

Purchasing Card Program
Cardholder Procedure Manual

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INTRODUCTION

The p-Card program is designed to streamline purchasing needs while at the same time providing the necessary financial controls to safeguard Arlee School District's assets. The purchasing card program will assist in reducing the number of requisitions, purchase orders, petty cash fiends, check requests as well as, reducing the need to use personal funds for business purposes. The program will provide greater flexibility, permit you to get merchandise more quickly, reduce paperwork, and enhance overall purchasing efficiency.

The Purchasing Department and Accounts Payable are responsible for the implementation, maintenance, program compliance, auditing, payment processing, and bank relations to solve customer service issues. **Each cardholder has the responsibility to review, reconcile, and submit their monthly account statement with the appropriate receipts for payment processing by the due date.**

The purpose of this manual is to acquaint you with information about the p-Card program's policies and procedures. It describes many of your responsibilities as a cardholder and outlines the processes and procedures to facilitate secure, timely, and accurate purchasing transactions. It also includes helpful information and instructions for documentation, reconciliation, and review.

All procedures must be adhered to as outlined in this manual and Arlee School District policy. All purchasing policies, regulations and procedures apply. Failure to comply can result in the suspension from the p-Card program and also include disciplinary action that may result in termination of employment. The p-Card issued to the cardholder is the property of Arlee Joint School District #8 and can be cancelled at any time. Periodic audits will be conducted to ensure the cardholder is in compliance with set policies and procedures.

As the District's needs change and usage continues to grow it may be necessary to revise or supplement a portion of the manual from time to time as deemed appropriate. If questions arise in the meantime, please contact the District Clerk, p-Card Administrator, by phone or email.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct for Arlee School District's Purchasing Card Program is designed to provide the cardholder a general philosophy and set of guidelines to follow regarding the use of the card.

- Purchases
p-Card purchases should be made so that the organization gains the maximum value and quality for each purchase.

- Limitations on Vendors
Cardholders must not make p-Card purchases from friends or relatives where the cardholder has a financial interest.

- Vendor Gifts
Decline all personal supplier gifts offered. Cardholders must not accept any gift from any source if offered, or appears to be offered, to influence decision-making regarding p-Card purchases.
- p-Card Agreement
The issuance of a p-Card is strictly prohibited prior to receipt of a signed P-card Use Agreement from the employee.
- Personal Use of p-Card
Only authorized business purchases may be completed with the p-Card. Any personal purchases are strictly prohibited.
- p-Card Security
The p-Card is the property of Arlee Joint School District #8 and as such should be kept in a secure location at all times.
- Authorization
Only the employee to whom the card is issued is authorized to use it. Delegating the use of the p-Card to another employee is strictly prohibited.
- Vendor Selection
Where required in accordance with District policy, all vendors should be offered an equal opportunity to participate in the organization's purchasing programs and to offer competitive pricing.
- Vendor Disagreements/Disputes
If a disagreement occurs with a vendor, the employee should make every effort to reach a reasonable and equitable settlement to the dispute. If it is not possible to settle the disagreement under reasonable circumstances, submit the details related to the dispute to the p-Card Administrator at 406-726-3216 ext. 2101.
- Negotiations
Cardholders are required to conduct themselves in a good faith manner when negotiating with suppliers. Any intentional misrepresentation is strictly prohibited.
- Organization Policies
Cardholders are to adhere to District policy as it relates to the p-Card Program.
- Documentation
All purchases using the p-Card program must be properly documented for business purposes. Any altered or forged documentation is strictly prohibited.

- **Purchase Restrictions**
The purchase of products, services or commodities on the restricted list in the Purchasing Card Procedure Manual as follows in Section 1 is strictly prohibited. Check with your Supervisor or the p-Card Administrator if you have any questions about whether a charge is valid under the p-Card program.
- **Purchase Limits**
All dollar value purchase limits will be adhered to under the program and any splitting of transactions to avoid authorized limits is strictly prohibited.
- **Returning Purchasing Cards**
The p-Card is the property of Arlee Joint School District #8. Upon separation of employment, the card must be surrendered to Business Services.
- **Business Practices**
In all vendor relationships and purchasing, promote and cooperate with trade and professional associations and with state, federal, local, and private agencies on encouraging fair, ethical, and legal business practices.

