

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Book	Policy Manual
Section	600 Finances
Title	Fund Balance
Number	620
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Purpose

The Board recognizes that the maintenance of a fund balance is essential to the preservation of the financial integrity of the school district and is fiscally advantageous for both the district and the taxpayer. This policy establishes goals and provides guidance concerning the desired level of year-end fund balance to be maintained by the district.

Definitions

Fund balance is a measurement of available financial resources. Fund balance is the difference between total assets and total liabilities in each fund.

GASB Statement 54 distinguishes fund balance between amounts that are considered nonspendable, such as fund balance associated with inventories, and other amounts that are classified based on the relative strength of the constraints that control the purposes for which specific amounts can be spent. Beginning with the most binding constraints, fund balance amounts shall be reported in the following classifications:

Restricted - amounts limited by external parties, or legislation (e.g., debt covenants and grants).

Committed - amounts limited by Board policy or Board action (e.g., future anticipated costs). Action must be taken by the Board to commit fund balance for the designated purpose prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Assigned - amounts that are intended for a particular purpose. Generally balances in special revenue funds or capital project funds will be designated as assigned.

Unassigned - amounts available for consumption or not restricted in any manner.

Authority

An official Board resolution shall be required to establish, modify or rescind a commitment of fund balance.

Guidelines

The school district will strive to maintain an unassigned general fund balance of not less than five and one half percent (5.5%) and not more than eight percent (8%) of the budgeted expenditures for that fiscal year, as required by law.

The total fund balance, consisting of several portions including committed, assigned, and unassigned, may exceed eight percent (8%). If the unassigned portion of the fund balance falls below the threshold of five and one half percent (5.5%) the board will pursue variations of increasing revenues and decreasing expenditures or a combination of both until five and one half percent (5.5%) is attained.

Use of Fund Balance

The restricted fund balance shall be reduced to the extent that the underlying reason for the restriction has been eliminated.

If the district experiences an excess of expenditures over revenues for a given fiscal year, the fund balance shall be consumed in the following order:

1. Restricted fund balance to the extent that expenditures related to the restriction contributed to the excess of expenditures over revenues.
2. Committed fund balance to the extent that expenditures related to the commitment contributed to the excess of expenditures over revenues. If a plan for periodic use of committed fund balance is reviewed and approved by the Board, the committed fund balance will not be reduced by more than the amount designated in the plan.
3. Assigned fund balance to the extent that expenditures related to the assignment contributed to the excess of expenditures and revenues.
4. Unassigned fund balance for any remaining excess over eight percent (8%). If the unassigned fund balance is over the eight percent (8%) maximum, the overage will be transferred to a capital projects fund.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent, Business Manager or designee may assign fund balance for items deemed appropriate at any time prior to the issuance of the audited financial statements for a given year.

The Superintendent, Business Manager or designee shall be responsible for the enforcement of this policy.

Last Modified by Sue Christman on October 30, 2015