BUDGET

The Board of Trustees accepts responsibility for adopting a sound budget for each fiscal year which is aligned with the District's vision, goals, priorities, and comprehensive plans. The District budget shall guide administrative decisions and actions throughout the year and shall serve as a tool for monitoring the fiscal health of the District.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)
(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)
(cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)
(cf. 3000 - Concepts and Roles)
(cf. 3300 - Expenditures and Purchases)
(cf. 3460 - Financial Reports and Accountability)
(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)

The District budget shall show a complete plan and itemized statement of all proposed expenditures and all estimated revenues for the following fiscal year, together with a comparison of revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year. The budget shall also include the appropriations limit and the total annual appropriations subject to limitation as determined pursuant to Government Code 7900-7914. (Education Code 42122)

The Board shall adopt the budget only after a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) developed pursuant to Education Code 52060-52077 or an annual update to the LCAP is in place for the budget year. Expenditures necessary to implement the LCAP or the annual update during the subsequent fiscal year shall be included in the budget. (Education Code 42127)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

Budget Development and Adoption Process

The Superintendent or designee shall establish an annual budget development process and calendar in accordance with the single budget adoption process described in Education Code 42127(i). He/she shall annually notify the County Superintendent of Schools of the district's decision to use the single budget adoption process in the subsequent year. (Education Code 42127)

The Superintendent shall oversee the preparation of a proposed District budget for approval by the Board and shall involve appropriate staff at all levels in the development of budget projections.

The Board encourages public input in the budget development process and shall hold a public hearing on the proposed budget in accordance with Education Code 42103 and 42127.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)
(cf. 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials)
(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

BUDGET (Continued)

The budget that is formally adopted by the Board shall be in the format prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Superintendent or designee may supplement this format with additional information as necessary to effectively communicate the budget to the Board, staff, and public.

Budget Criteria and Standards

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a District budget in accordance with criteria and standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). (Education Code 33127, 33128, 33128.3, 33129; 5 CCR 15440-15451)

The budget shall provide that funding received through state supplemental and concentration grants pursuant to Education Code 42238.02 and 42238.03 shall be used in accordance with regulations adopted by the SBE for schoolwide or districtwide purposes to increase or improve services for students who are English learners, eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and/or foster youth at least in proportion to the increase to the District's revenue generated from such funds. (Education Code 42238.07)

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)
(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

In order to provide guidance in the development of the budget, the Board shall annually establish budget priorities based on identified District needs and goals and on realistic projections of available funds. The Board shall also establish other budget assumptions or parameters which may take into consideration the stability of funding sources, enrollment trends, legal requirements and constraints on the use of funds, anticipated increases and/or decreases in the cost of services and supplies, use of one-time resources, categorical program requirements, scheduled salary increases, and any other factors necessary to ensure that the budget is a realistic plan for district revenues and expenditures.

(cf. 2210 - Administrative Discretion Regarding Board Policy)
(cf. 3110 - Transfer of Funds)

The Board shall establish and maintain a general fund reserve for economic uncertainty that meets or exceeds the minimum 3% state required level of 5 CCR 15443.

BUDGET (Continued)

Fund Balance

The district shall classify fund balances in compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 54, as follows:

1. Nonspendable fund balance includes amounts that are not expected to be converted to cash, such as resources that are not in a spendable form (e.g., inventories and prepaids) or that are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

2. Restricted fund balance includes amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers or by law.

3. Committed fund balance includes amounts constrained to specific purposes by the Board.

For this purpose, all commitments of funds shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board. The constraints shall be imposed no later than the end of the reporting period of June 30, although the actual amounts may be determined subsequent to that date but prior to the issuance of the financial statements.

4. Assigned fund balance includes amounts which the Board or its designee intends to use for a specific purpose.

The Board delegates authority to assign funds to the assigned fund balance to the Superintendent or designee and authorizes the assignment of such funds to be made any time prior to the issuance of the financial statements.

5. Unassigned fund balance includes amounts that are available for any purpose.

When multiple types of funds are available for an expenditure, the district shall first utilize funds from the restricted fund balance as appropriate, then from the committed fund balance, then from the assigned fund balance, and lastly from the unassigned fund balance.

