

## *Document Status: Review and Monitoring*

### **OPERATIONAL SERVICES**

#### **4:55 Use of Credit and Procurement Cards**

The Superintendent and employees designated by the Superintendent are authorized to use District credit and procurement cards to simplify the acquisition, receipt, and payment of purchases and travel expenses incurred on the District's behalf. Credit and procurement cards shall only be used for those expenses that are for the District's benefit and serve a valid and proper public purpose; they shall not be used for personal purchases. Cardholders are responsible for exercising due care and judgment and for acting in the District's best interests. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Authorized user:

- A. General supplies and equipment
- B. Travel and meeting/conference expenses
- C. Capital purchases less than \$3,000 as approved by Superintendent or designee

The Superintendent or designee shall manage the use of District credit and procurement cards by employees. It is the Board's responsibility, through the audit and approval process, to determine whether District credit and procurement card use by the Superintendent is appropriate.

In addition to the other limitations contained in this and other Board policies, District credit and procurement cards are governed by the following restrictions:

1. Credit and/or procurement cards may only be used to pay certain job-related expenses or to make purchases on behalf of the Board or District or any student activity fund, or for purposes that would otherwise be addressed through a conventional revolving fund.
2. The Superintendent or designee shall instruct the issuing bank to block the cards' use at unapproved merchants.
3. Each cardholder, other than the Superintendent or designee, may charge

no more than \$15,000 in a single purchase and no more than their specified limit within a given month without prior authorization from the Superintendent.

4. The Superintendent or designee must approve the use of a District credit or procurement card whenever such use is by telephone, fax, and the Internet. Permission shall be withheld when the use violates any Board policy, is from a vendor whose reputation has not been verified, or would be more expensive than if another available payment method were used.
5. The consequences for unauthorized purchases include, but are not limited to, reimbursing the District for the purchase amount, loss of cardholding privileges, and, if made by an employee, discipline up to and including discharge.
6. All cardholders must sign a statement affirming that they are familiar with this policy.
7. The Superintendent shall implement a process whereby all purchases using a District credit or procurement card are reviewed and approved by someone other than the cardholder or someone under the cardholder's supervision.
8. Cardholders must submit the original, itemized receipt to document all purchases and failure to provide original, itemized receipts may lead to loss of card holder privileges.
9. No individual may use a District credit or procurement card to make purchases in a manner contrary to State law, including, but not limited to, the bidding and other purchasing requirements in [105 ILCS 5/10-20.21](#), or any Board policy.
10. The Superintendent or designee shall account for any financial or material reward or rebate offered by the company or institution issuing the District credit or procurement card and shall ensure that it is used for the District's benefit.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative guidelines (Purchasing Card Program Cardholder Manual) that specify those authorized to use purchasing cards, the types of expenses which may be paid by purchasing card, and their proper supervision and use, including individual monthly limits not to exceed \$15,000. The Assistant Superintendent of Business Services shall maintain a list of all purchasing cards owned by the District that includes the name of each employee or officer who has been issued a purchasing card, the purchasing limit, date issues and date returned.

An official or employee who is issued a purchasing card is responsible for its

protection and custody. If a purchasing card is lost or stolen, the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services shall be notified. The company or institution issuing the lost or stolen purchasing card shall be immediately notified to cancel the card.

Upon termination of employment or service with the District, any officer or employee issued a purchasing or procurement card must return it to the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/10-20.21.](#)

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70\(d\).](#)

CROSS REF.: 4:50 (Payment Procedures), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:80 (Accounting and Audits), 4:90 (Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds), 5:60 (Reimbursement Expenses)

ADOPTED: April 22, 2019

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy is suggested to be reviewed by the Board. According to policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, "[t]he Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required." IASB suggests that each policy in the Board's policy manual be reviewed at a minimum of every five years. As part of the review, the Board may choose to:

- Compare the adopted version to the current PRESS sample (available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com)), discussing any differences and/or options noted in the footnotes to determine whether local changes are necessary
- Update the policy language due to changes in local conditions
- Make no changes, but update the adoption date to reflect that the policy has been reviewed and re-adopted

**Issue 110, October 2022**