

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY

Series 3000

Business and Non-Instructional Operations

BP 3120(a)

Budget System

Principles of Decentralization

The Board believes that decisions regarding the district budget should be made at the lowest appropriate organizational level. The Board sets broad spending priorities; the Superintendent prepares a budget document which reflects those priorities. Principals and other program managers are allocated block grants which are under their control. Program deficit or surplus balances shall be carried over into the next fiscal year unless otherwise authorized by the Superintendent. Organizations and individuals may also have input into the process pursuant to Policy 3100.

I. Basic block grant allocations shall be as follows:

A. School Sites

1. An administrative allowance sufficient to pay the salaries, benefits, and other costs associated with the task of administering the school.
2. A discretionary allocation consisting of General Fund and Lottery revenues which shall be annually reviewed and adjusted when appropriate, subject to available funding.
3. Any local, state, or federal categorical funds for programs administered at the schools.
4. Board approved gifts or grants from outside organizations or individuals.

B. District Administration

1. District administrative programs, including the Board of Education, the Office of the Superintendent, the Business Office, the Personnel Department, and Maintenance and Operations shall be funded at the minimum level necessary to provide support for district instructional programs.

C. Other District-wide Programs

1. Certain district-wide programs, including but not limited to Adult Education, Community Services, and Food Services, shall be operated in such a manner as to make them as fully self-supporting as possible.

D. Special Education Programs

1. Special Education programs, including related administrative and support services, shall be allocated an amount equal to all state and federal support plus any district General Fund contribution as may be mandated by law.

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY

Series 3000

Business and Non-Instructional Operations

BP 3120(b)

II. Local Categorical Funds

- A. The Board may allocate local categorical funds to support additional instructional or other programs which it requires to be offered, including music and library/media programs. The Board encourages the community and the Associated Student Body to assist in the support of high school programs.

1. K-12 Music Program

- a. The Board recognizes the desirability of conducting a comprehensive curricular and co-curricular K-12 instructional music program. The Board also accepts the financial limitations which are placed upon the district, and encourages community support of the music program.

2. District Library/media programs

- a. The Superintendent shall annually budget sufficient funds to ensure that the district's library/media programs can be conducted economically and efficiently.

3. K-12 GATE Program

- a. The Oak Park Unified School District is committed to meeting the unique education needs of all students. The purpose of the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program is to recognize the performance capabilities of gifted students, as well as to address the unique needs and differences associated with having these abilities. The GATE Program provides gifted learners with qualitatively differentiated curriculum experiences; focusing on basic skills, high level think, inquiry, problem solving and creativity. Classroom instruction for GATE students differs in pace, depth and complexity of study and considers individual learning styles, social-emotional concerns, as well as exceptional abilities and special needs.

Only with specific Board approval will district administration or other district-wide programs receive an annual inflation increase whose percentage is higher than that given to the basic block grant allocation for instructional programs.

The Superintendent shall consider how efficiently and effectively site and program managers develop and adhere to decentralized budgets when evaluating those persons' job performances.

Adopted 02/07/84 (BP 3160), 03/19/96

Revised: 03/18/86, 05/02/89, 8/19/03

Renumbered 05/02/89

Reviewed: 11/13/90, 2/20/96, 03/19/96