



# Parent Support Organizations Guidelines and Procedures

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION .....

## **I. ORGANIZATION**

- FORMATION OF ORGANIZATION
- BYLAWS
- OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
- MEETINGS/RECORD KEEPING/RULES FOR DISSOLUTION
- INSURANCE

## **II. ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES**

- RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOL BOARD
- LAWS
- TRAINING
- CONTRACTS/LOANS
- FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES
- SELF-WORK PROJECTS

## **III. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS -APPLICABLE TO ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL'S BOOKS**

- OBTAINING EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN)
- 501(C) INFORMATION
- FIDELITY BOND
- ANNUAL AUDIT
- ANNUAL FILING REQUIREMENTS

#### **IV. FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

- GENERAL
- INTERNAL CONTROL PROCEDURES
- BANK ACCOUNTS
- CASH RECEIPTS
- DISBURSEMENTS
- FUNDRAISERS
- BUDGETARY AND OVERSIGHT CONTROL

#### **V. ACTIVITIES ON SCHOOL CAMPUS**

- GENERAL GUIDELINES

APPENDIX A- SDE GUIDELINES

APPENDIX B- REGISTRATION AND APPROVAL FORM

APPENDIX C - OFFICER INFORMATION FORM

APPENDIX D- FUNDRAISING APPLICATION FORM

APPENDIX E- CONTACT LIST

APPENDIX F- PARENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION SAMPLE AUDIT  
PROGRAM

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Parent Support Organizations are school related organizations established to promote school programs or complement student groups or activities. A Parent Support Organization's purpose may be to support a student group or program at a particular school or various student groups or programs at various schools. Students enrich their education and expand their horizons when they participate in school activities and programs. Therefore, the district greatly appreciates the time, effort, and financial support that the Parent Support Organizations provide to our students.

Specific guidance for *School Related Organizations* was issued by the Alabama State Department of Education in a memorandum dated November 8, 2007. (**Appendix A**) Parent Support Organizations and School Districts are required to follow the guidelines specified in the memorandum.

### **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Student clubs and classes are usually recognized as school activities. The student officers and faculty sponsor operate the organization while the school principal acts in a fiduciary capacity over the organization's funds. The school's accounting records contain a separate account to record the financial operations of each student organization. Income from the student organization is recorded by receipts and deposited in the school bank account. The school principal approves the purchase orders, signs the checks, and maintains the supporting documents for the expenditures. Some organizations consisting of students from the school may not be school activities. Some students belong to social organizations that operate off-campus. Community recreation leagues may consist solely of the school's students and operate under other entities that are not under the control of the school. Although the activities of these organizations may benefit the school's students, these organizations have a separate employer identification number (EIN), a separate mailing address, and maintain their own records and accounts.

### **ATHLETICS**

School athletics are extra-curricular activities that must be under the control of the school principal. Coaches and other school employees cannot maintain a separate bank account that supports, or benefits from, a school extra-curricular activity. Funds received to support an athletic activity at a school from sponsors, vendors, or other sources must be included in the school's financial records under the fiduciary control of the school principal. Funds from gate receipts and other sources may be recorded in one or more separate accounts for a particular sport in the school's financial records. However, a separate account for each sport is not required. When athletic events are held on locations other than school property, the school principal's control over the financial operations of the event, including ticket sales, concessions, and parking fees, will be determined by agreement with the entity in control of the event location.

## **PARENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Parent and parent/teacher organizations provide a vital role in the education of students. In Alabama public schools, the PTA and the PTO are the most common parent organizations. Both organizations have a national organization that serves the individual school organizations. Each of the national organizations publishes guidance for the financial operations of the individual school organizations. These organizations must have a separate employer identification number (EIN) and a separate mailing address in order to maintain their own records and accounts outside the control of the school. However, these organizations will become school activities if:

- a) Both parties mutually assent to the fiduciary control of the principal, or,*
- b) A school employee leads fund-raising or maintains the accounting records for the organization.*

## **BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS**

All school sponsored extra-curricular activities must be under the control of the school. However, booster organizations are often formed to support the operations of these activities in a variety of ways. While providing additional financial support for a particular extra-curricular activity, the volunteers in the booster organizations also enhance community support that often extends to benefit all of the students at a school. Because some of the activities of a booster organization may be intertwined with the extra-curricular activity it supports, some of the organization's activities may be under the fiduciary control of the school principal while other functions of the same booster organization are not school activities. The determination that a particular booster organization is a school activity must be made on a case-by-case basis according to the actual facts and circumstances of the organization's operations at a school.

Specific activities of a booster organization will come under the control of a school principal if:

- a) The organization collects admission to the school function,*
- b) The organization operates a concession operation on school property at the school function,*
- c) The organization collects parking fees for the school function,*
- d) The organization operates a training camp that includes students of the activity it supports,*  
*or,*
- e) The organization operates an exhibition or competition that includes students of the activity it supports.*

Even though a Parent Support Organization works very closely with the District, it is a separate entity from the District. However, the formation of the organization must be approved by an appropriate District Administrator. (**Appendix B**). In addition, a Parent Organization/Booster Club must adhere to various District policies and guidelines, and all federal and state regulatory guidelines. Education is a state function executed through local boards of education. The Superintendent, Board, and Chief School Finance Officer (CSFO) have statutory roles in handling funds. The authority and responsibility related to finance is delegated to local school administrators and others through board policies, directives, procedure manuals and day to day

interaction.

