

Acceptance Of Gifts

The Board of Education acknowledges that education is a fundamental right. Every child has a right to an education that will prepare him/her to be a skilled and productive member of our society. The goal of the Board is to provide equitable and high quality educational opportunities for all students in the district.

The Board recognizes that the needs of students require various learning opportunities, and it is the responsibility of the Board to identify and remove barriers that contribute to gaps in achievement for different groups of students. It is the intent of the Board that gifts accepted by the district provide equitable access to educational opportunities to meet the needs of all students. The Board recognizes the community's desire to participate in promoting excellence in our schools through fundraising and gifts. While greatly appreciating acceptable donations, the Board discourages any gifts which may directly or indirectly impair its commitment to providing equal educational opportunities for all district students.

The Board recognizes that there are differences among various communities in their ability to contribute additional funds for programs and services at their local schools, and these differences perpetuate inequalities in educational opportunities from one district school to another. Therefore, the Board may not accept gifts by individuals, groups or organizations to specific schools intended to replace personnel, programs or services cut by the Board in the process of budget reduction, unless sufficient funds are received to restore those programs, services or personnel at all sites from which they were cut.

To achieve a greater level of equalization, the Board will establish an Equity Fund, which will be administered by the Education Services Department in conjunction with the Education Foundation. Contributions to this fund and distributions from this fund will be made in accordance with AR 3290. The purpose of the Equity Fund grants will be to improve the achievement of ALL students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap by mitigating the effects of the unequalized enrichment of schools.

Before accepting a gift, the Board shall consider whether the gift

1. Has a purpose consistent with the district's vision and philosophy
2. Begins a program which the Board would be unable to continue when the donated funds are exhausted
3. Entails undesirable or excessive costs
4. Implies endorsement of any business or product

The Board shall carefully evaluate any conditions or restrictions imposed by the donor in light of district philosophy and operations. If the Board feels the district will be unable to fully satisfy the donor's conditions, the gift shall not be accepted.

Gift books and instructional materials shall be accepted only if they meet regular district criteria.

All gifts, grants and bequests shall become district property. At the Superintendent or designee's discretion, a gift may be used at a particular school.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[1834](#) Acquisition of materials and apparatus

[35162](#) Power to sue, be sued, hold and convey property

[41030](#) School district may invest surplus monies from bequest or gifts

[41031](#) Special fund or account in county treasury

[41032](#) Authority of school board to accept gift or bequest; investments; gift of land requirements

[41035](#) Advisory committee

[41036](#) Function of advisory committee

[41037](#) Rules and regulations

Policy SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: August 19, 2009 Santa Monica, California