To protect the district against unforeseen circumstances such as revenue shortfalls and unanticipated expenditures, the Board intends to maintain a minimum unassigned fund balance which includes a reserve for economic uncertainties.

If the unassigned fund balance falls below this level due to an emergency situation, unexpected expenditures, or revenue shortfalls, the Board shall develop a plan to recover the fund balance which may include dedicating new unrestricted revenues, reducing expenditures, and/or increasing revenues or pursuing other funding sources.

BUDGET (Continued)

Long-Term Financial Obligations

The District's current-year budget and multi-year projections shall include adequate provisions for addressing the District's long-term financial obligations, including, but not limited to, long-term obligations resulting from collective bargaining agreements, financing of facilities projects, unfunded or future liability for retiree benefits, and accrued workers' compensation claims.

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)
(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)
(cf. 4154/4254/4354 - Health and Welfare Benefits)
(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)
(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits)

Prior to adopting the budget, the Board shall conduct a first-tier review, and if necessary a second-tier review, to ensure that the budget meets standards and criteria adopted by the State Board of Education. (Education Code 33127, 33128, 33129; 5 CCR 15440-15452)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the District budget is clearly presented and effectively communicated to the Board, staff, and public. He/she may adapt or supplement the state-required budget format as necessary for these purposes.

Budget Amendments

Whenever revenues and expenditures change significantly throughout the year, the Superintendent or designee shall recommend budget amendments to ensure accurate projections of the District's net ending balance. When final figures for the prior-year budget are available, this information shall be used as soon as possible to update the current-year budget's beginning balance and projected revenues and expenditures.

In addition, budget amendments shall be submitted for Board approval as necessary when the state budget is adopted, collective bargaining agreements are accepted, district income declines, increased revenues or unanticipated savings are made available to the District, program proposals are significantly different from those approved during budget adoption, interfund transfers are needed to meet actual program expenditures, and/or other significant changes occur that impact budget projections.

Legal Reference: (Next Page)

BUDGET (Continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
1240 Duties of county superintendent of schools
33127-33131 Standards and criteria for local budgets and expenditures
35035 Powers and duties of superintendent
35161 Powers and duties, generally, of governing boards
42103 Public hearing on proposed budget; requirements for content of proposed budget
42122-42129 Budget requirements
42130-42134 Financial certifications
42140-42141 Disclosure of fiscal obligations
42238-42251 Apportionments to districts, especially:
42238.01-42238.07 Local control funding formula
42602 Use of unbudgeted funds
42605 Tier 3 categorical flexibility
42610 Appropriation of excess funds and limitation thereon
45253 Annual budget of personnel commission
45254 First year budget of personnel commission
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

GOVERNMENT CODE
7900-7914 Appropriations limit

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
15060 Standardized account code structure
15440-15451 Criteria and standards for school district budgets

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Local Control Funding Formula 2013, Governance Brief, August 2013
State Priorities for Funding: The Need for Local Control and Accountability Plans, Fact Sheet, August 2013
School Finance CD-ROM, 2005

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
California School Accounting Manual
New Requirements for Reporting Fund Balance in Governmental Funds, January 7, 2011

FISCAL CRISIS AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TEAM PUBLICATIONS
Fiscal Oversight Guide for AB 1200, AB 2756 and Subsequent Related Legislation, September 2006

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
Best Practice: Appropriate Level of Unrestricted Fund Balance in the General Fund, 2009

BUDGET (Continued)

GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD STATEMENTS
Statement 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, March 2009
Statement 45, Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Post-employment Benefits Other Than Pensions, June 2004
Statement 34, Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis - For State and Local Governments, June 1999

WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
Association of California School Administrators: http://www.acsa.org
California Department of Education, Finance and Grants: http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg
California Department of Finance: http://www.dof.ca.gov
Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team: http://www.fcmat.org
Government Finance Officers Association: http://www.gfoa.org
Governmental Accounting Standards Board: http://www.gasb.org
Legislative Analyst's Office: http://www.lao.ca.gov
School Services of California, Inc.: http://www.sscal.com