The established **lines of authority** for local boards of education are:

- **BOARD OF EDUCATION-** The board of education should adopt policies to govern the establishment and operation of all activity funds. The district's auditors should review these policies for sound accounting and reporting principles.
- **SUPERINTENDENT-** The superintendent should be directly responsible to the board of education for administering all board policies.
- **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER-** The chief financial officer should have overall responsibility for accounting for and reporting all funds, including district and student activity funds, to the board. The chief financial officer is also responsible for implementing and enforcing appropriate internal control procedures.
- **PRINCIPAL-** The principal at each school site should be designated the activity fund supervisor for that school building. The principal has overall responsibility for the daily operation and management of school finances including all activity funds. This includes the collection and depositing of activity fund monies; approving disbursements of student activity fund monies; and adequately supervising all bookkeeping responsibilities. The principal should be a signatory to all disbursements, including checks drawn on the activity fund.
- **SPONSORS-** The sponsor of each student organization is responsible for supervising all activities of the organization, including approving student activity fund transactions. Sponsors should be employees of the district and under the direct control of the activity fund supervisor.
- **PARENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION OFFICERS-** The officers of each support organization are responsible for the activities of the organization. They should insure that they follow their organization's bylaws as well as district policies, laws and regulations related to the operation of their organization

## I. ORGANIZATION

### FORMATION OF ORGANIZATION

The Board of Education should approve the formation of all booster and parent support organizations. The organization should complete and submit **the Parent Support Organizations Registration and Approval Form** to the appropriate school district administrator (**Appendix B**).

UPON APPROVAL, THE ORGANIZATION MUST PREPARE AND SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

- Organization's Bylaws and Operating Procedures
- Officer Information Form
- Proposed budget

## **ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Parent support organizations shall organize and function in a way that is consistent with the District's philosophy, objectives, and adopted Board policies, in accordance with affiliated governing bodies and regulations as applicable.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL BYLAWS**

An organization of parents or community leaders affiliated with a school should develop a constitution and/or bylaws for the organization. Those documents must be in writing, and be filed in the principal's office. The school principal must authorize the use of the school's name prior to approving any of the group's activities. The bylaws must address the organization's fiscal year, structure, and the method to be used to elect officers. The rules of membership shall be clearly stated in the bylaws. It is recommended the organization's bylaws contain the following information.

### **RECOMMENDED BYLAWS:**

- A. The name of the organization.
- B. The objective of the organization including the statement, "This organization will abide by all school board administrative policies and procedures."
- C. Eligibility for membership and membership enrollment procedures.
- D. Officer selection, election procedures, and duties of each officer.
- E. Bonding documents for signatures from licensed insurance company
- F. The principal or designee who will serve as an ex-officio officer of the organization.
- G. Specific fiscal auditing and accounting procedures established by each organization.
- H. In the event that the organization dissolves or is dissolved by the principal, language indicating how the group will handle remaining funds must be included.
- I. How to amend the bylaws.

Various national parent support organizations supply sample bylaws as a guide for organizations.  
(See contact list page Appendix E)

## **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Only active members in good standing should be permitted to hold office or vote upon any matter of business of the organization. Board Employees should not serve in a financial or leadership capacity of a booster club or parent organization. Financial capacity includes holding positions of president, vice-president, treasurer, fund-raising chairperson, or serving as a check signer. Additionally, a school employee should not be a member of the audit committee. At a minimum, the organization shall elect the following officers on an annual basis.

### **PRESIDENT**

Typically, the president of an organization is the parent/guardian who has been active in the organization.

The major duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Preside at all meetings of the organization;
- Regularly meet with the designated campus representative regarding the organization's activities;
- Resolve problems in the membership;
- Regularly meet with the treasurer of the organization to review the organization's financial position;
- Perform any other specific duties as outlined in the bylaws of the organization.

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

The vice-president acts as the president's representative in his/her absence. They must remain familiar with the organization. The major duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Preside at meetings in the absence or inability of the president to serve;
- Perform administrative functions delegated by the president;
- Perform other specific duties as outlined in the bylaws of the organization.

## **SECRETARY**

The secretary is responsible for keeping accurate records of the proceedings of the organization and reporting to the membership. The secretary must ensure the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings, and have a thorough knowledge of parliamentary law and the organization's bylaws.

The major duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Report on any recommendations made by the executive board of the organization if such a governing board is defined by the bylaws;
- Maintain the records of the minutes, approved bylaws and any standing committee rules, current membership and committee listing;
- Record all business transacted at each meeting of the organization as well as meetings of any executive board in a prescribed format;
- Maintain records of attendance of each member;
- Conduct and report on all correspondence on behalf of the organization;
- Other specific duties as outlined in the bylaws of the organization.

## **TREASURER**

The treasurer is the authorized custodian of the funds of the organization. The treasurer receives and disburses all monies indicated in the budget and prescribed in the local bylaws or as authorized by action of the organization. All persons authorized to handle funds of the association should be covered by a fidelity bond in an amount based upon the organization's annual income and determined by the local board. Individuals authorized to sign on the organization's bank account cannot be related by blood or marriage or reside in the same household.

