



Board Policy Equity Lens Tool

Title of board policy being reviewed:

DG-Depository of Funds

Describe the purpose of this policy:

The purpose of this policy is to establish the Board's responsibility to designate an appropriate depository for MESD funds. It supports responsible fiscal management, security of public funds, and compliance with applicable financial requirements.

What is your experience with this policy:

This is a very limited policy that primarily establishes where responsibility for admissions resides. From an equity perspective, its effectiveness depends heavily on the policies and practices of MESD's component districts. Regular review of referral and enrollment patterns across districts would be particularly important for determining whether students have equitable access to MESD programs.

What is the plan to communicate this policy to staff, students, and/or families? What is the plan to communicate this policy to linguistically diverse students and their families?

This policy and a summary of this policy will be available on the MESD web page. The summary of this policy is also available on the MESD website in Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese and, upon request, the summary and/or policy may be translated into other languages.

Is this policy:

Easy to locate for staff?

This policy and a summary of this policy will be available on the MESD web page. The summary of this policy is also available on the MESD website in Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese and, upon request, the summary and/or policy may be translated into other languages.

Accessible to students and families?

This policy and a summary of this policy will be available on the MESD web page. The summary of this policy is also available on the MESD website in Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese and, upon request, the summary and/or policy may be translated into other languages.

Included in onboarding, intake, or other training?

This policy will be available in the Board's online handbook. The policy will also be posted on the district website for easy access.

Clear and easy to understand?

Yes. The policy is very clear and concise. It assigns responsibility to the Board for designating where MESD funds will be deposited.

People

How are people affected positively or negatively by the policy? What potential barriers might people encounter? What barriers might be reduced by this policy?

The policy does not directly affect students, families, or staff. Its primary impact is organizational and financial. Properly safeguarding MESD funds supports financial stability and helps ensure resources remain available for programs and services.

No significant equity barriers are created or directly reduced by the policy itself.

Can you identify the racial or ethnic groups affected by this policy, program, practice, or decision? Do you know the potential impacts to these populations? If you don't know, how will you find out?

The policy does not identify or directly affect any particular racial or ethnic group. Based on the policy language alone, there is no apparent disparate impact on a specific population.

Indirectly, responsible stewardship of MESD funds benefits all communities served by MESD.

Were these populations involved in any way, at any point in the development, implementation, and evaluation of this policy? If so, when and how?

The policy does not indicate that students, families, staff, or community members were involved in its development. Given that the policy addresses a statutory fiscal responsibility of the Board, direct community involvement may be limited.

What priorities and commitments are communicated by this policy?

The policy communicates a commitment to fiscal responsibility, accountability, and appropriate stewardship of public funds. Its legal references and cross-references connect this responsibility to MESD's broader financial management, investment, accounting, and auditing practices.

Place

What kind of positive or negative environment are we creating?

What are the barriers to more equitable outcomes? (e.g. mandated, political, emotional, financial, programmatic or managerial)

The policy contributes to an environment of financial accountability and responsible stewardship.

There are no significant equity barriers evident in the policy itself. Any equity implications would more likely arise from broader decisions about budgeting and allocation of MESD resources rather than the designation of a depository.

Power

How is the power of decision-making shared with those it affects?

How have you intentionally involved the communities affected by this policy, program, practice, or decision?

Decision-making authority is placed with the Board, which is appropriate for the fiscal governance responsibility addressed by this policy. The policy does not establish a community or stakeholder role in selecting a depository.

Because this is primarily an administrative and fiduciary decision, there is limited direct opportunity for power-sharing within the scope of this policy.

Process

Does the policy, program, or decision improve, worsen, or make no change to existing disparities?

Does it create other unintended consequences?

The policy appears to make no direct change to existing disparities. It is primarily a fiscal governance requirement and does not establish programs, services, eligibility criteria, or resource allocations that directly affect different student populations.

No significant unintended equity consequences are evident from the policy language.

Plan

How will you reduce the negative impacts and address the barriers?

No significant negative equity impacts or barriers are apparent. Continued compliance with financial controls, accounting requirements, investment policies, and auditing practices can ensure MESD funds remain secure and available to support the organization's programs and services. Communication or access barriers are affecting particular student populations.