

PAYROLL PROCEDURES

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of the payroll function to the effective administration of the district. The Board is also aware that this is an area at risk of fraud and abuse. The Board directs the Superintendent to establish procedures to reasonably ensure the accuracy and integrity of the payroll system.

A duly certified payroll is one that has been examined and approved by the Superintendent of Schools, or in his/her absence, the Assistant Superintendent for Business. It shall be the responsibility of the Assistant Superintendent for Business and his/her staff to prepare all payrolls.

The Superintendent will initiate a periodic test to verify the accuracy and appropriateness of the district payroll. This test shall be conducted by the Assistant Superintendent for Business. The test shall confirm that individuals listed on the payroll are currently employed by the district, and that the title, hours worked, and wages listed are correct. The test shall also confirm that individuals listed as employees are employees and not independent contractors. (The procedure for determining employment status is outlined in policy 9500, Compensation and Benefits.) The Superintendent will evaluate the results of the test and determine if improvements need to be made.

Payroll procedures will also be reviewed periodically by the internal auditor. The internal auditor will report findings and recommendations to the Board. It is the intention of the Board to take reasonable and necessary steps to safeguard the district's payroll.

Cross-ref: 6741, Contracting for Professional Services
9500, Compensation and Benefits

Ref: Education Law Article 11; §§1604; 1719; 1720; 2116-a
Retirement and Social Security Law §34
2 NYCRR §§315.2; 315.3

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

School district employees, officials and members of the Board of Education will be reimbursed for reasonable, actual and necessary out-of-pocket expenses which are legally authorized and incurred while traveling for school related activities.

Only expenses necessary to the purpose of the travel shall be reimbursable. Transportation costs such as taxi cabs are allowable only for essential transportation. Mileage will be paid at the rate fixed annually by the Board. Tax exemption certificates shall be issued and utilized as appropriate.

The Superintendent shall determine, in the first instance, whether attendance by district staff at any conference or professional meeting is in the best interest of the district and eligible for reimbursement of expenses under this policy.

To obtain reimbursement, the claimant must complete and sign an expense voucher, attach all receipts or other expense documentation, together with a copy of the approved conference attendance request form and evaluation report (if required), and submit the same to the appropriate administrator. Reimbursement shall only be made after such claim has been audited and allowed.

Guidelines concerning expense reimbursement shall be reviewed annually and revised as appropriate.

Ref: Education Law §§1604(27); 1709(30); 1804; 2118; 3023; 3028
General Municipal Law §77-b

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT REGULATION

The district shall reimburse district employees, officials and members of the Board of Education for reasonable, actual and necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred while traveling for school-related business upon receipt of a completed voucher with itemized receipts along with approved conference request form. The following rules shall guide the reimbursement of school-related travel expenses:

Transportation

- Travel shall be by the most economical method, whether by private automobile, school vehicle or common carrier such as bus, train or plane.
- If travel is by private automobile, mileage shall be reimbursed at the level approved by the Internal Revenue Service for business travel. Parking and tolls will also be reimbursed but gasoline will not.
- Rental car expenses will be reimbursed only if authorized in advance. Receipts must be attached.
- Air travel is only allowed when determined by the Board President or the Superintendent to be in the district's best interest. Air travel shall be reimbursed at the lowest feasible fare available and shall not exceed regular coach class fare. Travel arrangements should be made as soon as reasonably practicable so as to avoid payment of a higher fare due to a late booking.

Lodging

- Persons traveling on district-related business are expected to secure the most reasonable rate for necessary hotel accommodations. The district will reimburse for actual lodging fees up to the maximum lodging fee set by the federal government for that location.
- When the rate is pre-determined by the organization sponsoring the event, the traveler shall secure a room rate at no more than the pre-determined rate notwithstanding what the federal travel reimbursement rate is. Hotel accommodations at a rate other than the most reasonable rate or a pre-determined rate described above will be reimbursed only if approved by the Board President (for members of the board and the Superintendent) and the Superintendent (for all others) prior to the stay.

Meals

Reimbursable meal charges, including gratuities, for persons traveling for district-related business shall be at a daily rate, not to exceed \$65.00:

Personal Expenses

The district does not reimburse persons traveling on district-related business for personal expenses including, but not limited to, pay television, hotel health club facilities, alcoholic beverages, theater and show tickets, and telephone calls and transportation costs unrelated to district business.

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that from time to time it may be appropriate to provide meals and/or refreshments at District meetings and/or events, which are being held for an educational purpose. Any expenditure made on such meals and/or refreshments should be appropriately documented with a receipt, itemized whenever possible, and submitted to the District's business office for the purposes of audit and possible reimbursement. Meals requests should be approved ahead of time when possible, to be paid through the district's purchasing process instead of through a reimbursement request.