The major duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Serve as chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee if prescribed within the bylaws of the organization;
- Present a current financial report to the executive committee and general membership within thirty days of the previous month end;



- Other specific duties as outlined in the bylaws of the organization.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The election of officers of the organization will occur annually within the timelines and manner prescribed by the organization's bylaws. Annual election of officers should take place so that the newly elected officers may be in place for the start of the next school year. The transfer of records and audit of the accounts should be completed no later than April 30th of that year.

## **MEETINGS/RECORD KEEPING/RULES FOR DISSOLUTION**

### **STANDARDS FOR MEETING**

Business will be conducted in open meetings, with adequate notification of all meetings to all members, and summary of proceedings kept. Notice of all general meetings of the booster club/parent organization should be published at the campus prior to the meeting date. In order to provide an optimum level of communication and teamwork, meetings should preferably be held in the presence of the campus principal or his/her designated school sponsor. **If a representative of the school is not present, notification in writing of any official action should be submitted to the school representative the next business day.**

### **RECORD KEEPING**

The secretary and treasurer of the organization shall turn records over to the incoming officers within 30 days of election. Records should be kept for a period of **3 years for audit purposes**. The club/organization should make arrangements with the district or private company for storage of organizations records. It is recommended that a copy of all records be kept in electronic format and stored away from the original records.

### **RULES FOR DISSOLUTION**

To dissolve a booster club/parent organization, a resolution should be adopted by the booster club/parent organization (or the executive board if the organization is inactive) stating that the question of such a dissolution be submitted to a vote at a special meeting of the members having voting rights. At least 30 days prior to the meeting, written or printed notice shall be given to each member entitled to vote stating that the purpose of such meeting is to consider the advisability of dissolving the club/organization. The booster club/parent organization must determine the distribution and usage of treasury monies and other assets in accordance with its bylaws before dissolution. In order to comply with Internal Revenue Service guidelines, care should be taken to ensure that excess funds are distributed within the framework of the club's/organization's original purpose – i.e. band booster funds would remain with the musical program at that particular campus. Any other distribution of funds could void the club's/organization's tax exempt status and force it into a fully taxable situation.

### **LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Booster clubs/Parent organizations may consider the purchase of liability insurance to protect the organization and its members. Coverage to be considered should include general liability, officer's liability, business personal property (if the organization owns property), and fidelity.

## **II. ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES**

### **RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOL BOARD**

- Parent Support Organizations must adhere to various district policies and guidelines as well as federal and state laws and regulatory guidelines. Only approved organizations, operating under the School District policies and procedures shall be allowed to use the school name and/or facilities in support of its programs. Any rules and regulations developed for the organization must conform to the law, the board of education's policies and regulations, and the school site's rules and procedures.
- Fund-raising at any school site is directly under the control of school authorities, such as the site administrator, and must be approved by at least the site administrator prior to any activity.
- If superintendent/board considers it necessary, he or she may revoke the booster club's authorization to conduct activities in the district.

Specific questions regarding booster/parent activity should be addressed to the campus Principal or designee.

### **LAWS**

Booster and Parent Support Organizations must adhere to all federal, state, and local laws and well as state and local administrative policies and procedures. It is the responsibility of the officers to ensure the organization is in compliance with such laws and policies. There are several regulatory agencies that govern these organizations and their operations to include:

- Alabama State Department of Education
- Alabama Ethics Commission- Guidelines for Public Officials and Employees
- Alabama Building Commission
- Alabama Attorney General's Office
- Local Board of Education
- Internal Revenue Service- IRS Publication 557 Tax Exempt Organizations

### **TRAINING**

All officers of the organization should go through an annual orientation with the superintendent/chief school finance officer or their designee on the District's policies and procedures related to the operations of support organizations.

### **CONTRACTS/LOANS**

Boards of Education in Alabama can only incur debt through the issuance of its warrant(s); in most instances under Alabama law, the issuance is subject to the prior approval of the State Superintendent and the warrant(s) must be issued in the form and executed and delivered in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Alabama Code. The local school principal does

not have the authority to sign contracts or notes incurring debt of the school or the district. There is no authorization for Parent Support Organizations to borrow money in the schools or local board's name or obligate future revenues of the organization. Any loan obtained by the organization would be a personal loan by individuals signing the note.

Parent Support Organizations do not have the authority to enter into any type of contract on behalf of the board of education or the authority to enter into any type of contract related to use of board property or equipment.

## **FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES**

All community and school support organization fund-raising efforts shall fall within federal, state, and District guidelines and shall be for the purpose of supporting the school program or group activity for which the organization was formed. All parent support organizations shall obtain the approval of the campus principal for all fundraising events prior to the start of the event. At the end of each fundraiser, a Fundraiser Activity Report must be completed.

*At the completion of the fundraiser a form should be completed and filed that documents the result of the activity.*

## **GAMES OF CHANCE**

There should be no fundraisers that involve a game of chance. Please refer to Attorney General's Opinion 89-00168.

## **SELF –WORK PROJECTS**

Any structure built on board property must follow federal, state and local laws regarding building construction, building codes, and inspections. The Alabama Building Commission is authorized as the state agency for buildings and construction on school campuses. Organizations planning to assist with building projects on the district's campuses must following the following guidelines:

- Any building, building/land improvement on a school district campus should be approved by the board of education
- A board employee should be in charge of the project
- Project must comply with Building Commission requirements
  - Full professional design team required
  - Plan review and approval required
  - Architect required to perform inspections
  - Building Commission will conduct required inspections including Final Inspection
  - Compliance with *Public Works Law* or *Competitive Bid Law* will be applicable in most situations

All projects should follow the same process regardless of funding.

