

The Board of Education recognizes that within the local, state, and national communities there are various agencies, organizations, and individuals (referred to as “contributor(s)” for purposes of this policy) who wish to make donations to the school district, or to individual schools. While the Board of Education strongly advocates for adequate public funding of public schools and school districts, it also recognizes that the active search for and prudent use of private philanthropic donations may help fund and support special initiatives and supplement ongoing programs. Where appropriate, the Superintendent is directed to seek public and private grants and funding for special projects as a source of supplemental funding.

A. Guiding Principles

Before accepting any donation(s) of funds, goods or services, school and district staff will evaluate the following:

1. Consistency with all applicable laws, policies, and ethics standards;
2. Alignment with the Board's policy and the district’s strategic direction;
3. Capacity of GCS’s staff to implement with intended program or initiative; student needs; and future,
4. Consistency with all applicable laws, policies, and ethics standards; and,
5. Future budgetary impacts to the school system that may arise as a result of accepting the donation.

B. Unrestricted Non-Capital Contributions

The Superintendent and designee(s) are authorized to accept general donations of goods or services that meet the criteria in Part A of this policy on behalf of the Board that are not related to new construction, facility additions and/or renovations. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to accept monetary contributions that are not restricted to a specific purpose that meet the criteria in Part A of this policy.

C. Restricted Monetary Donations or Grants

All applications for grants or specially funded projects must be consistent with the district’s strategic direction. Likewise, the Superintendent shall not accept monetary contributions restricted to a specific purpose unless consistent with the educational objectives of the Board.

When required by the funding agency, grant proposals will be presented for Board approval. The Board must be notified annually of all grant funds awarded.

D. Capital Improvement Projects

Contributions that involve real property, construction of new buildings, additions to existing buildings and/or renovations to school property must be approved after a review process conducted by the principal, the Superintendent/designee, and any other pertinent GCS staff. Approval must be obtained prior to starting fundraising, design and on-site construction. Approval will be based on the criteria outlined in Part A of this policy.

Projects will be designated as small scale/low risk or substantial. Capital improvement projects that go through the proper review process and are identified by the Superintendent/designee as small scale/low risk projects are not required to transfer funding to Guilford County Schools, and basic oversight will be provided by appropriate GCS staff. Projects designated by the Superintendent/designee as substantial will require approval by the Guilford County Board of Education. Funds must be transferred to GCS and all phases of the capital improvement project must be managed and directed by GCS staff.

For a project designated substantial, the Superintendent/designee shall direct, where feasible, that any unused funds be retained in the capital improvement account of the school where the project was completed.

Approval by the Superintendent/designee for small scale/low risk projects, or the Board of Education for substantial projects, in no way obligates the Board of Education to pay for donated constructed items, furniture, equipment or other capital needs in the event the Contributor is unable to meet their obligation(s). Capital improvements shall not commence until all funds have been raised, secured in an account designated specifically for the capital improvement, verified by appropriate GCS staff and, when required, such funds have been received by the Board of Education.

E. General Principles

All donations of cash, goods, or services must be fully accounted for in accordance with applicable law and the Board's policies and procedures.

It is understood that donations and contributions made by contributors, once accepted by the Board of Education, become the property of the Board of Education and are fully subject to applicable North Carolina statutes dealing with school property and finance.

The Board of Education does not assign or grant permanent naming rights of any GCS facility, or program, or part of a facility or program, in exchange for donations. See [policy 9300 Naming or Renaming of Facilities](#).

The Board of Education does not assume any debts or liens attached to contributions to the school system. The Board of Education also maintains control of the educational program, use and purposes associated with its equipment and schools, including community use.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-36, -47](#); [147 art. 6E](#), [art. 6G](#)

Cross References: Federal Grant Administration (policy 8305)

Adopted: June 10, 2021

Revised: TBD

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