



## General Fundraising April 2, 2024

Most schools will engage in fundraising of different types and for different purposes in any given school year. The most common types of fundraising would fall under the following broad categories:

1. Fundraising activities supporting a specific event/opportunity where funds are credited to a specific student's 'account'. Common examples would include overnight extra-curricular field trip or grad celebration expenses. These fundraising activities are typically optional, and families would pay the amount for the opportunity less any fundraising.
2. Fundraising activities supporting a specific event/opportunity where funds are divided equally between students participating or donated to an outside charitable organization. Common examples would include extra-curricular field trips, extra tournaments (and related expenses) for sports teams, or charitable donations. When students are benefiting from the fundraising student participation is often encouraged but should remain optional.
3. Fundraising activities supporting an opportunity where funds are held by the school until they are needed. Common examples would include fundraising for a new play structure or having extra funds available to support field trips or student activities when needed.

General fundraising would be consistent with #3 above. Schools who are raising funds, with a defined purpose, but potentially without a defined timeline or specific expense. The funds are held in a school's School Funds account and then dispersed at the discretion of the principal, consistent with the originally identified purpose. General fundraising opportunities can be quite diverse in their scope and magnitude. They can be as simple as a silver collection at a school concert or a school-wide chocolate sale.

Fundraising of any type has the potential to place financial or participation pressures on families. These pressures should be avoided. However, it should also be noted that many families and community members are happy to financially support educational opportunities, both curricular and extra-curricular, for their own and other children.

### **Recommendation:**

Schools should be allowed to pursue general fundraising opportunities when they meet the following criteria:

1. The specific purpose of the fundraising is clearly identified.
2. The funds are deposited into an identified school fund account consistent with the purpose of the fundraising.
3. Communication to students and families clearly identifies the fundraising as optional.
4. Funds raised are distributed to all students who can potentially benefit.
5. The funds are used in the same year they are raised, with an exception being made for playgrounds.