Meal requests may be approved when:

- officers and/or employees of the district will be prevented from taking time off for food consumption due to a pressing need to complete the business at hand;
- the district is faced with business of an immediate nature and meetings of district employees are essential at mealtime;
- the district wishes to recognize the services provided by volunteers or other unsalaried members of the district (in such cases, however, only the meals of those being recognized may be reimbursed and the cost of the meals must be reasonable).

Examples of authorized categories of expenditures include but are not limited to refreshments for staff on teacher orientation day at the beginning of each year, staff recognition day, refreshments for Superintendent's Conference Day, community/district meetings, assessment day grading of tests, receptions for volunteers, other meetings at which district business is conducted, meals with a consultant employed by the district, meals provided to a committee or working group whose responsibilities require working through the meal hour, or other specific circumstances for which working through the meal hour is advantageous to the district.

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS REGULATION

From time to time, meals and/or refreshments may be deemed appropriate for a particular meeting, event or situation. Each year, appropriate amounts are allocated to the Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, Special Education and Business Offices based on the approved budget.

It is acknowledged that meal and/or refreshment expenditures may be incurred as an extension of the responsibilities of employees or to continue to enhance a specific activity or event that is being held for a business purpose. In such instances, documentation as noted above shall be submitted to the business office for the purposes of audit and possible reimbursement. In an instance where a receipt has been lost or not obtained, at the discretion of the Assistant Superintendent for Business, a signed statement may be submitted as a substitute document.

Meal costs shall not exceed \$25.00 per person per day and shall not include alcoholic beverages. In order for reimbursement to occur an itemized bill must be submitted along with a receipt for payment. If an individual is paying for more than his/herself, a listing of all persons must appear on the receipt.

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

DISPOSAL OF DISTRICT PROPERTY

Building administrators and support staff supervisors are responsible for identifying obsolete or surplus equipment and supplies within their area(s) of responsibility. Each year, a determination shall be made of which equipment, supplies and/or materials are obsolete and cannot be salvaged or utilized effectively or economically by the school district. Such equipment, supplies, or materials shall be sold through bid procedures, if possible, for the highest possible price.

The Assistant Superintendent for Business shall be authorized to dispose of obsolete or surplus equipment and supplies in the following manner:

1. reassign the items, as needed, to other locations within the school district;
2. centralize the storage of items of potential usefulness; and/or
3. discard or sell as surplus those items determined to be of no further use or worthless.

Following approval by the Board of Education, items may be sold in the following manner:

1. offer to sell the items to local municipalities or local non-profit organizations;
2. sell items at a public sale. In the event of a public sale, notice of availability of such equipment, supplies and materials and requests for bids shall be disseminated through announcements in local newspapers and such other appropriate means. The general public, as well as staff members who are not Board members, officers, or involved in the purchasing function, shall be eligible to bid on the equipment, supplies and/or materials; and
3. sell remaining items as scrap for the best obtainable amount or discard in the safest, least expensive manner.

Ref: General Municipal Law §§51; 800 et seq.
Ross v. Wilson, 308 NY 605 (1955)
Matter of Baker, 14 EDR 5 (1974)
Ops. St. Compt. 58-120, 88-67

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. Integrate facilities planning with other aspects of district planning in a comprehensive program designed to support the Board's educational philosophy and instructional goals.
2. Address state learning standards and student educational needs in developing educational specifications for school buildings.
3. Design facilities for sufficient flexibility to permit program modification or the introduction of new programs.
4. Involve the community, district staff and experts in facilities development.
5. Design economically feasible facilities that meet student educational needs.
6. Seek all possible mechanisms for financing school facilities.
7. Provide adequate school space to accommodate future improvements in educational programs and services.
8. Consider the adaptability of school facilities for community use.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for establishing procedures to implement these goals and shall provide a status report to the Board on a monthly basis.

Cross-ref: 8110, School Building Safety

Ref: 8 NYCRR §§14.1 (School Buildings and Grounds General Requirements);
155 (Educational Facilities)

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

FACILITIES PLANNING

The Board of Education is responsible for the regular operation and orderly development of the school district's physical plant. In carrying out this responsibility, the Board is concerned with both short-term and long-range planning.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for the formulation and implementation of the following plans for school building facilities:

1. Comprehensive long-range facilities development plan. This plan shall be kept current and re-evaluated at least annually. It shall include an appraisal of the following:
 - a. Educational philosophy of the district, with resulting administrative organization and program requirements.
 - b. Present and projected pupil enrollments.
 - c. Space use and state rated pupil capacity of existing facilities.
 - d. Priority of need of maintenance, repair or modernization of existing facilities, including consideration of the obsolescence and retirement of certain facilities.
 - e. Provision of additional facilities.

2. Five-year capital facilities plan. This plan will be updated annually and shall include the following:
 - a. A yearly breakdown of the estimated expenses for construction, additions, alterations, major repairs, system replacement and repairs and maintenance and energy consumption.
 - b. A district wide building inventory including the number and type of facilities; the age, capacity, use and size of each building; and each building's safety ratings, energy sources, probable useful life, major system repairs needed and asbestos reports.