**Note- Consideration should also be given to the annual operating cost associated with any new structures (utilities, insurance, annual maintenance etc.)**

### **III. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS- APPLICATBLE TO ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLS’S BOOKS**

#### **EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN)**

Every organization whose financial operations are outside the control of the school must obtain an EIN, even if it will not have employees. The EIN is a unique number that identifies the organization to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Since parent support organizations are separate entities from the District, they are not allowed to use the District's EIN. An organization is not automatically considered tax-exempt by acquiring an EIN. All organizations must first apply for an EIN to be recognized as a unique entity and then apply for tax-exempt status. Likewise, the mere fact that an entity is organized as a non-profit organization does not indicate that it is exempt from federal tax. Parent support organizations may obtain an EIN by following instructions for Form SS-4 - *Application for Employer Identification Number* found on the IRS website.

#### **501(C) INFORMATION**

Formation of a non-profit corporation does not necessarily entitle the organization to exemption from federal taxes. Organizations should apply for tax-exempt status. In order to be exempt from federal taxes, the parent organization must apply for this status on Form 1023 – *Application for Recognition of Exemption under Section 501(c) 3*. General instructions on the rules and procedures can be found in IRS Publication 557 – *Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization*. These documents are available on the Internal Revenue Service website at (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p557.pdf>).

#### **FIDELITY BOND**

The organization must provide proof of a fidelity bond (dishonesty bond) for the president and treasurer on an annual basis. The bond should also cover any other individual who is an authorized signer on the bank account. The amount of the fidelity bond should be a minimum of the annual gross revenues of the organization with a maximum of twice the annual gross revenues.

#### **ANNUAL AUDIT**

At the end of the fiscal year, an audit of the organization’s financial records should be conducted.

**The school board has the authority to determine who will conduct the audit.**

The audit can be performed by an external auditor or the audit can be performed internally by individuals (internal auditor, CSFO or audit committee) who are independent from the day-to-day financial activities of the organization. The primary objectives of the audit are to:

- Verify the accuracy of the Treasurer’s financial reports;
- Ensure that the club’s cash balances are accurate;

- Determine that established procedures for handling funds have been followed;
- Ensure that expenditures occurred in a manner consistent with the organization's bylaws; and
- Ensure that all revenues have been appropriately received and recorded.

All members of the audit committee shall sign a statement indicating their agreement with the findings detailed in the report. The audit committee shall make a report to the general membership upon completion of the audit. Any discrepancies noted shall be brought to the attention of the president of the organization and school designee and any solutions prior to presentation. All officers of the organization shall make records available as requested by the committee. Sample audit procedures are included in Appendix F of this document however the format of the final report will be determined by the audit committee. Copies of final audit report must be submitted to the CSFO or designee by **May 15<sup>th</sup>** of each year. All records of the organization shall be made available to the district upon request and the district has the authority to conduct internal audits if deemed necessary.

## **FILING REQUIREMENTS**

Each organization should be familiar with all federal, state and local annual filing requirements. Every organization whose financial operations are outside the control of the school/school district must provide the following information

### **• FINANCIAL RECORDS**

The organization shall make its financial records available to the school's auditors and authorized school employees upon request. The organization shall provide required financial reports as set by the school district.

### **• IRS FORM 1099 REQUIREMENTS**

Internal Revenue Service guidelines require that all payments for services in excess of \$600.00 made to an individual by a booster club/parent organization be reported on a form 1099 on an annual basis. The booster club/parent organization must secure an IRS form W-9 from the provider at the time of service to ensure that the organization has an accurate record of the tax payer identification number. The organization must then issue a Form 1099 to all qualifying vendors performed in the calendar year by January 31st. Information can be found on the IRS web site at :<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1099msc>.

**NOTE: All school district employees should be paid through the district's payroll department and not issued a 1099.**

- **ANNUAL 990 INFORMATION RETURN**

In general, exempt organizations are required to file [annual returns](#), although there may be some [exceptions](#). If an organization does not file a required return or files [late](#), the IRS may assess [penalties](#) and/or the organization may be in jeopardy of losing its tax-exempt status. Each organization should be familiar with requirements for filing the annual Form 990 information return with the IRS. Information can be obtained at: [www. http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs- pdf/i990.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i990.pdf)

- **SALES TAX EXEMPTION**

**Parent support organizations are generally not exempt from sales tax.** Organizations are not allowed to use the District's sales tax permit number. Information on sales tax exemptions can be found at the Alabama Department of Revenue website: <http://www.ador.alabama.gov/>

## IV. FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

### GENERAL

The organization should have established financial and audit procedures defined in its bylaws. Support organizations are expected to follow the same financial procedures prescribed for the operations of the local school activities.

