

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 702

Section: 700 Property

Title: Grants, Gifts, Donations,
and Fundraising

Adopted: April 27, 1981

Revised: January 30, 2025

702 GRANTS, GIFTS, DONATIONS, AND FUNDRAISING

Purpose

The Board of Education ("Board") recognizes that the School District of Philadelphia ("District") applies for and receives significant funding via grants awarded by multiple municipal, state, and federal sources, as well as private charitable entities. The Board also recognizes that schools may wish to fundraise and crowdfund for specific purposes, and that individuals and community organizations may wish to contribute money, services, improvements, and/or goods to enhance or extend District and school programs. The purpose of this Policy is to outline protocols and procedures for the acceptance of such grants, gifts, and donations so as to ensure that these supplemental resources are deployed equitably and in alignment with the District's mission, priorities and values.

Authority

The Pennsylvania Public School Code authorizes the Board to accept or to refuse any grants, gifts, and donations, of money, services, improvements and/or goods made to the District or to any District school in accordance with law and Board policy. [1]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Grant Development and Office of Finance in collaboration with other District offices, to do the following:

1. Create Administrative Procedures that outline the process for seeking and accepting grants, gifts, and donations and conducting fundraising or crowdfunding activities;
2. Provide training to school-based personnel around best practices and other resources that can help with fundraising; and
3. Disseminate this Policy and Administrative Procedures, as well as other resources and information about best practices related to grants, gifts and donations and fundraising or crowdfunding activities, to all school-based personnel via website postings, broadcast newsletters, and training workshops.

Mandatory Procedures

Acceptance of Grants, Gifts, and Donations

The District may accept grants, gifts, and donations, regardless of dollar amount, that are aligned to the Board and District's mission and purpose, except for grants, gifts and donations involving improvements to District buildings, grounds, or other real property exceeding \$100,000. Any grant, gift or donation involving improvements to District building, grounds, or other real property exceeding \$100,000 must be approved by the Board via a Board Action Item.

The Board reserves the right to refuse to accept any grant, gift, or donation of this kind that does not contribute to the achievement of District goals, when the costs to the District to maintain the improvement would be prohibitive, or if ownership of such improvement would adversely impact or affect the District.[1]

Any donated or gifted item shall become District property and is subject to the same controls and regulations as are other District properties. All such items meeting the criteria for inclusion in the District's inventory, as delineated in Policy 624 shall be recorded in compliance with that policy.[1][2][3][4]

The District shall make every effort to honor the intent of the donor in the use of a gift or donation but reserves the right to utilize any gift or donation in the best interests of the District's educational program, in absence of specific agreement to the contrary signed by the Superintendent or their designee otherwise.

In no case shall acceptance of a gift be considered an endorsement by the Board or the District of a commercial product, business enterprise, or institution, or any such donor's opinions.

The District reserves the right to refuse to accept any grant, gift, or donation that does not contribute to the achievement of District goals or when such ownership would adversely affect the District. [1]

Reporting

The Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Grant Development and/or the Office of Finance, shall report to the Board annually regarding grants, gifts, and donations accepted on behalf of the Board that do not involve a capital improvement.

Legal References:

1. [24 P.S. § 216](#)
2. [24 P.S. § 707](#)
3. [24 P.S. § 703](#)
4. [Policy 624 - Capital Assets](#)
5. [Policy 230 - Public Performances by Students](#)