

Determination of Budget Priorities

All resources of the district shall be directed toward ensuring that all students reach their learning potential, including that they meet or exceed the district's academic standards.

In order to fulfill its trustee obligation with regard to district resources, the Board must know how resources are currently allocated, whether such allocation is effective and what changes should be made to achieve the greatest educational returns. The superintendent shall develop a comprehensive and ongoing system to collect and analyze resource allocation information. The analysis of this information shall form the basis for the budget prepared by the superintendent for presentation to the Board. The system shall:

1. determine how resources are currently allocated by school, grade and program
2. link specific inputs with results for students and determine whether the current allocation of resources is effective in raising student achievement
3. identify ways to better use resources to achieve the district's educational objectives and improve teaching and learning

As part of the budget preparation process, the finance and audit committee (FAC) shall provide input on priorities to the superintendent and the Board. In addition, each school-level accountability committee shall make recommendations to the administration relative to priorities for expenditures of district funds by the school. The superintendent shall consider these recommendations when formulating budget requests to be presented to the Board of Education. A copy of the school-level accountability committee recommendations shall be sent to the district accountability committee.

The district accountability committee shall make recommendations relative to priorities for expenditures of district funds and provide a copy of the recommendations to the superintendent. The superintendent shall consider the district accountability committee recommendations when preparing the budget to be presented to the Board.

Accordingly, the budget prepared and presented by the superintendent shall:

1. be derived from a five-year plan
2. be based upon conservative budget assumptions
3. be in a summary format understandable by a lay person
4. itemize district expenditures by fund
5. adequately describe proposed expenditures
6. contain enough information to enable credible projection of revenue and expenses
7. disclose budget planning assumptions

8. not excessively rely on nonrecurring revenues
9. not provide for expenditures, interfund transfers or reserves in excess of available revenues and beginning fund balances
10. not include the use of beginning fund balance unless the Board has adopted a resolution as described in state law specifically authorizing such use
11. not reduce without approval of the Board, the current cash reserves at any time to less than the minimum amount required by the spending limitations set forth in the state constitution
12. provide adequate and reasonable budget support for Board development and other governance priorities, including the costs of fiscal audits, Board and committee meetings, Board memberships and district legal fees
13. take into consideration fiscal soundness in future years and plans for the building of organizational capabilities sufficient to achieve the Board's goals in future years
14. reflect anticipated changes in employee compensation including inflationary adjustments, step increases, performance increases and benefits
15. achieve the operating reserve as established annually by the Board
16. comply with state and federal law
17. consider resources to address the district's facility needs.

Adopted: December 14, 1994
Revised: February 25, 2004
Revised: February 10, 2010
Revised: October 28, 2015

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-11-302 (1)(a) (district accountability committee budget recommendations)
C.R.S. 22-11-402 (1)(a) (school-level accountability committee budget recommendations)
C.R.S. 22-44-105 (1.5) (budget parameters regarding expenses not exceeding revenue and use of beginning fund balance)

CROSS REF.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment