures that must not be directly made by the organization. These are school-related expenditures. When the organization wishes to donate money for the purchase of equipment, supplies or other financial support for student activities, the funds for the designated activity or piece of equipment or supply item must be received by the school district PRIOR TO a purchase order being issued or a student activity being scheduled. Donated equipment/supplies become the property of the school district.
5. Checks should be endorsed by at least two members of the organization. While school district employees can be members of these organizations, they must not be signatories on PTA/PTO/Booster Club bank accounts. The organizations' checkbooks or funds must not be housed on school district property, nor should it be in the possession of a district employee.

6. Should the organization hire its own employees or contract for outside services, the organization is responsible for the filing of the applicable year-end forms including W-2 or 1099 forms. Under no circumstance should the organization directly contract or make payments for services from district employees. To do so skirts tax obligations, the District's contract approval procedure, and the organization's due diligence responsibilities. Even if an employee is hired by the organization and the organization performs all the required payroll procedures and files the proper payroll reports, the background check issue has been violated if the individual has dealings with district students.
7. The organizations should consult with a CPA firm familiar with non-profit entities' reporting requirements to ensure compliance with federal and state reporting requirements. This allows the organization to maintain its tax-exempt status and protects its officers and members from liabilities.

The District offers the guidelines presented above as an avenue to support the organization's management. Each organization may have other procedures in addition to those outlined above. We welcome your comments, questions, or feedback in our pursuit of a strong partnership for the benefit of our learners.