

NOVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY
MANUAL OF POLICIES APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

POLICY NP 702:
FUND BALANCE REQUIREMENTS AND RELATED FISCAL PRACTICES

THIS IS A COMBINATION OF TWO POLICIES: In yellow are any changes to the two in order to form the combination.

I. PURPOSE

The Board of Directors recognizes the importance of maintaining fiscal health amidst the fluctuations that occur from population shifts, program and client demands, and state finance formulas. It embraces its responsibility to adhere to Minnesota statutes and Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) determined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The Board further understands the need to be ever mindful of its obligation to the public trust and the rightful demand for accountability from the Board. Therefore, the Board of Directors establishes a policy on fund balance reserves and fiscal management practices.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Board of Directors establishes a general operations reserve fund balance amount in balance code 422 of the state Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards (UFARS) to guard against unanticipated calamities and future Statutory Operating Debt (SOD) circumstances. The minimum amount in this fund is 25 percent of the yearly general fund expenditures in any given year. It is often referred to as the school's "minimum fund balance" or "minimum unassigned general fund balance."

Also, the policy of this school district is to maintain fund balance classifications that allow for useful fund balance reporting and compliance with GASB Statement No. 54. To the extent a specific conflict occurs between this policy and the provisions of GASB Statement No. 54, the GASB Statement shall prevail.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Assigned" fund balance amounts comprise unrestricted funds constrained by the school district's intent that they be used for specific purposes, but that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In funds other than the general fund, the assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. The assigned fund balance category will cover the portion of a fund balance that reflects the school district's intended use of those resources. The action to assign a fund balance may be taken after the end of the fiscal year. An assigned fund balance cannot be a negative number.
- B. "Committed" fund balance amounts comprise unrestricted funds used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Board of Directors and that remain binding unless removed by the Board of Directors by subsequent formal action. The formal action to commit a fund balance must occur prior to fiscal year end; however, the specific amounts actually committed can be determined in the subsequent fiscal year. A committed fund balance cannot be a

negative number.

- C. “Enabling legislation” means legislation that authorizes a school district to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources from external providers and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes listed in the legislation.
- D. “Fund balance” means the arithmetic difference between the assets and liabilities reported in a school district fund.
- E. “Nonspendable” fund balance amounts comprise funds that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. They include items that are inherently unspendable, such as, but not limited to, inventories, prepaid items, long-term receivables, non-financial assets held for resale, or the permanent principal of endowment funds.
- F. “Restricted” fund balance amounts comprise funds that have legally enforceable constraints placed on their use that either are externally imposed by resource providers or creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, voters, or laws or regulations of other governments, or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- G. “Unassigned” fund balance amounts are the residual amounts in the general fund not reported in any other classification. Unassigned amounts in the general fund are technically available for expenditure for any purpose. The general fund is the only fund that can report a positive unassigned fund balance. Other funds would report a negative unassigned fund balance should the total of nonspendable, restricted, and committed fund balances exceed the total net resources of that fund.
- H. “Unrestricted” fund balance is the amount of fund balance left after determining both nonspendable and restricted net resources. This amount can be determined by adding the committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balances.

IV. CLASSIFICATION OF FUND BALANCES

The school district shall classify its fund balances in its various funds in one or more of the following five classifications: nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

V. ORDER OF RESOURCE USE

If resources from more than one fund balance classification could be spent, the school district will strive to spend resources from fund balance classifications in the following order (first to last): restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

VI. COMMITTING FUND BALANCE

A majority vote of the Board of Directors is required to commit a fund balance to a specific purpose and subsequently to remove or change any constraint so adopted by

the board.

VII. ASSIGNING FUND BALANCE

The Board of Directors, by majority vote, may assign fund balances to be used for specific purposes when appropriate. The board delegates the power to make emergency purchases to the following: Executive Director and the Treasurer. Such purchases must be reported to the board at the first board meeting after the purchase is initiated. Assignments so made shall be reported to the Board of Directors on a monthly basis, either separately or as part of ongoing reporting by the assigning party if other than the Board of Directors. An appropriation of an existing fund balance to eliminate a projected budgetary deficit in the subsequent year's budget in an amount no greater than the projected excess of expected expenditures over expected revenues satisfies the criteria to be classified as an assignment of fund balance.

VIII. REVIEW

The Board of Directors will conduct an annual review of the sufficiency of the minimum unassigned general fund balance level.

IX. SPECIAL FISCAL POLICIES

In addition to other generally accepted accounting principles and sound fiscal management and business practices, the following principles of operation are enacted for special attention by the Board of Directors, the management and the staff.

1. All funds will operate with a positive balance. No fund, including food service, community education and its sub parts, and the general fund and its sub parts, will be allowed to operate in the negative.
2. Approved budgets that guide the school will be balanced, never allowing for excess spending of reserves, except to adjust fund balances to meet previously established and acceptable targets.
3. Any time an event, situation or circumstance appears to force the Board to spend in excess of acceptable budget expenditure targets, the Board must have a companion plan to increase revenues or reduce expenditures to accommodate the excess, at the time of the approval of the excess. This is particularly applicable during events including, but not limited to, negotiations, community education offerings or enrollment declines.
4. The Executive Director and the Board assures that sufficient reserves exist in each fund balance to equal or exceed the balances needed to meet or exceed requirements of that fund. Fund balances must meet the demands of current and future obligations of each fund, including, but not limited to:
 - Obligations to overcome all negative balances in all funds.
 - Obligations from capital, transportation, and technology initiatives.
 - Obligations from personnel and program initiatives.
5. Calculations for appropriate balances needed for each fund will be made following each annual audit. Calculations will enter into the process for final budget approval in any given year as well as enter into the design of the subsequent year

budget building process.

6. Current and estimated future reserves will be reported by fund at the board meeting for final approval of the current budget and any meetings where subsequent revisions to the budget are addressed. If there is a recommended deviation from this policy during the building of any budget in any given year, a vote of at least two-thirds of the Board can be used to set the policy aside, and then, only after a formally publicized and conducted public forum on the single issue at a special meeting of the Board. Deviations cannot be in conflict with any statute or prior approved SOD plan.

Statutory References: Minn. Statute 123A.73-Reorganization
Minn. Statute 123B.10- Publication of financial information
Minn. Statute 123B.79-Permanent fund transfers
Minn. Statute 123B.80-Exceptions for permanent fund transfers
Minn. Statute 123B.81-Statutory Operating Debt
Minn. Statute 123B.82-Reorganization operating debt
Minn. Statute 123B.83-Expenditure limitations
Minn. Statute 126C.01-Definitions (funding)
Minn. Statute 126C.43 Levies; Statutory obligations
Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 714 Effective: 02/27/2012 Orig. 2011
MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 7, Education Funding

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD: 3/16/2009
REVISED BY THE BOARD: 04/26/2021
EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/26/2021