

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

CE  
(LOCAL)

FISCAL YEAR           The District shall operate on a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

BUDGET  
PLANNING           Budget planning shall be an integral part of overall program planning so that the budget effectively reflects the District's programs and activities and provides the resources to implement them. In the budget planning process, general educational goals, specific program goals, and alternatives for achieving program goals shall be considered, as well as input from the District- and campus-level planning and decision-making committees. Budget planning and evaluation are continuous processes and shall be a part of each month's activities.

AVAILABILITY OF  
PROPOSED  
BUDGET           After it is presented to the Board and prior to adoption, a copy of the proposed budget shall be available upon request from the business office or Superintendent. The Superintendent or designee shall be available to answer questions arising from inspection of the budget.

BUDGET MEETING    The annual public meeting to discuss the proposed budget and tax rate shall be conducted as follows:

1.   The Board President shall request at the beginning of the meeting that all persons who desire to speak on the proposed budget and/or tax rate sign up on the sheet provided.
2.   Prior to the beginning of the meeting, the Board may establish time limits for speakers.
3.   Speakers shall confine their remarks to the appropriation of funds as contained in the proposed budget and/or the tax rate.
4.   No officer or employee of the District shall be required to respond to questions from speakers at the meeting.

AUTHORIZED  
EXPENDITURES    The adopted budget provides authority to expend funds for the purposes indicated and in accordance with state law, Board policy, and the District's approved purchasing procedures. The expenditure of funds shall be under the direction of the Superintendent or designee who shall ensure that funds are expended in accordance with the adopted budget.

BUDGET  
AMENDMENTS      The budget shall be amended when a change is made increasing any one of the functional spending categories or increasing revenue object accounts and other resources.

FUND BALANCE           A financial goal of the District shall be to have a sufficient balance in the operating fund to be able to maintain fiscal independence in case

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of a financial need or crisis. The District shall strive to maintain a total general operating fund balance of (i) the District's "Optimum Fund Balance" as calculated pursuant to the guidelines established by the Texas Education Agency or (ii) 25 percent of the District's total general operating fund expenditures. In addition, the District's unreserved/undesignated general operating fund balance shall equal at least 15 percent of the District's total general operating fund expenditures.