

Eureka Union School District

**GASB 54 Policy for Reporting Fund Balance
2010-11**

I. PURPOSE

This Fund Balance Policy establishes the procedures for reporting unrestricted fund balance in the General Fund financial statements. Certain commitments and assignments of fund balance will help ensure that there will be adequate financial resources to protect the District against unforeseen circumstances and events such as revenue shortfalls and unanticipated expenditures. The policy also authorizes and directs the Chief Business Official to prepare financial reports which accurately categorize fund balance as per Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions.

II. GENERAL POLICY

Fund balance is essentially the difference between the assets and liabilities reported in a governmental fund. There are five separate components of fund balance, each of which identifies the extent to which the District is bound to honor constraints on the specific purpose for which amounts can be spent.

- Nonspendable fund balance (*inherently non-spendable*)
- Restricted fund balance (*externally enforceable limitations on use*)
- Committed fund balance (*self-imposed limitations on use*)
- Assigned fund balance (*limitation resulting from intended use*)
- Unassigned fund balance (*residual net resources*)

The first two components listed above are not addressed in this policy due to the nature of their restrictions. An example of non-spendable fund balance is inventory. Restricted fund balance is either imposed by law or constrained by grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments. This policy is focused on the financial reporting of unrestricted fund balance, or the last three components listed above. These three components are further defined below.

III. PROVISIONS

Nonspendable and Restricted Funds

Nonspendable funds are those funds that cannot be spent because they are either:

- 1) Not in spendable form (e.g. inventories and prepaids)
- 2) Legally or contractually required to be maintained intact

It is the responsibility of the Chief Business Official to report all Nonspendable Funds appropriately in the District's Financial Statements.

Restricted funds are those funds that have constraints placed on their use either:

- 1) Externally by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations or other governments
- 2) By law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Business Official to report all Restricted Funds appropriately in the District's Financial Statements.

Committed Fund Balance

The Governing Board, as the District's highest level of decision-making authority, may commit fund balance for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal actions taken, such as a majority vote or resolution. These committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Governing Board removes or changes the specific use through the same type of formal action taken to establish the commitment. Governing Board action to commit fund balance

needs to occur within the fiscal reporting period, no later than June 30th; however, the amount can be determined subsequent to the release of the financial statements. At the time of adoption of this policy, the District does not have any reserves that meet this component of fund balance.

Assigned Fund Balance

Amounts that are constrained by the District's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed, should be reported as assigned fund balance. This policy hereby delegates the authority to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes to the Chief Business Official for the purpose of reporting these amounts in the annual financial statements.

Unassigned Fund Balance

These are residual positive net resources of the general fund in excess of what can properly be classified in one of the other four categories. There are some reserves that do not meet the requirements of the fore mentioned components of fund balance. For financial statement reporting purposes these reserves are included in unassigned fund balance. This includes:

- **Reserve For Economic Uncertainty Reserve** – The District will maintain an economic uncertainty reserve of at least 3% of total General Fund operating expenditures (including other financing). The primary purpose of this reserve is to avoid the need for service level reductions in the event of an economic downturn causes revenues to come in lower than budget. This reserve may be increased from time to time in order to address specific anticipated revenue shortfalls (state actions, etc.).

Fund Balance Classification

Classifying Fund Balance Amounts

When both restricted and unrestricted funds are available for expenditure, restricted funds should be spent first unless legal requirements disallow it. When committed, assigned and unassigned funds are available for expenditure, committed funds should be spent first, assigned funds second, and unassigned funds last; unless the governing board has provided otherwise in its commitment or assignment actions.

This policy is in place to provide a measure of protection for the District against unforeseen circumstances and to comply with GASB Statement No. 54. No other policy or procedure supersedes the authority and provisions of this policy.