I. PURCHASING GUIDELINES AND LIMITS

Overview

Arlee School District allows only certain purchases to be made using the p-Card. All purchases must be made in compliance with the purchasing policies and the guidelines set forth in this manual. Any violation will result in disciplinary action that may include termination of employment. Only the authorized cardholder may use the p-Card and no authority is permitted to the cardholder for the delegation of its use. Business Services establishes purchasing limits based on position and responsibilities and in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations. Arlee School District will perform periodic audits to verify adherence to policies and procedures.

Allowable Purchases

- General Supplies for the classroom
- Membership Dues
- Registration for conferences and workshops
- Meeting expenses
- Travel (as permitted by District policy)
- Subscriptions (for library or classroom purposes only)
- Purchases from vendors who do not accept purchase orders

Prohibited Purchases

- Any purchases available through E-Commerce Skyward Ordering
- Cash advances, wire transfers, or money orders
- Personal items
- Technology including computers, printers, and peripherals (without prior written approval from Principal or Superintendent)
- Software (without prior written approval from Principal or Superintendent)

- Copiers (without prior written approval from Superintendent)
- Audio Visual Equipment (without prior written approval from the Principal or Superintendent)
- Repairs
- Telephone expenses
- Alcohol purchases
- Donations
- Parking violations
- Gaming transactions including bets, lottery tickets, and casino gaming chips
- Independent contractors or other personal or professional services
- Maintenance contracts
- Equipment
- Automatic Renewals

Cardholder Spending Limits

Each cardholder has a designated credit limit for monthly purchases. In addition, purchases may be limited by total daily dollar volume, type of transaction, merchant category, and purpose of purchase. Any intentional circumvention of these limits is strictly prohibited. This includes splitting a transaction amount with the same vendor or multiple vendors for purchases that would otherwise exceed the cardholder's limits. A Statement of Authority (Attachment B) identifying individual limits will be provided at time of issuance.

Sales Tax

Arlee Joint School District #8 is tax exempt. The cardholder should make the vendor aware of the District's tax-exempt status. Tax-Exempt Letters are available from the Purchasing Department. The letter can be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to the vendor.

How Can I Use the p-Card?

The p-Card may be used for the following type of transactions, subject to Statement of Authority limitations.

- Telephone Orders
- Fax/Mail Orders
- Online Purchases
- Over the Counter

To Place a Telephone Order

- Have your p-Card ready before placing the call,
- Always ask for the education or government sales representative.
- Inform the vendor of tax-exempt status.
- Confirm shipping costs.
- Be sure to specify the shipping address to the vendor.

To Place a Fax/Mail Order

- Complete all information needed on the order form and keep a copy for your records. For subscriptions this may be the only receipt provided.
- Double-check the ship to address.
- If necessary, fax or mail a tax-exempt certificate.

To Purchase Online

- Print out completed registration forms, confirmations, and invoices to be used as supporting documentation.
- Ensure that no sales tax is charged. If tax is charged it is the cardholder's responsibility to contact the vendor to have it removed and credited on the next statement.

To Purchase Over the Counter

- Ensure that no sales tax is charged.
- Obtain receipt at time of purchase.

Returns

- Merchandise returns must be completed within 10 days of receipt or sooner if required by vendor.

2. RECORDKEEPING & RECONCILIATION

The cardholder is responsible for maintaining receipts for all purchases made with the p-Card. The documentation retained should include sales receipts, packing lists (if applicable) and credit card transaction receipts. Account statements are available electronically using the Bank of Montreal (BMO) designated website "detailsOnline". (www.bmodetailsonline.com). There will also be a statement mailed to each cardholder from BMO each month. User ID and Password will be provided by the p-Card Administrator at the time of issuance. Any incorrect charges, duplicate transactions or missing credits must be addressed directly between the cardholder and the vendor. Each purchase on the statement will have a supporting Purchase Order stating the purpose of the expense, the item purchased and the account number to which the expense is to be charged. Upon completion of the reconciliation, the account statement with all documentation attached must be submitted to the cardholder's supervisor for initial review and signature. If satisfactory, the documentation must be submitted to the District Clerk for Board approval and payment.