- Employees of the Board should not serve in a leadership role or a financial capacity of a booster or parent organization. Financial capacity includes holding positions of president, vice-president, treasurer, fund-raising chairperson.
- At a minimum, the organization's membership must be provided with a financial statement and bank reconciliation at each meeting. The financial statement should provide a comparison of budgeted versus actual expenditures and receipts
- Parent Support Organizations are not allowed to have outside checking accounts. All Support Organizations will deposit funds into the school books. The funds could be public or non-public in nature based on how the funds were raised.
  - Funds are public if (1) they are raised during the school day or on school property, (2) or a school employee is involved with fund raising or maintains the accounting records of the organization.
- All funds remaining in the treasury of a dissolved booster club should revert back to the school's general fund account upon the approval of the Board of Education.
- No checks should be written to employees or employee family members for hours worked by employees outside school hours. All wages paid to employees must be paid in the employees payroll check.
- No expenditures from Organizations or Club funds deposited within the school may be spent without the approval of the Club or Organization. Once an expenditure is approved by the Club or Organization, it shall continue until obligations outlined in the approval are met.

### • PUBLIC VS. NON-PUBLIC FUNDS

Public funds are monies that are generated school-wide, money that can be used for all students, and money that is controlled by the school Principal or any school employee. Examples of public funds are admissions to athletic events, parking at athletic events and concessions sold at any school sponsored activity or athletic event.

Non-public funds are monies that are restricted for expenditures subject to the intent and authorization of the organization's sponsors and officers. This money is generated for a particular group, money that is used for that particular group, and money controlled by the students and/or parent support organization with elected officers.

Public funds cannot be transferred into a non-public account. However, non-public funds may be transferred into a public account.

### **Examples of allowable expenditures from Public Funds:**

- Pre-game meals for athletes and coaches/trainers (not school administration or other school employees)
- Athletic and Band uniforms when the school retains them at the end of the season
- Athletic association dues if paid from the athletic account
- Non-personal items
- Rewards or Awards in the forms of trophies or plaques for significant contributions

### **Examples of allowable expenditures from Non-Public Funds:**

- Athletic banquet and awards
- Personal items that will be kept such as t-shirts, warm-ups
- Championship rings
- Scholarships
- Coaches' apparel
- Gift cards allowed for significant contribution to programs

## **• PURCHASING**

Purchase Orders must be obtained PRIOR to making a purchase.

- We must first confirm that the vendor will accept a purchase order.
- A requisition should be completed with information about the items to be purchased and submitted to the local school bookkeeper 3 days in advance of the desired purchase/order date.
- School bookkeepers must have an officer's signature prior to issuing the purchase order
- The requisition then must be approved by the principal and the bookkeeper must verify that funds are available before a purchase order may be issued.
- Items may subsequently be purchased by the organization and detailed, itemized receipt must be obtained.
- **Verify that no sales tax was charged.**
- The receipt should be signed by the member showing that all items were received in good condition and submitted to the bookkeeper.
- Backorders should be avoided.
- Please be aware that the fiscal year runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please communicate with the school bookkeeper regarding items needed near the end of the fiscal year.

## **• RECEIPTING MONEY**

- Money must be turned in to the office on a daily basis.



- All money collected from students and parents must be receipted in a school issued receipt book and the receipt should be given immediately. Receipts should not be held in the receipt book.
- All money should be deposited in tact with no checks cashed for individuals.
- Money should be taken to the school office by an adult. Policy requests that the person taking the money to the office wait until the money is counted, verified and a receipt received from the bookkeeper.
- Documentation is required from the person holding the funds as to the reason for holding the money and must be signed by both the person delivering the funds and the school principal.
- Voided receipts should be maintained and stapled in the receipt book.
- White-out or correction tape should not be used to make corrections. Simply draw one line through the mistake and initial the correction.
- Missing receipts are viewed as missing money by the auditors. Therefore, documentation in the form of a letter must be written to the principal and signed for any missing receipts.

## ● **FUNDRAISERS**

Prior to beginning a fundraising campaign, the parent support organization must complete a fundraiser application and submit for approval by the campus principal or board designee. This insures the activity is within the District's policy and provides the school with knowledge of the activities on the campus and helps to avoid the duplication of similar fundraising campaigns during the same period. At the completion of the fundraiser a reconciliation form should be completed along with a financial recap to determine the profitability of the fundraiser. The form should calculate the value of items available for sale or number of tickets sold, and compare to deposits and remaining inventory, if any, to ensure agreement. All members must be made aware that no individual should personally benefit from the activities conducted by the organization. Any profits from fund-raising activities that are not spent for a booster club's nonprofit exempt purpose cannot be returned directly to members or their families.

## **Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value:**

- All food sold on campus during the school day should reinforce food choices that promote good health. The USDA Smart Snacks for Schools requirements must be met, along with the policy adopted in 2015 by the State of Alabama School Board.
- The school day is defined as "midnight the night before school begins until 30 minutes after the last bell rings in the afternoon." Therefore all fundraising activities that involve the sale of food to students during those hours must meet State and Federal Requirements. This includes the sale of food to students on campus before school begins and while they await transportation in the afternoon.
- For food items that do meet the criteria, State and Federal requirements further state that no food sales can take place one hour prior to both breakfast and lunch service, and cannot resume less than one hour after the conclusion of meal service.

- According to the Alabama State School Board policy, food items in competition with the CNP scheduled meal times may not be sold or provided free of charge to students.
- A school may sponsor up to and not to exceed 30 exempt fundraisers per year, for no more than one (1) day each in length. Exempt fund raiser foods are prohibited from being sold as a la carte items, in vending machines or in school stores, or before school on school campuses. All requests for exempt fund raisers during the first semester must be submitted for approval by July 1, and requests for exempt fund raisers for the second semester by January 1, according to state policy.
- Events held outside the school day are not affected by these requirements. Boosters, school clubs, etc., Re free to select items for sale for specific fund raising and concession sales as long as the activity does not conflict with this position.

