

III. Fiscal Management

3.01 *Chief School Financial Officer*

The Board will appoint a Chief School Financial Officer to oversee the financial operations of the Board and to perform the duties of the position that are set forth in state law and regulations. The Chief School Financial Officer may also be referred to as the Chief School Finance Officer.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-13A-4 (1975); Ala. Admin. Code 290-2-5-.01, *et seq.*] [Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.02 *Budget*

3.02.1 School System—A budget will be developed and approved for each fiscal year, which extends from October 1st to September 30th of the following year. Preparation, presentation, submission, and approval of the budget will be undertaken and completed as provided for in state law and regulations, including providing an opportunity for public input regarding the budget. Budgets will be “balanced” such that the expenditures set forth in the budget for the fiscal year will not exceed revenues and any fund balances on hand.

The Superintendent or Chief School Financial Officer will inform the Board, before the Board votes on a budget or budget amendment that will prevent the establishment or maintenance of a one-month’s operating balance. A one-month’s operating balance shall be determined by dividing the General Fund expenditures and fund transfers out by 12. In determining the General Fund expenditures and fund transfers out, the proposed budget or budget amendment shall be used.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-13-140, *et seq.* (1975)] [Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.02.2 School-Sponsored Organizations—An annual budget for all school-sponsored organizations must be on file in accordance with procedures established in the Board Finance Manual.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.03 *Accounting*

Generally accepted accounting standards and procedures will be employed in the administration of all Board and school finances. All Board and school accounts will be reconciled to financial records. All reports required by the State Department of Education will be completed in a timely manner with copies provided to Board members. Procedures for retaining financial records and reports will be listed in the Finance Manual.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §§16-13-235, *et seq.*; 16-13A-6 (1975)] [Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.04 *Finance Manual Authorized*

Financial transactions will be administered in accordance with a general finance manual and any local school finance manual that may be developed by the Superintendent and the Chief School Financial Officer and approved by the Board. The finance manual(s) will establish and describe specific practices and procedures that are to be followed in connection with all phases of financial administration, including, but not limited to such matters as accounting, bookkeeping, inventory maintenance, payroll, reconciliation, fund security, receipting, disbursement, purchasing, disposal of property, banking, and investments. The practices, procedures, and requirements set forth in the manual(s) will be disseminated or made available to all employees with administrative responsibilities involving the receipt, handling, or expenditure of school or school system funds, and training will be provided by the Superintendent and the Chief School Financial Officer regarding the contents of the manual(s).

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-13A-1 (1975)] [Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.05 *Fund Balance Policy in Accordance with GASB Statement No. 54*

3.05.1 Governmental Funds Definitions – The following definitions will be used in reporting activity in governmental funds. The Board may or may not report all fund types in any given reporting period, based on actual circumstances and activity.

- a. The General Fund is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.
- b. Special Revenue Funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.
- c. Debt Service Funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest, even if it is being accumulated for future years' payments. Debt Service Funds should be used to report resources if legally mandated.
- d. Capital Projects Funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.05.2 Fund Balances – Fund balances will be reported in governmental funds under the following five categories using the definitions provided by GASB Statement No. 54:

- a. Nonspendable fund balances include amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained in-tact. Examples of nonspendable fund balance reserves for which fund balance shall not be available for financing general operating expenditures include: inventories, prepaid items, and long-term receivables.
- b. Restricted fund balances consist of amounts that are subject to externally enforceable legal restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments; or through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Examples of restricted fund balances include: restricted grants.
- c. Committed fund balances consist of amounts that are subject to a purpose constraint imposed by formal action of the Board before the end of the fiscal year and that require the same level of formal action to remove the constraint.
- d. Assigned fund balances consist of amounts that are intended to be used by the school system for specific purposes. The Board authorizes the Superintendent or Chief School Finance Officer to make a determination of the assigned amounts of fund balance. Such assignments may not exceed the available (spendable, unrestricted, uncommitted) fund balance in any particular fund. Assigned fund balances require the same level of authority to remove the constraint.
- e. Unassigned fund balances include all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. This portion of the total fund balance in the general fund is available to finance operating expenditures.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.05.3 Priority – When expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted (committed, assigned, or unassigned) amounts are available, it shall be the policy of the Board to consider restricted amounts to have been reduced first. When an expenditure is incurred for the purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used, it shall be the policy of the Board that committed amounts would be reduced first, followed by assigned amounts and then unassigned amounts.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.05.4 Review and Reporting – The Board of Education along with the Superintendent and Chief School Finance Officer will periodically review all restricted, committed, and assigned fund balances. The Chief School Finance Officer will prepare and submit an annual report of all restricted, committed and assigned funds for the Board of Education.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.06 *Audits*

