

Fiscal Year	The District shall operate on a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30.
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	<p>The annual public meeting to discuss the proposed budget and tax rate shall be conducted as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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 in increasing any one of the functional spending categories or increasing revenue object accounts and other resources.
Fund Balance	<p>The District shall strive to maintain a balance in the general fund that closely approximates the optimum fund balance amount prescribed by TEA, as reported in the annual financial and compliance report.</p> <p>Fund balances shall be comprised of several components, as prescribed by GASB Statement 54:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nonspendable fund balance;

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

CE
(LOCAL)

- Restricted fund balance;
- Committed fund balance;
- Assigned fund balance; and
- Unassigned fund balance.

By resolution, the Board may commit a portion of the fund balance for a specific purpose. The committed portion of the fund balance should be spent for the purposes specified; however, the commitment may be amended by the Board at any time.

The Superintendent or designee shall be authorized to assign a portion of the fund balance as may be required to meet the financial needs of the District.