

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	The District shall operate on a fiscal year beginning September 1 and ending August 31.
<b>Budget Planning</b>	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.
<b>Budget Meeting</b>	<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"><li>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.</li><li>2. Prior to the beginning of the meeting, the Board may establish time limits for speakers.</li><li>3. Speakers shall confine their remarks to the appropriation of funds as contained in the proposed budget and/or the tax rate.</li><li>4. No officer or employee of the District shall be required to respond to questions from speakers at the meeting.</li></ol>
<b>Authorized Expenditures</b>	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.
<b>Budget Amendments</b>	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.
<b>Fund Balance</b>	A financial goal of the District shall be to have a sufficient fund balance in the general operating fund to be able to maintain fiscal independence in case of a financial need or crisis. The District shall strive to maintain an unassigned fund balance of at least 20 percent of the total annual operating expenditures of the general operating fund. If the unassigned fund balance falls below 16.7 percent of the total annual operating expenditures, the administration shall immediately prepare a plan, for Board approval, to restore the unassigned fund balance to the 20 percent level.

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. The commitment may be amended at any time with Board approval.

The Superintendent is authorized to assign a portion of the fund balance, not to exceed one percent of the annual operating expenditures, as may be required to meet the financial needs of the District. The amount of any budget deficit approved by the Board shall be categorized as an assignment of fund balance. Any assignment resulting from a budgeted deficit shall be automatically adjusted to reflect the actual fiscal year-end operating result.