

CSBA Sample

Board Policy

School-Connected Organizations

BP 1230

Community Relations

Note: The following optional policy should be revised to reflect district practice.

Note: For purposes of this Board policy, the term "school-connected organization" includes booster clubs, parent-teacher associations aligned with the California State PTA, or other parent-teacher organizations. These organizations generally raise funds for classroom activities or activities at specific schools. For policy regarding educational foundations, see BP 1260 - Educational Foundation. For policy regarding associated student body organizations, see BP 3452 - Student Activity Funds.

Note: In some districts, there may be legal or equity concerns that result from the benefit provided to a particular school while other schools in the district do not receive the benefit from the additional resources. For example, pursuant to state and federal law (Education Code 200-262.4; 5 CCR 4900-4965; 20 USC 1681-1688), the Governing Board is responsible for ensuring that the district's athletic program provides equivalent opportunities for both males and females. Booster club activities must be included in the district's analysis of the equivalent opportunities provided by each school. See BP/AR 6145.2 - Athletic Competition. Because school-connected organizations are generally separate legal entities, if a concern arises regarding the equitable distribution of funds, the Superintendent or designee should consult with the leadership of such organizations and district legal counsel. For language regarding acceptance of gifts and grants, see BP 3290 - Gifts, Grants, and Bequests.

The Governing Board recognizes that parents/guardians and community members may wish to organize parent organizations and/or booster clubs for the purpose of supporting the district's educational and extracurricular programs. The Board appreciates the contributions made by such organizations toward the Board's vision for student learning and for providing all district students with high-quality educational opportunities.

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. See the accompanying administrative regulation for details regarding the types of information that the district might require to be included in a school-connected organization's request to operate within the district or school.

Persons proposing to establish a school-connected organization shall submit a request to the Board for authorization to operate within the district or at a district school.

Note: Generally, booster and parent clubs are separate legal entities from the district and thus are not under the control or the responsibility of district personnel. The district should consult legal counsel if it has any questions about its appropriate relationship with school-connected organizations.

Note: Certain tax-exempt organizations may be required to register with the state Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts. As part of this registration, the organization may also be required to file copies of the organization's articles of incorporation and other documents governing its operations.

A school-connected organization, including a booster club, parent-teacher association or organization, or other organization that does not include an associated student body or other student organization, shall be established and maintained as a separate entity from the school or district. Each school-connected organization shall be subject to its own bylaws and operational procedures or to the rules or bylaws of its affiliated state or national organization, as applicable.

Note: School-connected organizations are required to comply with applicable laws. For example, food sales by outside organizations must not compete with the district's school nutrition program and must comply with state and/or federal nutritional standards (Education Code 49431-49431.7; 5 CCR 15500-15501, 15575-15578; 7 CFR 210.11, 220.12). See BP/AR 3554 - Other Food Sales.

In addition, activities by school-connected organizations shall be conducted in accordance with law, Board policies, administrative regulations, and any rules of the sponsoring school.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)
(cf. 3554 - Other Food Sales)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)
(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), in its 2015 ASB Accounting Manual, Fraud Prevention Guide and Desk Reference, suggests rules governing the relationship between the district and booster clubs and other school-connected organizations. For examples of such rules, see the accompanying administrative regulation.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish appropriate rules for the relationship between school-connected organizations and the district.

Note: Education Code 51521 requires that any fundraising activity designed to raise money to benefit a school or its students receive approval from the Board or the Board's designee. The following paragraph delegates this authority to the Superintendent or designee and may be revised to reflect district practice.

A school-connected organization shall obtain the written approval of the Superintendent or designee prior to soliciting funds upon the representation that the funds will be used wholly or in part for the benefit of a district school or the students at that school. (Education Code 51521)

(cf. 1321 - Solicitation of Funds from and by Students)
(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)
(cf. 3452 - Student Activity Funds)

A school-connected organization may consult with the principal to determine school needs and priorities.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 49011, the district is permitted to solicit voluntary donations, participate in fundraising activities, or provide prizes or other recognition for participants in fundraising activities. However, the district must not offer or award to a student any course credit or privileges related to educational activities in exchange for voluntary donations or participation in fundraising activities by or on behalf of the student and shall not remove, or threaten to remove, from a student any course credit or privileges related to educational activities, or otherwise discriminate against the student, due to a lack of voluntary donations or participation in fundraising activities by or on behalf of the student. See BP 3260 - Fees and Charges.

Any participation in fundraising activities by students and their parents/guardians and/or any donation of funds or property shall be voluntary. (Education Code 49011)

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex

35160 Authority of governing boards

38130-38138 Civic Center Act, use of school property for public purposes

48931 Authorization for sale of food by student organization

48932 Authorization for fund-raising activities by student organization

49011 Student fees

49431-49431.7 Nutritional standards

51520 Prohibited solicitation on school premises

51521 Fund-raising project

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

17510-17510.95 Solicitations for charitable purposes

25608 Alcohol on school property; use in connection with instruction

GOVERNMENT CODE

12580-12599.7 Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act

PENAL CODE

319-329 Lottery, raffle
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs
15500 Food sales in elementary schools
15501 Food sales in high schools and junior high schools
15575-15578 Requirements for foods and beverages outside the federal meals program
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 11
300-312.1 Fundraising for charitable purposes
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1681-1688 Discrimination based on sex or blindness, Title IX
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7
210.11 Competitive food services
220.12 Competitive food services
COURT DECISIONS
Serrano v. Priest, (1976) 18 Cal. 3d 728

Management Resources:

FISCAL CRISIS AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TEAM PUBLICATIONS

2015 ASB Accounting Manual, Fraud Prevention Guide and Desk Reference

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Office of the Attorney General, charitable trust registry:

<http://caag.state.ca.us/charities>

California State PTA: <http://www.capta.org>

Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT); <http://www.fcmat.org>