Business and financial transactions of the Board and the records of Board financial accounts will be audited in accordance with state law and appropriate auditing and accounting standards.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-13A-7 (1975)] [Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.07 *Inventories*

The Superintendent is required to establish effective procedures to account for all materials, equipment, and other Board property. These procedures will include an annual inventory and evaluation of tangible Board property (including fixed assets and supplemental property), to be completed no later than the end of each fiscal year, with appropriate reports submitted to the Superintendent and Chief School Financial Officer. Inventories will be kept on forms prescribed or approved by the Chief School Financial Officer. Inventory forms will show items on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year, items lost, items disposed of, items purchased or otherwise added during the year, and items on hand at the end of the fiscal year.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §§16-13A-1, 6 (1975)] [Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.08 *Deposits*

3.08.1 Deposits – All funds of the Board will be deposited with qualified depositories, as defined by law, in the manner prescribed by the Chief School Financial Officer or the Finance Manual.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.08.2 Investments – The Board authorizes the investment of surplus funds in the manner prescribed by law and approved administrative guidelines.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.09 *Purchasing and Expenditure of Funds*

3.09.1 Purchasing– Purchases will be made in accordance with an approved purchase order system that will include such requirements and procedures as may be established in the Board Finance Manual.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.09.2 Expenditures – The Superintendent or his designee may spend funds budgeted for operations without prior Board approval unless the expenditure involves a personal services contract or capital outlay, or is subject to the bid law.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-13A-8 (1975)] [Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.09.3 Competitive Bid Law and Public Works Act – All purchases will be made in compliance with the competitive bid law and Public Works Act, when applicable, and with such corresponding rules, regulations, and procedures as may be set forth in the Board’s Finance Manual. The Superintendent is authorized to enter into cooperative purchasing agreements with other school systems or local governments as may be permitted by law.

In addition, the Board or the local school will solicit at least three (3) quotes for any expenditure that is expected to cost more than fifty percent (50%) of the limits specified in the Alabama Competitive Bid Law, provided that the expenditure would otherwise be subject to the bid law or the Public Works Act. Procedures for soliciting quotes will be set out in the Finance Manual.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §§ 16-13B-1, *et seq.*; §39-1-1, *et seq.* (1975)] [Approved: August 18, 2016] [January 21, 2020]

3.09.4 Authorized Signatures – Checks drawn on the general fund or any special fund, with the exception of school accounts, require the signature of the Chief School Financial Officer. Checks drawn on school accounts require the signature of the principal. The Chief School Financial Officer is designated by the Board as having authority to sign checks on school accounts. All checks used will be prenumbered. Checks drawn on Board funds may be signed and processed by electronic means, under the direction of the Chief School Financial Officer.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.10 *Expense Reimbursement*

Board members and employees will be reimbursed for reasonable travel and subsistence expenses incurred in connection with official Board business. Reimbursement will be in accordance with Board approved rates and such procedures and standards for submitting and documenting such expenditures as may be developed by the Chief School Financial Officer or provided in the approved Finance Manual.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.11 *Fees, Payments, and Rentals*

3.11.1 Facility Use Fees – The Superintendent is authorized to develop a schedule of reasonable fees for use of Board facilities and property by individuals, groups, or organizations that shall be effective upon approval by the Board.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.11.2 Copying and Other Charges – The Superintendent is authorized to establish a schedule of reasonable charges which, upon approval by the Board, will be applied uniformly in response to requests for copies of documents and records. Nothing in this policy or in any schedule of charges authorized hereunder creates or expands any entitlement to copies of records or access thereto beyond that which is established by law or specific Board policy.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.11.3 Student Fees, Fines, and Charges – All local school, extracurricular, and athletic fees, and spirit packs must be approved by the Board. All other reasonable fees, fines, and charges not prohibited by law may be established by the Superintendent

All such fees, fines, and charges will be collected and accounted for in accordance with the procedures, rules, and regulations to be developed by the Chief School Financial Officer or as provided in the Board finance or local school finance manual(s).