Reconciling Prior to Submitting to Supervisor

- Compare statement to receipts.
- Confirm each transaction and verify amounts charged.
- Provide purpose for each purchase (P.O.)
- Sign and date statement.
- Attach account statement to purchase receipt documentation.

Missing Receipts

- If the cardholder is missing a receipt, the cardholder must submit a Missing Receipt Form (Attachment D) available on the District website documenting the pertinent transaction information. This documentation must be approved by the cardholder's supervisor.

Examples of Receipt Documentation

- Cash register original receipt
- Airline itinerary and sales receipt (if "e-ticket" attach the email documentation)
- Itemized hotel bills
- Itemized restaurant bills

Sales Tax

- If sales tax is to be reimbursed there must be a note submitted documenting such.
- It is the p-Card users responsibility to watch for appropriate credit on future statements. If reimbursement does not occur on the next statement it is the cardholder's responsibility to follow up with the vendor to ensure reimbursement is received.
- The p-Card holder will be held responsible for inappropriate charges, including sales tax.

3. BILLING AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The p-Card billing cycle ends on the 5th of each month. Although hard copies of the statement will be mailed, users are strongly encouraged to use their electronic statements available through the bank's (BMO) designated website "detailsOnline". (www.bmodetailsonline.com) in order submit reconciliation in a timely fashion. **ALL RECONCILED STATEMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ACCOUNTS PAYABLE BY THE 10th OF EACH MONTH.** Any problems that have not been resolved should be notated as pending.

Any account statements missing the proper approvals and documentation will be returned to the cardholder's supervisor to be resubmitted appropriately. If a cardholder is consistently delinquent in submitting their reconciled account statement to the Accounts Payable Department, the p-Card administrator, and the cardholder's supervisor may review their status as a participant in the program and suspend their privileges until an adequate resolution is achieved.

Key Dates

- The monthly billing cycle for the bank is from the 6th of one month to the 5th of the following month.
- Cardholder prints the monthly account statement on the 6th of each month.
- Cardholder submits the reconciled account statement with appropriate documentation and approval to Accounts Payable by the 10th of each month.
- Accounts Payable posts payments for each cardholder account in accordance with the regular disbursement dates.

4. DISPUTED TRANSACTIONS

At times there may be disputed transactions appearing on the cardholder's account statement. The dispute may arise due to non-delivery of the goods or services, incorrect billing, duplicate billing, missing a valid credit not processed to the account for a return, altered charges or defective merchandise. In these situations it is important for the cardholder to immediately seek resolution with the vendor.

Disputes

Any disputes that cannot be resolved by the cardholder directly with the vendor may contact the p-Card Administrator for assistance. In these cases the cardholder must complete a Statement Dispute Form (Attachment E) documenting the reason for the disputed item and other transaction details. The cardholder must submit the form to the p-Card Administrator who will deal directly with the bank and the vendor. The cardholder will assist in ensuring that appropriate credits for reported disputed items or billing errors appear on subsequent statements.

Returned Merchandise

If a vendor does not issue a credit for a returned item within 20 days of the return, the cardholder must also complete the Statement Dispute Form and submit it to the p-Card Administrator. This form will be used as notification to both the bank and the vendor.

Key Dates

- Returns must be completed within 10 days of receipt of merchandise or sooner if required by vendor.
- The cardholder has 10 days from the date the merchandise is returned to receive credit. If credit has not been received begin the dispute process with the vendor.
- Complete Statement Dispute Form and submit to p-Card Administrator no later than 20 days after merchandise is returned and efforts to rectify with vendor have been unsuccessful.
- The p-Card Administrator must notify bank of any disputed transactions within 30 days of the statement date.

Helpful Tips for Returns, Damaged Goods, Credit

- Returns must be made within 10 days or sooner if required by vendor.
- Items should be returned directly to the vendor by whichever means the vendor requires.
- Always retain boxes, containers, materials, packing slips, etc. until it is certain that the goods will not be returned.
- Read all enclosed instructions carefully. Phone numbers and special instructions are often included on packing slips or delivery receipts.
- Many vendors require a "Return Authorization Number" before they will accept a return. If this information is not provided with the return, the package may be refused and no credit will be given.
- If the vendor does not intend to pay for shipping charges the merchandise should be forwarded to the warehouse with shipping information including vendor, address, and copy of the packing slip. Items will be shipped and the appropriate account will be

- charged.
- It is the cardholder's responsibility to determine that proper credit is posted for any returned item on a subsequent statement.

5. ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE

The cardholder's personal information may require updating periodically. An Account Maintenance Form (Attachment F) which can be found on the District website must be completed by the cardholder and approved by his or her supervisor. The form should be forwarded to the p-Card Administrator for review, approval, and processing. Updating the account information takes approximately three (3) working days after submission by the p-Card Administrator to the bank.

Personal Information Updates

- Cardholder name change
- Cardholder location change
- Credit limit
- Type of purchasing allowed by the cardholder
- Cancellation of the cardholder's account
- Suspension of the cardholder's account

6. TRAVEL

All appropriate travel documentation must be attached to the statement, approved by the supervisor, and submitted to the Accounts Payable Department for payment. The cardholder must adhere to the District's travel procedures. All travel must be for business purposes only and any personal use is strictly prohibited.

Travel Tips and Reminders

- The p-Card **must not be used for gasoline for your personal vehicle** when it is used for business purposes. Business travel incurred when using your personal vehicle will be reimbursed by claiming mileage on your per diem reimbursement form. If you are traveling with a rental car, then gasoline may be purchased using the p-Card.
- The p-Card may be used to pay for hotel room purchases only. No other room charges are allowed to be purchased on the p-card.
- The District does not provide ATM privileges with the p-Card program.

7. AUDITS

Auditing p-Card Activity

All cardholder accounts are subject to periodic audits to ensure compliance with the District's overall policies and the policies outlined in this manual. The p-Card administrator, Director of Fiscal Services, and/or Assistant Superintendent for Business Services will review daily, monthly, and annual transaction activity reports as deemed necessary to ensure adherence to the p-Card policies. If an audit reveals a policy violation, the cardholder and their supervisor will be contacted and disciplinary action assessed based on the type of violation.

Violations

- Unauthorized purchases
- Purchase of prohibited products, service, or merchandise outlined in the organization's policies and in this manual
- Intentional splitting of transactions to circumvent the credit limit including single day and single transaction limits
- Consistently delinquent accounts submitted for processing and payment
- Personal use of p-Card
- Allowing an unauthorized persons to use the p-Card
- Fraudulent transactions with a vendor
- Violation of the District's Purchasing Policies

8. LOST OR STOLEN CARDS

If the card is lost or stolen, the cardholder must immediately contact BMO by phone at 800-361-3361 or by fax at 888-224-5394. The Superintendent or District Clerk should also be notified of possible loss, theft, or unauthorized use of the p-Card.

The cardholder should also complete the Account Maintenance Form documenting the card was lost or stolen and the date that it was noticed missing. Upon notification, the card will be suspended immediately and any charges posted to the account after the "missing date" will be denied. A new card will be issued upon completion of an application indicating the card is a replacement. After the application is received by the p-Card Administrator it will take approximately two (2) days to reissue a replacement card.

Card Security Tips

- The p-Card should be retained in a secure location at all times.
- Sign the back of your p-Card and also write "See ID" next to the signature to remind the vendor to look at your personal identification to authenticate the transaction.
- When presenting your card for purchases, provide your driver's license to identify you as the authorized user of the card.
- A cancelled card should be returned as soon as possible to p-Card Administrator for disposal.
- Do not provide your card account number to unsolicited marketing calls.

Important Contact Information

- BMO/Harris Bank
 - o 1-800-361-3361 (Lost/Stolen - Emergency Replacement)
 - o 1-888-224-5394 – fax
- p-Card Administrator
 - o Lonnie Morin, District Clerk
 - o 406-726-3216 ext. 2101 *or* 406-396-7885 - Cell
 - o lmorin@arlee.k12.mt.us

- Superintendent – John Jay Miller
 - o 406-726-3216 ext. 2100 *or* 406-529-6025
 - o jmiller@arlee.k12.mt.us

9. CARD HOLDER SET-UP AND ACTIVATION

New Participants

Once an application has been approved by the p-Card Administrator and the bank has processed the request, an account for the cardholder is established. The new participant must attend a p-Card Training Session where the Purchasing Card Procedure Manual will be provided. In addition, the p-Card Agreement Form (Attachment A) that outlines the responsibility of the cardholder must be signed prior to the release of the p-Card to the cardholder from the p-Card Administrator.