### • **BUDGETARY & OVERSIGHT CONTROLS**

Members should establish and approve a budget at the beginning of the school year. The budget should be filed with the local school once adopted by the organization. Actual receipts and disbursements should periodically be compared to the budget. The Treasurer must provide a monthly written financial report to the Board and/or general membership in agreement with the bylaws which should include the bank account balance and the receipt & disbursement activity since the last meeting. The financial report should also include a comparison of budgeted versus actual receipts and expenditures.

## **IV. ACTIVITIES ON SCHOOL CAMPUS**

- General Guidelines
  - Any activity on a district campus requires approval by the board or it's designee
  - Approval form application should be completed prior to event
  - Proper accounting records should be maintained and all activity should be processed through the local school books.
  - Any payment to school employees must be processed through the district's payroll department
  - Reconciliation of activity should be completed at conclusion of event
  - District may require liability insurance for third parties

Note: Any activities/programs conducted by parent organizations off campus should be approved prior to activity.

## APPENDIX A



Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

Governor Bob Riley  
President

Randy McKinney  
District I  
President Pro Tem

Betty Peters  
District II

Stephanie W. Bell  
District III

Dr. Ethel H. Hall  
District IV  
Vice President  
Emerita

Ella B. Bell  
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STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joseph B. Morton  
State Superintendent  
of Education

November 8, 2007

### MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents  
*Joseph B. Morton*

FROM: Joseph B. Morton  
State Superintendent of Education

RE: *Guidelines for Financial Operations of School-Related Organizations*

For many years schools and school boards have received conflicting guidance about the accounting requirements for school-related organizations. Several agencies have provided partial and often conflicting rulings regarding the required procedures for the operation of school, student, parent, athletic, and other organizations that provide financial support for school activities and functions.

Two years ago we began the process of preparing guidance for financial operations at the local school level. We have circulated draft guidelines through workshops provided by the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS), the Alabama Association of School Office Personnel, and the Alabama Association of School Business Officials. Workshop participants were receptive and appreciative of our efforts to address areas of specific concern to school officials, parents, auditors, and school personnel.

Enclosed please find a document entitled *Guidelines for Financial Operations of School-Related Organizations*. Although not specifically endorsed by the Alabama Council of SACS/CASI and the Alabama PTA, officials at both of these organizations have reviewed this document and have accepted the need to issue these guidelines.

Because school boards may be required to amend or adopt local school board policies, the procedures necessary to implement these guidelines should begin as soon as possible, with a goal of full compliance by July 1, 2008.

If you have questions or concerns about the enclosed guidelines, please contact Dennis Heard at telephone number (334) 242-9747 or by e-mail at [dheard@alsde.edu](mailto:dheard@alsde.edu).

JBW:WCP:DPH  
Enclosure  
FY08-3007

## Guidelines for School-Related Organizations

The majority of public K-12 schools in Alabama operate under the accreditation standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS/CASI). The *Accreditation Standards 2005* published by SACS/CASI includes in *Standard 2 Governance and Leadership 2.4* the following requirement: **In fulfillment of this standard, the leadership of the school...Controls all activities, including extra-curricular, that are sponsored by the school.** This publication also provides in *Standard 6 Financial Resources 6.15* the following requirement: **In fulfillment of this standard, the school...Controls all funds raised in the name of the school....** Interpretations of these standards, primarily *Standard 6.15*, have created conflicting guidance from various sources relating to the accounting requirements for school-related organizations.

In addition to the requirements of SACS/CASI, the Alabama Department of Education must also consider other factors in providing these Guidelines for School-Related Organizations, including:

- *State laws giving the authority to establish financial and administrative requirements for local schools to the:*
  - *State Superintendent of Education.*
  - *State Board of Education.*
  - *Local Boards of Education.*
  - *Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.*
- *Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).*
  - *Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.*
  - *GASB Statement No. 14 – The Fiscal Reporting Entity.*
  - *GASB Statement No. 39 – Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units.*
- *Federal legislation.*
  - *Internal Revenue Service.*
  - *Congressionally Chartered Organizations.*

The determination that a particular club or organization is a school activity must be made on a case-by-case basis according to the actual facts and circumstances of the club or organization's operations at a school. The fact that an organization would not exist without the school it supports has no bearing on determining that the organization is a school activity. However, the purpose of these Guidelines for School-Related Organizations is to assist these organizations, school officials, school bookkeepers, auditors, and other agencies in determining the proper accounting for school-related organizations.

### **Student Organizations**

Student clubs and classes are usually recognized as school activities. The student officers and faculty sponsor operate the organization while the school principal acts in a fiduciary capacity over the organization's funds. The school's accounting records contain a separate account to record the financial operations of each student organization. Income from the student organization is recorded by receipts and deposited in the school bank account. The school principal approves the purchase orders, signs the checks, and maintains the supporting documents for the expenditures.

Some organizations consisting of students from the school may not be school activities. Some students belong to social organizations that operate off-campus. Community recreation leagues may consist solely of the school's students and operate under other entities that are not under the control of the school. Although the activities of these organizations may benefit the school's students, these organizations have a separate employer identification number (EIN), a separate mailing address, and maintain their own records and accounts.

