

The board encourages individuals and organizations to consider making a gift or bequest to benefit the school system. Such gifts foster community support for the schools and improve the school system for the benefit of students and others. It shall be the policy of the Buncombe County Board of Education to encourage such contributions to be made to the Buncombe County Schools Foundation for subsequent transfer/assignment to the applicable school.

The superintendent shall evaluate any offers of gifts or bequests that are not revenues or gifts of nominal value. The superintendent must consider the gift's suitability, any safety hazards, and the cost of maintaining the gift and then make a recommendation to the board. With respect to gifts or bequests in the form of purchases of materials, supplies, equipment, services, etc. the Buncombe County Board of Education shall not assume any financial obligation for payment for such materials, supplies, equipment, services, etc. in the event that the agency, organization, or individual is not able to make full payment for the materials, supplies, equipment, services, etc. purchased.

For computer equipment or other technological resources, the superintendent shall ensure that such items are compatible with minimum hardware and software standards set by the technology director. The board will decide whether to accept the gift on behalf of the school system.

Upon receiving notification of a donor's intent to offer a gift to a school, a principal shall give written notification to the superintendent that states the nature of the gift and the purpose for which it is donated. Any agency, organization, or individual wishing to make contributions of furniture and equipment (Capital Outlay items) directly to the Board of Education for school use must submit their intentions to the principal who will in turn forward his recommendation to the purchasing officer. The purchasing officer will submit the items to the Superintendent for action on behalf of the Board of Education. Approval by the Superintendent in no way obligates the Board of Education to pay for donated furniture and equipment in the event the outside organization is unable to meet its obligation. The superintendent shall ensure that any offered gift imposes no undue financial burden or obligation on the school system.

The board establishes the following conditions for the acceptance of gifts. Other conditions may be set as the board deems appropriate.

1. The superintendent may accept gifts up to the same dollar limit as he or she may accept bids on behalf of the board. The superintendent shall report any accepted gifts at the next board meeting. The board reserves the right to determine in each particular case the appropriateness of any contribution and may accept or reject a contribution as the board sees fit.
2. Gifts of real or personal property will be accepted only if the donor can demonstrate that he or she has clear and free title to the property.
3. The donor may request that a gift or bequest be designated for use in a particular area.

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However, the board reserves the right to utilize the funds as deemed appropriate.

4. The specific manner in which funds are expended within a designated area will be determined under the direction of the superintendent.
5. A gift must not impose any undue financial burden or obligation on the school system.
6. All supplies and equipment purchased with funds from any donor become the property of the board, and the title to such property vests in the board.
7. The board has no responsibility and makes no promises to continue any program initiated with donor contributions once the donated funds are expended.
8. Any gift or donation that includes advertisement must be consistent with policy 5240, Advertising in the Schools.
9. The board may reject any gift or donation that the board determines is in conflict with the educational mission of the school system.
10. Any gift or donation from an E-rate service provider must comply with gift rules applicable to federal agencies.
11. Before installation, the superintendent or designee must approve the design, location and construction material of major gifts that will become a permanent part of the school facility or grounds, such as playground equipment, bleachers, scoreboards, outdoor lights or fences, etc. Any such gift also must meet any required safety standards.

Any gift or bequest constituting revenues that are accepted by the board will be deposited in the proper fund.

The superintendent shall provide for the appropriate recognition of contributors.

Unless otherwise specified in a written agreement approved by the board, any gift or bequest, any contribution or donations by outside organizations, once accepted by the Superintendent, become the property of the Buncombe County Board of Education and is fully subject to applicable North Carolina statutes dealing with school property. The Board of Education does not assume any debts, liens, etc., attached to contributions to the school system. If the board at any time determines that such property is unnecessary or undesirable for public school purposes, the board may sell such property in accordance with state law.

Should an outside organization desire to donate cash toward a particular equipment purchase, all Board of Education policies shall be followed.

The Board shall only be responsible for purchases made in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes and purchases made in accordance with the School Board's Purchasing Policies and Procedures.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -47, -518; G.S. 115C, art. 35; 47 C.F.R. 54.503; FCC Sixth Report and Order 10-175

Cross References: Technology in the Educational Program (policy 3220), Advertising in the Schools (policy 5240)

Adopted: June 6, 2013

Replaces Board Policy 550