Activation of Account

- Call the toll free phone number on the label affixed to the card.
- When prompted, enter your card number.
- You will be prompted for personal information that will identify you as the cardholder in possession of the p-Card.
- If you encounter any problems activating your account, please call the p-Card administrator at 406-726-3216 ext.2100 or email lmorin@arlee.k12.mt.us

10. GENERAL SUMMARY & IMPORTANT REMINDERS Cardholder's Responsibilities

- Sign the back of the p-Card.
- Ensure the p-Card is used for legitimate business purposes only.
- Maintain the p-Card in a secure location at all times.
- Do not allow other individuals to use the p-Card.
- Adhere to the purchase limits and restrictions of the p-Card and ensure the total transaction amount of any single purchase does not exceed personal limits.
- Obtain a receipt and/or packing slip for all transactions.
- Reconcile the statement to the receipts each month.
- Submit a reconciled and signed statement with attached receipts to Accounts Payable. The cardholder may elect to use the p-Card Summary Form for reconciliation purposes as well.
- Attempt to resolve billing disputes directly with vendors. If unable to resolve the dispute the cardholder should complete the Statement Dispute Form and call the p-Card Administrator at 406-726-3216 ext. 4. Any disputed transactions must be resolved within 30 days of the statement date.

- Ensure that appropriate credits for reported disputed items or billing errors appear on subsequent statements.
- Immediately report a lost or stolen card to BMO by phone at 1-800-361-3361 or fax at 1-888-224-5394. A lost or stolen card reported by telephone is blocked immediately so it is important to call regardless of the date or time. Also contact the Superintendent at 406-726-3216 ext. 2100 *or* 406-529-6025 and/or the District Clerk – p-card administer at 406-726-3216 ext 2101 *or* 406-396-7885. A replacement card must be requested by contacting the p-Card Administrator.
- Immediately report unauthorized or fraudulent charges to BMO by phone at 1-800-361-3361 or by fax at 1-888-224-5394 and notify the Superintendent at 406-726-3216 ext. 2100 *or* 406-529-6025 and/or the District Clerk – p-card administer at 406-726-3216 ext 2101 *or* 406-396-7885.
- Return the p-Card to the p-Card Administrator in the Administration Building upon termination of employment from Arlee School District #8.

The p-Card Can Be Revoked If

- The cardholder accepts a cash refund from a vendor for returned items.
- The card is used for personal or unauthorized purposes.
- An individual other than the cardholder uses the card.
- A purchase is split to circumvent the limitations of the card.
- Receipts are not provided for all transactions.
- The approved statement and accompanying receipts are not submitted by the monthly deadline.
- The cardholder demonstrates a disregard for p-Card procedures.

ATTACHMENTS/FORMS

- Attachment A.** **p-Card Use Agreement**
Agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of the Purchasing Card. The form must be completed and signed by the cardholder prior to issuance of the card.
- Attachment B.** **Statement of Authority**
Statement identifying individual limits. The form is provided at the time of issuance and must be signed by the employee and their direct supervisor.
- Attachment C.** **p-card Summary Form**
Assists cardholder in tracking purchases that must be reconciled to the account statement each month. A copy of this form is available on the District website. The form will be submitted to the supervisor with documentation and account statement attached. The supervisor will sign and forward to Accounts Payable.
- Attachment D.** **Missing Receipt Form**
Form that must be submitted if the cardholder is missing a receipt. The cardholder's supervisor must approve this documentation.
- Attachment E.** **Statement Dispute Form**
To be completed by cardholder only after attempts have been made with the vendor to correct disputed items. A copy should be sent to the Purchasing Card Administrator.
- Attachment F.** **Account Maintenance Form**
An Account Maintenance Form can be found on the District website and is used to request a change in cardholder information.