Cross-ref: 7000, Facilities Development Goals

Ref: 8 NYCRR Part 155 (Educational Facilities)

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for evaluating district population and housing trends and making enrollment projections for the district. Enrollment projections may be prepared on a five- year basis and will be reviewed and brought up to date annually.

The projections will take into consideration:

1. data from the latest school census;
2. school registration figures;
3. proposed or forthcoming changes in community planning and zoning;
4. current and planned community land development and housing projects;
and
5. curriculum changes that will impact utilization of space.

Whenever construction of new school facilities or the closing of any school buildings is being contemplated, the Board of Education may authorize outside studies made of population trends and school enrollment.

Ref: Education Law §§408; 3240; 3241; 3242

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

The Board of Education recognizes the district's responsibility to provide a safe school environment for students and staff during construction and maintenance projects.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for ensuring that district procedures for safeguarding the safety and health of students and staff are consistent with state law and regulation, including the Uniform Code of Public School Building Inspections, Safety Rating and Monitoring and the Uniform Safety Standards for School Construction and Maintenance Projects. Specifically, the Superintendent shall be responsible for the following items at the specified phase of the construction project:

Pre-Construction

1. Ensure proper planning for the safety of building occupants during construction or maintenance activities.
2. Hire a New York State licensed architect or engineer for projects costing more than \$5,000.
3. Ensure safety issues are addressed for bid specifications and contract documents.
4. Provide notice to parents, staff and the community in advance of any construction project costing \$10,000 or more to be conducted in an occupied school building. The notice is to be given at least two months prior to date on which construction is to begin, except in the case of emergency construction projects, in which case notice will be given as soon as practical. The notice will provide information on the district's obligation to provide a safe school environment during construction projects. The notice may be given by publication in the district newsletter, direct mailings, or by holding a public hearing on the project.
5. Revise the district's emergency management plan, when appropriate, to accommodate the construction process including a revised emergency exit plan and emergency evacuation and relocation procedures during the construction process.

During Construction

1. Monitor construction and maintenance activities to check for safety violations and to ensure that certificate of occupancy requirements are continuously maintained.

2. Ensure that all areas to be disturbed through renovation or demolition are tested for lead and asbestos.
3. Investigate and respond to health and safety complaints.
4. Conduct fire drills during construction to familiarize students and staff with revised emergency procedures.
5. Ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements regarding noise abatement, exits, ventilation, air quality, fire and hazard prevention, chemical fumes, gases and other contaminants, asbestos abatement and lead paint and radon testing and mitigation.

Post Construction

1. Conduct a walk-through inspection with the Health and Safety Committee to confirm the area is ready to be reopened for use.

Cross-ref: 7100 Facilities Planning
8110, School Building Safety

Ref: Education Law §§409-d (Comprehensive Public School Building Safety Program; 409-e (Uniform Code of Public School Buildings Inspection, Safety Rating and Monitoring)
8 NYCRR Part 155.4 (Uniform Code of Public School Building Inspections, Safety Rating and Monitoring)
8 NYCRR Part 155.5 (Uniform Safety Standards for School Construction and Maintenance Projects)
9 NYCRR Parts 600-1250 (Uniform Fire Prevention & Building Code)

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY EXHIBIT

Notification of Construction

To: Faculty, Staff, Parents, Guardian, Students and other concerned parties

Date: *(Notice must be at least 2 months prior to initial start date of project.)*

The Valley Stream 30 Union Free School District anticipates conducting a construction project commencing on _____. The project will be conducted at the _____ (name and address of school). The project will consist of the following: _____

In furtherance of the district's commitment to safety and in accordance with regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the district will provide a safe school environment throughout this project. This will include an update of the school emergency plan to reflect any temporary exits or procedures needed as a result of the construction work at the school. Fire drills will be held to familiarize students and staff with any temporary exits. The construction area will be separated from occupied areas of the building, all kept to a minimum while the building is occupied. All applicable federal and stated rules and regulations will be strictly adhered to throughout the length of this project.

Specific questions or concerns about this project may be directed to _____ at _____ (telephone number).

Sincerely,

Assistant Superintendent for Business

Adoption date: July 5, 2011

NAMING FACILITIES

The Board of Education is responsible for naming of district facilities. The Board, in its discretion, may establish procedures for the naming of any building or other district facility. In selecting a name for any facility, the Board may take into account those persons who have been involved in the planning, construction or renovation of the facility, or any other relevant considerations. Suitable building plaques or other memorials may be authorized by the Board.

Due to a limited amount of space, the Board shall approve a contribution of books to the library in the name of a person to be memorialized if the books are approved according to Policy 4513, Library Materials Selection and Adoption. These books may be inscribed in the cover leaf with the name of the person, the donor, and any other pertinent information. All such books are to be shelved as part of the regular collection.

Cross-ref: 4513, Library Materials Selection and Adoption

Adoption date: July 5, 2011