### **Athletics**

School athletics are extra-curricular activities that must be under the control of the school principal. Coaches and other school employees cannot maintain a separate bank account that supports, or benefits from, a school extra-curricular activity. Funds received to support an athletic activity at a school from sponsors, vendors, or other sources must be included in the school's financial records under the fiduciary control of the school principal. Funds from gate receipts and other sources may be recorded in one or more separate accounts for a particular sport in the school's financial records. However, a separate account for each sport is not required. When athletic events are held on locations other than school property, the school principal's control over the financial operations of the event, including ticket sales, concessions, and parking fees, will be determined by agreement with the entity in control of the event location.

### **Parent Organizations**

Parent and parent/teacher organizations provide a vital role in the education of students. In Alabama public schools, the PTA and the PTO are the most common parent organizations. Both organizations have a national organization that serves the individual school organizations. Each of the national organizations publishes guidance for the financial operations of the individual school organizations. These organizations must have a separate employer identification number (EIN) and a separate mailing address in order to maintain their own records and accounts outside the control of the school. However, these organizations will become school activities if:

- a) *Both parties mutually assent to the fiduciary control of the principal, or,*
- b) *A school employee leads fund-raising or maintains the accounting records for the organization.*

### **Booster Organizations**

All school sponsored extra-curricular activities must be under the control of the school. However, booster organizations are often formed to support the operations of these activities in a variety of ways. While providing additional financial support for a particular extra-curricular activity, the volunteers in the booster organizations also enhance community support that often extends to benefit all of the students at a school. Because some of the activities of a booster organization may be intertwined with the extra-curricular activity it supports, some of the organization's activities may be under the fiduciary control of the school principal while other functions of the same booster organization are not school activities. The determination that a particular booster organization is a school activity must be made on a case-by-case basis according to the actual facts and circumstances of the organization's operations at a school. These organizations must have a separate employer identification number (EIN) and a separate mailing address in order to maintain their own records and accounts outside the control of the school. However, these organizations will become school activities if:

- a) Both parties mutually assent to the fiduciary control of the principal,*
- b) A school employee, who is associated with the activity supported by the booster organization, serves/holds a leadership position in the organization, or,*
- c) A school employee leads fund-raising or maintains the accounting records for the organization.*

Specific activities of a booster organization may come under the control of a school principal if:

- a) The organization collects admission to the school function,*
- b) The organization operates a concession operation on school property at the school function,*
- c) The organization collects parking fees for the school function,*
- d) The organization operates a training camp that includes students of the activity it supports, or,*
- e) The organization operates an exhibition or competition that includes students of the activity it supports.*

### **Specific Requirements**

Parent organizations and booster organizations that maintain financial operations outside the control of the school could create a negative image for the school by failing to maintain proper accounting controls. Accountability for the funds these organizations control includes an agreement that:

- a) The organization has obtained an employer identification number from the IRS.*
- b) The organization provides a report of the annual audit of the organization to the school.*
- c) The organization makes its financial records available to the school's auditors and authorized school employees upon request.*
- d) The organization provides required financial reports.*
- e) The organization provides proof of a fidelity bond for the treasurer.*
- f) The organization will not provide any payment or benefit to a school employee (or family member of a school employee) in violation of the State Ethics Law.*

## APPENDIX B

# Booster Clubs & School Support Organizations Registration & Approval Form

**To:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal or Administrator Name) (School or Department Name)

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Group to be supported: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Sponsor for Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Number of Parent Supporters: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree with the following statements:

- I have spoken with the faculty member who will serve as the sponsor of the support organization and have received their permission to submit this registration form.
- I have read the Booster Clubs and School Support Organizations Guidelines thoroughly and agree to abide by the rules and guidelines it contains.
- I understand that noncompliance with any District policy or criteria may result in the disbanding of the support organization by the principal or the administrator.

**Submitted by:**

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Representative) Date (Sponsor) Date

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**For District Use Only**

**Received by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **APPROVAL of Support Organization:**  
☐ **DISAPPROVAL of Support Organization**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator Signature Date

## APPENDIX C

### Booster Clubs & School Support Organizations Officer Information

Submit officer information to your supporting campus/department immediately following your organization's election. Annual elections must take place prior to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Information should be submitted even if officers have not changed from the previous year. Any changes that occur during the year prior to the next election should be reported utilizing this form. A copy of this form should also be maintained by the organization. **A copy of the organizations fidelity bond should be submitted with this form.**

School year: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus/Department supported: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

EIN# \_\_\_\_\_

#### **President**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (First **AND** Last name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address **OR** PO Box, City, State **AND** Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number(s) Email address

#### **Vice President**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (First **AND** Last name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address **OR** PO Box, City, State **AND** Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number(s) Email address

#### **Treasurer**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (First **AND** Last name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address **OR** PO Box, City, State **AND** Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number(s) Email address

#### **Secretary**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (First **AND** Last name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address **OR** PO Box, City, State **AND** Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number(s) Email address



**APPENDIX D**

**Booster Clubs & School Support Organizations  
Fundraising Application**

Name of organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus/Activity supported: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of event, activity, product sale or service: \_\_\_\_\_

Date beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ending: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of event, activity, product sale or service: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific purpose(s) for which the net proceeds are to be used: \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Event coordinator name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of item for sale \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Cost of items \_\_\_\_\_ Sales Price of items \_\_\_\_\_

