

Fiscal Year

The District shall operate on a fiscal year beginning September 1 and ending August 31.

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.

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 Board shall amend the budget 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 shall be to have sufficient fund balance in the general operating fund to be able to maintain fiscal independence of the District in case of a financial need or crisis. It is essential that the District maintain an adequate level of fund balance to mitigate financial risk that can occur from revenue fluctuations, unforeseen expenditures, and student growth and that provides cash flow liquidity for the District's general operations. The District shall maintain a total general operating fund balance of at least 25 percent of the total annual general operating fund expenditures.

The total general operating fund balance shall encompass the nonspendable fund balance, the restricted fund balance, the committed fund balance, the assigned fund balance, and the unassigned fund balance.

Projected compliance **with the minimum requirements of this policy** shall be considered annually during the budget adoption process.

~~The chief financial officer shall annually prepare a report of the general operating fund balance not later than 90 calendar days following Board acceptance of the annual independent financial audit to address compliance with the minimum requirements of this policy.~~