

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: DIA
First Read to SB: September 21, 2011 Second Read/Adoption to SB: October 5, 2011 Review Policy Committee: July 9, 2014 School Board First Read: July 16, 2014 School Board Second Read/Adoption: August 20, 2014	Page 1 of 4 Category: Recommended

FUND BALANCES

The Oyster River Cooperative School Board in order to address the implications of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Definitions. This policy is created in consideration of unanticipated events that could adversely affect the financial condition of the District and jeopardize the continuation of necessary public services. This policy will ensure that the District maintains adequate fund balances and reserves in order to:

- a. Provide sufficient cash flow for daily financial needs,
- b. Secure and maintain investment grade bond ratings,
- c. Offset significant economic downturns or revenue shortfalls, and
- d. Provide funds for unforeseen expenditures related to emergencies.

FUND TYPE DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will be used in reporting activity in governmental funds across the District. The District may or may not report all fund types in any given reporting period, based on actual circumstances and activity.

The general fund is used to account for all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Special revenue funds are used to account and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specific purposes other than capital projects. Examples include, but are not limited to, the Food Service Fund; Federal and State Grant Fund; and Private Grant Fund.

Capital projects funds are used to account for all financial resources restricted, committed or assigned to expenditure for the acquisition or construction of capital assets.

Permanent funds are used to account for resources restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the District's purposes.

FUND BALANCE REPORTING IN GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Fund balance will be reported in governmental funds under the following categories using the definitions provided by GASB Statement No. 54:

Nonspendable fund balance

Definition – includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either:

- a. not in spendable form , or
- b. legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

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Classification – Nonspendable amounts will be determined before all other classifications and consist of the following items (as applicable in any given fiscal year):

- The District will maintain a fund balance equal to the balance of any long-term outstanding balances due from others (including other funds of the District)
- The District will maintain a fund balance equal to the value of inventory balances and prepaid items (to the extent that such balances are not offset with liabilities and actually result in fund balance)
- The District will maintain a fund balance equal to the corpus (principal) of any permanent funds (if any) that are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact
- The District will maintain a fund balance equal to the balance of any land or other nonfinancial assets held for sale

Restricted Fund Balance

Definition – includes amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by applicable state and local laws and regulations, external resource providers, or through enabling legislation (for example, but not limited to, actions authorized by the voters at school district meetings).

Committed Fund Balance

Definition – includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the District’s highest level of decision – making authority (i.e., School Board)

Authority to Commit – Commitments will only be used for specific purposes pursuant to a formal action of the School Board.

Assigned Fund Balance

Definition – includes amounts intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed.

Authority to Assign – The School Board delegates to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee the authority to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes. Such assignments cannot exceed the available (spendable, unrestricted, uncommitted) fund balance in any particular fund.

The Board will authorize said expenditures as included in the facilities plan, an emergency situation or unique opportunity.

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Unassigned Fund Balance

Definition – includes the residual classification for the District’s general fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other funds, the unassigned classification should be used only to report a deficit balance from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

The following guidelines address the classification and use of fund balance in governmental funds:

Classifying fund balance amounts – Fund balance classifications depict the nature of the net resources that are reported in a governmental fund. An individual governmental fund may include nonspendable resources and amounts that are restricted, committed, or assigned, or any combination of those classifications. The general fund may also include an unassigned amount.

Encumbrance reporting – Encumbering amounts for specific purposes for which resources have already been restricted, committed or assigned should not result in separate display of encumbered amounts. Encumbered amounts for specific purposes for which amounts have not been previously restricted, committed or assigned, will be classified as committed or assigned, as appropriate, based on the definitions and criteria set forth in GASB Statement No. 54. For compliance with state statutory requirements, encumbrance accounting for budgetary and financial reporting to the Department of Education and the Department of Revenue Administration, and as reported in the Required Supplementary Information (RSI) section of the annual financial statements, encumbrances are determined in accordance with RSA 32:7(I).

Chapter 32 Municipal Budget Law – Appropriations

32:7 Lapse of Appropriation

“Annual meeting appropriations shall cover anticipated expenditures for one fiscal year. All appropriations shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year and any unexpended portion thereof shall not be expended without further appropriation, unless: 1. The amount has, prior to the end of that fiscal year, become encumbered by a legally-enforceable obligation, created by contract or otherwise, to any person for the expenditure of that amount;”

Prioritization of fund balance use - When an 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 District to consider restricted amounts to have been reduced first. When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used, it shall be the policy of the District that committed amounts would be reduced first, followed by assigned amounts and then unassigned amounts.

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Unassigned fund balance - For compliance with state statutory requirements, encumbrance accounting for budgetary and financial reporting to the Department of Education and the Department of Revenue Administration, the statutory based General Fund “unreserved-undesigned” fund balance will be used towards funding the appropriations of the subsequent year in accordance with the historical practices of the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration under RSA 198:4-a (III):

Chapter 198 School Money – District Taxes
198:4-a Report of Appropriations Voted

“III The commissioner of revenue administration shall examine such certificates and delete any appropriation which is not made in accordance with the law, and adjust any sum which may be used as a set off against the amount appropriated when it appears to the commissioner of revenue administration such adjustment is in the best public interest.”

198:4-b Contingency Fund

“II. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district by a vote of the legislative body may authorize, indefinitely until specific rescission, the school district to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year’s net assessment pursuant to RSA 198:5, for the purpose of having funds on hand to use as a revenue source for emergency expenditures and over expenditures under RSA 32:11, or to be used as a revenue source to reduce the tax rate.”

Unassigned fund balance in the Food Service Fund will be limited to “maximum amounts” as per federal and state regulations.

REPLENISHING DEFICIENCIES

Year-end deficits and any Special revenue fund (including, but are not limited to, the Food Service Fund) will be replenished by year end transfer (journal entry or other method) from the General Fund if the General Fund has available unassigned fund balance (for financial reporting purposes) and “unreserved-undesigned fund balance (for statutory compliance purposes).

Legal References:

- RSA 32, Municipal Budget Law
- RSA 33, Municipal Finance Act
- RSA 35, Capital Reserve Funds
- RSA 198:4-a Report of Appropriations Voted
- RSA 198:4-b Contingency Fund
- Governmental Standards Board Statement 54 (GASB 54)