

GIFTS FROM THE PUBLIC

P1800

Only the Board of Education may accept for the school district any bequest or gift of money, property or goods, except that the Superintendent of Schools may accept on behalf of the Board any such gift valued at less than \$250 or a gift designated as a scholarship.

The Board reserves the right to refuse to accept any gift which does not contribute towards the achievement of the district's goals or the ownership of which would tend to deplete the resources of the district.

Any gift accepted by the Board or the Superintendent shall become the property of the district, 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 district.

It shall be the policy of the district to accept a gift, provided it is made within the statutory authority granted to school districts and has received the approval of the Board of Education.

It shall be the policy of the district to not accept a gift from an individual or entity with which the District has or is considering having a contractual or vendor relationship, including a District employee. Exceptions to this policy will only be considered if the exact relationship of the donor to the district and the reason for the gift is disclosed and discussed publicly at a regular meeting of the Board of Education.

In granting or withholding its consent, the Board will review the following factors:

1. The terms of the gift must identify:
 - a. the subject of the gift
 - b. the purpose of the gift
 - c. the beneficiary or beneficiaries if any
 - d. all conditions or restrictions that may apply.
2. The gift must not benefit a particular or named individual or individuals.
3. If the purpose of the gift is an award to a single student, the determination of the recipient of such award shall be made on the basis that all students shall have an equal opportunity to qualify for it in conformance with federal and state law.
4. If the gift is in trust, the obligation of the investment and reinvestment of the principal shall be clearly specified and the application of the income or investment proceeds shall be clearly set forth.
5. No gift or trust will be accepted by the Board or on behalf of the Board unless:
 - a. it is in support of and a benefit to all or to a particular public school in the district, or
 - b. it is for a purpose for which the school district could legally expend its own funds, or
 - c. it is for the purpose of awarding scholarships to students.

Any gift rejected by the Board shall be returned to the donor or his/her estate within 60 days together with a statement indicating the reasons for the rejection of such gift.

Cross-ref: 2160, School Board Officer and Employee Ethics

Ref: Education Law §1709(12)

Reviewed April 1997

Revised May 2017