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.12 *School Accounts*

Funds held in school accounts, regardless of the funding source, will be maintained and accounted for in accordance with the Board’s Finance Manual, Local School Finance Manual, and such procedures, rules, and regulations as may be developed by the Chief School Financial Officer or the Superintendent. The principal is ultimately responsible for all school funds and for ensuring that such funds are properly accounted for and secured.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.13 *Authority to Execute Contracts*

The president of the Board, or, in the absence of the president, the vice-president, will have authority to execute contracts on behalf of the Board upon approval of the contract by the Board. The Board may also authorize the Superintendent to execute approved contracts on behalf of the Board as its chief executive officer.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.14 *Affiliated Organizations*

3.14.1 School Sponsored Organizations – School-sponsored student organizations will be subject to Board policies and procedures concerning fiscal management and will maintain organization funds in school accounts. All books, records, and official documents pertaining to the management of such organizations will be maintained at the local school and will be subject to examination and audit by the Board or the principal. The use of funds collected, generated, or held by such organizations will be determined in accordance with the constitution, charter, or

by-laws of the organization, with oversight by the sponsor of the organization, and subject to approval of the principal.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

- 3.14.2 Booster Clubs, Parent-Teacher Associations, and Other Affiliated Organizations – Other organizations that are affiliated with local schools are permitted to operate or raise funds on Board property or at Board sanctioned events only in conformity with Board and State Department of Education policies, procedures, and standards concerning the fiscal management of such organizations. Students are not allowed to participate in fundraising for booster clubs, parent-teacher associations, or other affiliated organizations.

It is recommended that all books, budgets, records, and official documentation pertaining to the management of such organizations be maintained at the local school and subject to examination and audit by the Board or the principal. If such official documentation is maintained independently, an affiliated organization must provide documentation of its 501(c)(3) status to the Board, conduct an annual audit of its financial operations, and make its financial records, budget, by-laws, and 501(c) determination letter available to the Board for review or audit.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.15 *Fundraising*

Fundraising activities and sales conducted by schools and affiliated organizations must meet the following criteria:

- a. The activity is approved in advance by the building principal or Superintendent on the appropriate form;
- b. The activity will be held at a time and in a manner that will not be disruptive to the instructional program or to any other school or school system activity or function;
- c. The activity is proposed to support a *bona fide* school or school system program or activity, or an activity that is consistent with the mission and purposes of the school system;
- d. If a vendor provides goods or services for the fundraiser, the school or organization has made a good faith effort to select a vendor that is reputable and that will provide satisfactory monetary profits to the school or organization for the fundraising activity;
- e. Adequate provision has been made for the security and proper accounting of funds collected;
- f. Other information regarding the nature, scope, and purpose of the activity is provided to school officials upon request; and

- g. Appropriate arrangements have been made for any special activities to be held in conjunction with the fundraising event.

In addition, extracurricular activities, including sports, that charge a fee to students for participation will only be allowed to have one fundraiser per scholastic year, and the fundraiser must be approved in advance by the Board.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.16 *Child Nutrition Procurements and Charged Meals*

The Superintendent may enter into a written agreement with the Child Nutrition Program at the State Department of Education in order to procure food and other food related products and services. The Board will comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing participation in such child nutrition program.

Charged meals are not considered an allowable expense. Therefore, all uncollected charges will be the responsibility of the school where the charge was made.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for meal payments to the Child Nutrition Program and can pay for meals in advance by using MySchoolBucks, cash, or a check made payable to Trussville City Schools CNP. Funds leftover at the end of the year in the students account will roll over to the next school year.

Trussville City Schools uses an automated software to notify parents of low and negative balances. A low and negative balance report is also printed off at the end of the day, and if a student has reached a negative balance of \$25.00, a personal phone call is made to the parent/guardian of that student by the CNP manager.

