

Policy Code: 8220 Gifts and Bequests

The board encourages individuals and organizations to consider making a donation of real property, personal property, or funds to the school system. Donations, whether in the form of a gift or a bequest, foster community support for the schools and improve the school system for the benefit of students and others. As an expression of the board's gratitude, the superintendent may recognize donors as appropriate.

A. Suitability of Donations

The superintendent or designee shall evaluate any donation offer in order to determine whether the donation is suitable for the school or the school system. Donations may not conflict with the school system's educational mission. In determining the suitability of a donation intended to benefit any program that is appropriately segregated by gender, such as a school athletic program, the superintendent or designee must consider equity and Title IX issues in relation to overall funding and opportunities for participation.

Donations of real or personal property will be accepted only if the donor can demonstrate that he or she has clear and free title to the property. The superintendent or designee also must consider any safety hazards associated with gifts of real or personal property. Donations must not impose any undue financial burden or obligation on the school system. Any donation that includes advertisements must be consistent with policy [5240](#), Advertising in the Schools, and the food and beverage marketing requirements of policy [6140](#), Student Wellness.

For computer equipment or other technological resources, the superintendent or designee shall ensure that such items are compatible with minimum hardware and software standards set by the technology director. Any donation from an E-rate service provider must comply with gift rules applicable to federal agencies.

B. Accepting Donations

Upon receiving any offer of a donation to the school, a principal must give the superintendent or designee written notification that states the nature of the donation and the purpose for which it is donated. The principal has the authority to accept a donation to the school of less than \$5,000. The superintendent shall establish any procedures necessary to develop an efficient and effective process for principals and other building-level staff to accept donations.

The superintendent may accept any donation on behalf of the board. The superintendent shall promptly notify the board of an accepted donation of more than \$5,000. The superintendent shall report donations of \$5,000 or less to the

board on a quarterly basis. The board reserves the right to determine in each particular case the appropriateness of a donation and may accept or reject a donation as the board sees fit.

C. Use of a Donation

Unless otherwise specified in a written agreement approved by the superintendent or designee, any accepted donation becomes the permanent property of the school system. Anything purchased with donated funds, including funds raised through a crowdfunding campaign, project, or platform, become the property of the school system, and the title to such property vests in the board. If the board at any time determines that property donated, or acquired with donated funds, is unnecessary or undesirable for public school purposes, the board may dispose of such property in accordance with state law.

The board reserves the right to utilize the donation as it deems appropriate. Any donation constituting revenues will be deposited in the proper account. The specific manner in which donated funds are expended for a designated purpose will be determined under the direction of the superintendent. The board has no responsibility and makes no promises to continue any program initiated with donor contributions once the donated funds are expended.

Before installation of major donations that will become a permanent part of the school facility or grounds, such as playground equipment, bleachers, scoreboards, outdoor lights, or fences, the superintendent or designee must approve the design, location, and construction material.

Legal References: [47 C.F.R. 54.503](#); FCC Sixth Report and Order 10-175; [G.S. 115C, art. 35](#); [115C-36](#), [-47](#), [-518](#)

Cross References: Technology in the Educational Program (policy [3220](#)), Advertising in the Schools (policy [5240](#)), Student Wellness (policy [6140](#)), Crowdfunding on Behalf of the School System (policy [7360/8225](#))

Adopted: August 27, 2020