Description of other costs relates to fundraiser \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated profit from fund-raiser \_\_\_\_\_

I request permission to conduct a fundraising activity. I will be responsible for the accountability of all monies collected and I will follow the organization's bylaws and Chilton County BOE guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coordinator's signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Principal/Designee's signature

Date

**TO BE COMPLETED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FUND-RAISER:**

Receipts from Sale \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fund-raiser Expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Profit \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX E

### CONTACT LIST

In addition to the local school principal, other helpful contacts/links are provided below:

#### **Superintendent**

**General and Financial Issues- Chief School Financial Officer**

**Facility Issues-Director of Maintenance**

**Instructional Issues- Director of Instruction**

**Alabama Department of Education**

**<http://www.alsde.edu>**

**Alabama Building Commission**

**<http://www.bc.alabama.gov/>**

**Alabama Ethics Commission**

**[info@ethics.alabama.gov](mailto:info@ethics.alabama.gov)**

**Alabama Attorney General's Office**

**<http://www.ago.state.al.us/>**

**Internal Revenue Service**

**[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)**

**National PTA**

**<http://www.pta.org/>**

**Alabama PTA**

**<http://www.alabamapta.org/>**

**National PTO**

**<http://www.pto.org/>**

**Parent Boosters USA**

**<http://parentbooster.org/>**

**Tax-Exempt Organizations**  
**Profits)**

**[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) (select Charities & Non-**

**Tax Forms and Publications**  
**Publications)**

**[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) (select Forms &**

## **APPENDIX F**

# **PARENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION SAMPLE AUDIT PROGRAM**

### **Audit Procedures:**

#### **BANK STATEMENTS**

- Determine whether a procedure is in place for a club member, other than those that have check signing ability, to receive bank statements by mail and review for reasonableness.
- Determine whether any cash corrections were identified on bank statements. Ensure that reasonable explanations are available.
- Compare the number of cleared checks included in the bank statement with the number that is noted on the bank statement to ensure agreement.
- Ensure that cleared checks contain signatures of individuals authorized to sign checks.
- Ideally, bank accounts should be established to require two signatures.

#### **BANK RECONCILIATIONS**

- Trace ending balances on the reconciliations to bank statements, outstanding check lists, and other reconciling items.
- Verify that bank reconciliations were completed within 30 days of bank statement ending date.
- Ensure that any outstanding or reconciling items on the reconciliations were cleared the following month.
- Verify that the balance in the bank account (at beginning of school year), plus total deposits per check register, minus total disbursements per check register, balances to ending bank account balance (at end of school year).

#### **RECEIPTS**

- From the receipt book/log or other accounting records select a representative sample to test (Use of spreadsheets is helpful).

- Trace deposits to collection documentation/cash receipts for agreement.
- Trace deposits to bank statements to ensure agreement.
- Ensure that receipts are presented for deposit in a timely manner by reviewing the dates of cash receipts with the date of deposit on the bank statement.

## **DISBURSEMENTS**

- From the check register or other accounting records, select a representative sample of checks, withdrawals, and other debit (use of spreadsheets is helpful). If volume is significant, consider selecting only a representative sample.
- Trace checks to supporting documentation such as invoices, receipts, approved expenses related to fundraisers, or any other documentation.
- Review the canceled check to ensure agreement of payee name, endorsement, and check amount. Review for checks made out to cash or officer of organization.
- Trace disbursements to budget approved by the membership or meeting minutes.
- For bank withdrawals for the purpose of establishing a change fund for an event, confirm that the change fund was later re-deposited.
- Confirm no school district employees have been paid through the organization.
- 1099 is issued for all individuals and applicable businesses.

## **FUNDRAISERS**

- Evaluate each fundraiser individually by calculating the value of items available for sale or number of tickets sold comparing to deposits and remaining inventory, if any, to ensure agreement.
- Determine whether fundraiser applications were prepared and submitted to the campus principal for each fundraiser.
- Review fundraiser reconciliation form for accuracy.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Inventory remaining check stock to confirm that all checks are present and sequential.
- Ensure that the check number for the last check issued and first check available in check stock are sequential.

- Confirm that check stock is retained in a secure place when not in use.
- Determine whether any checks were voided during the course of the year. Ensure that any voided checks are retained in the records and have been sufficiently modified to eliminate the possibility of clearing the bank (i.e. signature portion has been cut out of the check and VOID has been written across the check).
- Ensure that sales tax reports were prepared and filed timely.
- Ensure that an IRS Form 990 was filed and review for reasonableness.

## **ESSENTIAL INTERNAL CONTROL PROCEDURES FOR SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS**

- Money should never be kept at a treasurer's home.
- Two people should always count the money, and both should sign the receipt verifying the amount.
- Two signatures should be required on all checks.
- Have a member who does not have check signing authority review the bank statement monthly before giving it to the treasurer. This person is looking for red flags including: checks showing up in non-sequential order, checks made out to cash, cash withdrawals, checks written out to non-approved vendors, checks written for non-approved expenses, and checks written out to individuals.
- Never sign a blank check or a check made out to "cash."
- Money should be deposited into the organization's bank account daily or according to the districts procedures even if a project is ongoing.
- All bills must be paid by check, never cash.
- Conduct an annual audit of the books.