Free eligible students will be allowed to receive a free reimbursable breakfast and lunch daily. Any a-la-cart and/or extra item purchases must be paid/prepaid.

Reduced eligible student will be allowed to receive a reimbursable breakfast for \$0.30 and a reimbursable lunch for \$0.40 daily. Any a-la-cart and/or extra item purchases must be paid/prepaid.

Full pay students will purchase reimbursable breakfast and lunch at the published paid meal rate established prior to the new school year. Any a-la-cart and/or extra item purchases must be paid/prepaid.

Any funds collected must be posted to the students' account and applied to any outstanding negative balance before a-la-cart purchases can be made.

Charges will not be allowed for employees. All employee purchases must be paid/prepaid. Charges will not be allowed for visitors. All visitor purchases must be paid at the time of the visit.

Account balance refund and transfer forms must be filled out and sent to the CNP Director in order to be processed. Account balances are refunded by request up to a calendar year following student withdrawal and/or graduation. After the calendar year has passed, the students account balance is donated to cover unpaid meal charges if not claimed.

All student accounts with a negative balance at the end of the school year will be cleared with non-program funds.

[Reference: Ala. Admin. Code 290-080-030-.01, *et seq.*] [Approved: August 18, 2016]
[Amended: January 23, 2023]

3.17 *Worthless Checks*

The Board will take action to collect the amount of a worthless check in accordance with such corresponding rules, regulations, and procedures as may be set forth in the Board's Finance Manual.

[Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.18 *Classroom Instructional Support*

The Superintendent shall develop procedures by which state allotments for classroom instructional support are made available for use by classroom instructors in the manual and for the purposes authorized by statute and corresponding state regulations.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-1-8.1(b)(7).] [Approved: August 18, 2016]

3.19 *OMB Part 200*

3.19.1 Cash Management for Federal Funds –The Board will minimize the time between the receipt of federal funds from the United States Treasury, the Alabama Department of Education, or other pass-through entity, and the disbursement of those federal funds. Federal funds will only be requested to meet immediate cash needs for reimbursement not covered by prior receipts and anticipated disbursements that are generally fixed, such as monthly program salaries and benefits.

The Chief School Financial Officer will maintain financial records that account for the receipt, obligation, and expenditure of each federal program fund. Cash balances for each federal program fund and for the aggregate of all federal program funds will be monitored by the Chief School Financial Officer or designee.

Board procedures to minimize the cash balances in federal program funds are expected to prevent the aggregate cash balances of federal program funds from earning \$500 or more for the fiscal year if maintained in interest-bearing accounts. The federal program funds, with the exception of Child Nutrition Program funds, will not be maintained in an interest-bearing bank account if the Chief Financial Officer determines that banking requirements for minimum or average balances are so high that an interest-bearing account would not be feasible. Federal program funds will be maintained in insured checking accounts that are subject to the state requirements for public deposits under the SAFE program.

[Reference: 2 CFR Part 200] [Approved: February 27, 2017]

3.19.2 Determination of Allowable Costs –

- a. Before instituting a financial transaction that will require the expenditure of federal funds the federal program director and the Chief School Financial Officer or designee will determine that the proposed transaction meets the requirements for allowable costs for the federal program. Actions to determine allowable costs will assure that:
 1. The proposed expenditure is included in the federal program budget;
 2. The proposed expenditure is reasonable and necessary for the federal program;
 3. The proposed expenditure is consistent with procedures for financial transactions of the board including:
 - A. Purchase order approval procedures;

- B. Contract review and approval procedures;
 - C. Applicable competitive purchasing procedures; and
 - D. Documentation supports allowability of transaction.
- b. Before payments are made from federal funds the federal program director and the Chief School Financial Officer or designee will determine that the federal program expenditure complies with generally accepted accounting principles and complies with state, local, and federal laws, rules and regulations

[Reference: 2 CFR Part 200] [Approved: February 27, 2017]

3.19.3 Travel Policy – Travel costs are the expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items incurred by board employee who are in travel status on official business of the board. The board’s travel policy provides for reimbursement and payments for travel costs of employees paid from federal funds that is consistent with the travel costs for board employees paid from state or local funds.

[Reference: 2 CFR Part 200] [Approved: February 27, 2017]

3.19.4 Conflict of Interest Policy – Generally, a conflict of interest exists when a board member, board employee, or agent of the board participates in a matter that is likely to have a direct effect on his or her personal and financial interests. A financial interest may include, but not limited to, stock ownership, partnership, trustee relationship, employment, potential employment, or a business relationship with an applicant, vendor, or entity. A board member, board employee, or agent of the board may not participate in his or her official capacity in a matter that is likely to have a direct and predictable effect on his or her financial interests.

A board member, board employee, or agent of the board will abide by the Federal and state laws and regulations that address conflict of interest standards. In general, the Federal rules provide that:

No employee, officer, or agent of the board shall participate in selection, or in the award or administration of a contract supported by Federal funds if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs, or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in a tangible personal benefit from the firm considered for a contract. The board’s officers, employees, or agents will neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to subcontractors.

The board's conflict of interest policies include adherence to the Alabama Ethics Law, as it may be amended from time to time, which defines conflict of interest as:

A conflict on the part of a public official or public employee between his or her private interests and the official responsibilities inherent in an office of public trust. A conflict of interest involves any action, inaction, or decision by a public official or public employee in the discharge of his or her official duties which would materially affect his or her financial interest or those of his or her family members or any business with which the person is associated in a manner different from the manner it affects the other members of the class to which he or she belongs.

A board member, board employee, or agent of the board may not review applications, proposals, or participate in the evaluation or selection process where his or her participation in the review process would create the appearance that he or she is: (a) giving preferential treatment; (b) losing independence and impartiality; (c) making decisions outside official and appropriate channels; or (d) harming the public's confidence in the integrity of the board.

Situations and circumstances presenting an actual conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest should be brought to the immediate attention of the Superintendent. A board employee, board members, or agent of the board who has knowledge of a possible conflict of interest should identify the conflict and notify the Superintendent. The Superintendent will document his or her actions related to the reported conflict of interest. Resolution can consist of disqualification, recusal, waiver, or other appropriate measures. Appropriate measures may include reporting a conflict of interest to the State Ethics Commission, the Alabama State Board of Education, or the appropriate federal agency.

[Reference: 2 CFR Part 200] [Approved: February 27, 2017]

- 3.19.5 Procurement Policy – The board will follow state laws for the procurement of property and services. The primary state procurement laws for Alabama school board are: Alabama Competitive Bid Laws (Chapter 13B of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975); Joint Information Technology Purchasing Agreement (Chapter 13B of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975); and Public Works Law (Title 39, Code of Alabama 1975).

To the extent allowed by state laws, the board will utilize state, local, regional, and national purchasing agreements where appropriate for the procurement or use of goods and services. All procurement transactions are subject to the board's Conflict of Interest Policy and the procurement decisions of the board will:

- a. Avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative goods and services;
- b. Use the most economical and efficient approach for acquisitions;

- c. Award acquisitions contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement;
- d. Consider contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources prior to awarding procurement contracts;
- e. Maintain records sufficient to document the history of the procurement; and,
- f. Conduct procurement transactions in a manner that provides full and open competition.

Procurement transactions for federal programs and child nutrition programs that are not subject to the state procurement laws, but exceed the aggregate amount of the federal micro-purchase threshold, will be obtained by utilizing price or rate quotes from two or more qualified sources. State procurement laws include requirements that comply with the other Uniform Administrative Requirements for procurement of property and services.

The board will request proposals for those professional service contracts (excluding architectural and engineering services) that are exempt under state procurement laws if the contracts exceed the federal Simplified Acquisition Threshold and will be paid from federal or child nutrition program funds. The board will utilize a team of three or more qualified individuals to conduct a technical evaluation of proposals received and for selecting recipients. As a part of the evaluation, the individuals on the evaluation team will sign an assurance that each of the individuals is in compliance with the board's conflict of interest policy.

[Reference: 2 CFR Part 200] [Approved: February 27, 2017] [Amended September 21, 2020]