

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Governing Board is committed to ensuring public accountability and the fiscal health of the district. The Board shall adopt sound fiscal management policies and practices, oversee the district's financial condition, and continually evaluate whether the district's budget and financial operations support the district's goals for student achievement.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that district financial reports are prepared in accordance with law and in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and financial reporting standards stipulated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board and the California Department of Education (CDE). The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system of ongoing internal controls to ensure the reliability of financial reporting.

When required by law or the Board, the Superintendent or designee shall submit to the Board reports of the district's financial status, including, but not limited to, any report specified in this Board policy or accompanying administrative regulation. When submission of any such report to a local, state, and/or federal agency requires prior Board approval, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the report to the Board in sufficient time to enable the Board to carefully review the report without breaking any applicable submission deadline.

The Board shall regularly assess the district's financial position and communicate the results to the public, and shall use financial reports to determine the actions and budget amendments, if any, that are needed to ensure the district's financial stability. If district conditions predict fiscal distress or indicate that the district might not be able to meet its fiscal obligations, the Board and Superintendent or designee shall take action to resolve these conditions without delay. The Board shall work cooperatively with the County Superintendent of Schools to improve the district's fiscal health and may contract with an external individual or organization to provide the district with needed advice or fiscal management or training.

Unaudited Actual Receipts and Expenditures

On or before September 15, the Board shall approve and file with the County Superintendent a statement of the district's unaudited actual receipts and expenditures for the preceding fiscal year. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare this statement using the state's standardized account code structure (SACS) as prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI). (Education Code 42100)

Gann Appropriations Limit Resolution

On or before September 15, the Board shall, at a regular or special meeting, adopt a resolution identifying, pursuant to Government Code 7900-7914, the district's estimated appropriations limit for the current fiscal year and the actual appropriations limit for the preceding fiscal year. Documentation used to identify these limits shall be made available to the public on the day of the Board meeting. (Education Code 42132; Government Code 7910)

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Interim Reports/Certification of Ability to Meet Fiscal Obligations

Each fiscal year, the Superintendent or designee shall submit two interim reports to the Board. The first report shall cover the district's financial and budgetary status for the period ending October 31 and the second report shall cover the period ending January 31. These reports and supporting data shall be made available by the district for public review. (Education Code 42130)

Within 45 days after the close of the period reported, the Board shall approve the interim report and, on the basis of the interim report and any additional financial information known by the Board, shall certify in writing whether the district will be able to meet its fiscal obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year and, based on current forecasts, for the two subsequent fiscal years. The certification shall be classified as one of the following: (Education Code 42130, 42131)

1. "Positive certification" indicating that the district will meet its financial obligations for the current fiscal year and two subsequent fiscal years
2. "Qualified certification" indicating that the district may not meet its financial obligations for the current fiscal year or two subsequent fiscal years
3. "Negative certification" indicating that the district will be unable to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year or the subsequent fiscal year

The Superintendent or designee shall submit a copy of each interim report and certification to the County Superintendent using the state's SACS software, as prescribed by the SPI. (Education Code 42130, 42131)

If the district's certification is subsequently changed by the County Superintendent from a positive to a qualified or negative certification, or from a qualified to a negative certification, the Board may appeal the decision to the SPI within five days of receiving the notice of change. (Education Code 42131)

Whenever the district receives a qualified or negative certification from the Board or the County Superintendent, the Superintendent or designee shall cooperate in the implementation of any remedial actions taken or prescribed by the County Superintendent. (Education Code 42131)

If the second interim report is accompanied by a qualified or negative certification, the Board shall, no later than June 1, provide to the County Superintendent, the State Controller, and the SPI a financial statement as of April 30 ("third interim report") that projects the district's fund and cash balances through June 30. (Education Code 42131)

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If at any time during the fiscal year, the County Superintendent concludes that the district's budget does not comply with the standards and criteria for financial stability and conducts a comprehensive review of the district's financial and budgetary conditions, the Board shall review any report of the County Superintendent's findings and recommendations at a public Board meeting. Within 15 days of receiving the report, the district shall notify the County Superintendent and the SPI of the Board's proposed actions on the recommendation. (Education Code 42637)

Audit Report

By April 1 of each year, the Board shall provide for an annual audit of the district's books and accounts. (Education Code 41020)

To conduct the audit, the Board shall select a certified public accountant or public accountant licensed by the State Board of Accountancy from among those deemed qualified by the State Controller. (Education Code 41020, 41020.5)

Except when, as determined by the Education Audits Appeal Panel, no otherwise eligible auditor is available, a public accounting firm whose lead or coordinating audit partner having primary responsibility for the audit or whose audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit has performed audit services for the district in each of the six previous fiscal years shall not be selected to perform a district audit. (Education Code 41020)

No later than December 15, the report of the audit for the preceding fiscal year shall be filed with the County Superintendent, the CDE, and the State Controller. (Education Code 41020)

Prior to December 15 whenever possible, but in no case later than January 31, the Board shall review, at an open meeting, the annual district audit for the prior year, any audit exceptions identified in that audit, the recommendations or findings of any management letter issued by the auditor, and any description of correction or plans to correct any exceptions or any issue raised in a management letter. (Education Code 41020.3)

The Board shall have an opportunity at the meeting to ask questions of the auditor and request further information about the audit findings.

Audit Committee

The Board may appoint an audit committee composed of staff knowledgeable about fiscal matters, other staff, and representatives of the community.

The committee shall serve in an advisory capacity and may:

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1. Make recommendations regarding the selection of the external independent auditor in accordance with Education Code 41020 and 41020.5
2. Review the plan for the audit process with the independent auditor to determine the adequacy of the nature, scope, and timetable of the audit
3. Review the results of the audit and participate with the independent auditor and management in preparing final recommendations and responses
4. Participate with the independent auditor in presenting the audit report to the Board
5. Review Board policies and administrative regulations to recommend any revisions needed to ensure effective financial reporting
6. Provide input on the effectiveness of the independent auditor
7. Periodically report to the Board regarding the status of previous audit recommendations for improving the accounting and internal control systems

State

2 CCR 1859.104: Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Program; reporting requirements
5 CCR 15060: Standardized account code structure
5 CCR 15070: Submission of reports using standardized account code structure
5 CCR 15440-15451: Criteria and standards for school district budgets
5 CCR 15453-15464: Criteria and standards for school district interim reports
5 CCR 19810-19816.1: Audits
Ed. Code 1240: County superintendent of schools; duties
Ed. Code 14500-14508: Financial and compliance audits
Ed. Code 17070.10-17079.30: Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act
Ed. Code 17150-17150.1: Public disclosure of non-voter-approved debt
Ed. Code 17170-17199.5: California School Finance Authority
Ed. Code 33127: Standards and criteria for local budgets and expenditures
Ed. Code 33128: Standards and criteria; inclusions
Ed. Code 33129: Standards and criteria; use by local agencies
Ed. Code 41010-41024: Accounting system and audits
Ed. Code 41326: Emergency apportionment
Ed. Code 41344: Repayment of apportionment significant audit exceptions
Ed. Code 41344.1: Appeals of audit findings
Ed. Code 41455: Examination of financial problems of local districts
Ed. Code 42100-42105: Requirement to prepare and file annual statement
Ed. Code 42120-42129: Budget requirements
Ed. Code 42130-42134: Financial reports and certifications
Ed. Code 42140-42142: Public disclosure of fiscal obligations
Ed. Code 42637: County superintendent review of district's financial and budgetary conditions
Ed. Code 42652: Revocation or suspension of warrant authority
Ed. Code 48300-48316: Student attendance alternatives; school district of choice program
Ed. Code 52060-52077: Local control and accountability plan
Gov. Code 16429.1: Local agency investment fund

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Gov. Code 3540.2: Meeting and negotiating in public educational employment

Gov. Code 53646: Treasurer reports and statements of investment policy

Gov. Code 7900-7914: Appropriations limit

Federal

2 CFR 200.0-200.521: Federal uniform grant guidance

31 USC 7501-7507: Single audits of federal program funds

Management Resources

California Department of Education Communication: New Financial Reporting Requirements for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions, February 26, 2007

California Department of Education Communication: Audit Resolution Process: Repayment Plans, December 8, 2000

Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team Pub.: Indicators of Risk or Potential Insolvency For K-12 Local Education Agencies

Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team Pub.: Fiscal Oversight Guide for AB 1200, AB 2756, AB 1840 and Related Legislation, September 2021

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement: Statement 87, Leases, June 2017

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement: Statement 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, March 2009

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement: Statement 75, Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Post-employment Benefits Other Than Pensions, June 2015

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement: Statement 34, Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis - For State and Local Governments, June 1999

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement: Statement 75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Post-employment Benefits Other Than Pensions, June 2015

State Controller Publication: Standards and Procedures for Audits of California K-12 Local Educational Agencies

U.S. Gov. Accountability Office & PCIE Publication: Financial Audit Manual, revised 2008

U.S. Gov. Accountability Office & PCIE Publication: Government Auditing Standards, 2011

Website: CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

Website: Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Website: California State Controller

Website: U.S. Government Accountability Office

Website: California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

Website: California Department of Education, Finance and Grants

Website: Education Audit Appeals Panel

Website: Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team

Website: CSBA

Website: California Association of School Business Officials

Website: Office of Management and Budget

Website: School Services of California, Inc.

Policy Adopted: 3/8/2022

ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Orcutt, California