

Toronto District School Board

Policy P021

Title: **FUNDRAISING**

Adopted: March 28, 2001

Effectuated: March 28, 2001

Revised: October 24, 2001, June 12, 2002, June 26, 2003, **April 16, 2025**

Reviewed: October 24, 2001, June 12, 2002, June 26, 2003, **April 16, 2025**

Authorization: Board of Trustees

1. RATIONALE

The Fundraising Policy (the “Policy”) promotes student achievement when planning and implementing fundraising activities and supports the Toronto District School Board’s (TDSB) commitment to fiscal responsibility and financial viability. The Policy is aligned with the *Education Act*, Regulation 612/00 and the Ministry of Education’s School Fundraising Guideline and TDSB’s Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

2. OBJECTIVE

- To outline expectations and provide direction to TDSB staff and members of school communities when planning and implementing fundraising activities.

3. DEFINITIONS

Crowdfunding is a fundraising method where a large number of people each give an amount of money to pay for an initiative or project, especially by using a website to collect the money.

Donation is a voluntary contribution to the Board in the form of a financial donation, gift in kind or gift of service. Donations can be designated (with a specific purpose attached) or non-designated.

External Organizations are groups that are not legally affiliated with the Board. They may fundraise for their own purposes, or for TDSB (schools, departments, central initiatives). Examples of these groups are alumni associations, corporations or Home & School Associations.

Fundraising is a local school or system-wide activity to raise money or other resources and is a collaborative effort among parents/guardians/caregivers, students, staff and the school community to raise funds in support of:

- local school programs/initiatives;
- central campaigns;
- external initiatives/charities to benefit TDSB schools/students; or
- external initiatives/charities supported by TDSB to benefit external organizations/causes.

Fundraising Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Donations (in-kind or monetary)
- Fun Fair events
- Grants
- Internet-mediated registries (Board approved crowdfunding sites)
- Product sales
- Games of Chance (i.e., 50/50 Draw, Bingo, Lotteries and Raffles)
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Voluntary contributions from community

School Community refers to students, parents/guardians/caregivers, staff, school/student councils, Trustees, and members of the broader community, partners and others, who support the local school and student achievement.

School-Funded Project is work that the school has identified as a priority and has funds to pay for in whole, either through the principal's school budget or through fundraising (including grants), such as a playground or school yard enhancement. School-funded projects do not include routine maintenance, emergency repairs or Ministry funded capital improvements such as roofing or boilers. A school-funded project should not result in a significant increase in school or TDSB operating or capital costs (e.g., air conditioners).

School Generated Funds are funds that are raised or generated from sources other than the Board's operating and capital budget, and administered by the school principal. School Generated Funds include:

- fundraising for school purposes
- funds collected and paid out through school accounts to support programs (for example, tour operators, lunch programs).

Sponsorship is an agreement between the Board and an association or company by which the sponsor provides financial or resource support for which they may receive recognition and/or advertisement.

System Priorities Fund means a central fund established by the Board for the purpose of managing undesignated donations or donations designated for the fund. This fund assists in addressing system needs across all schools and/or helps distribute resources based on equitable principles.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Education holds primary responsibility for the implementation of this Policy.

Within the Director's Office, the responsibility for the coordination and day-to-day management of the Policy is assigned to the Associate Director, Modernization and Strategic Resource Alignment.

5. APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This Policy applies to all employees, members of school councils and community members involved in planning, implementing and supervising fundraising activities and managing donations to the Board.

6. POLICY

6.1. Accountability of Funds

- 6.1.1. The school principal guides fundraising activities in accordance with all TDSB policies.
- 6.1.2. School fundraising must be approved by the school principal in consultation with the school council or school fundraising organization operating in the name of the school.
- 6.1.3. Central staff will have financial oversight of all system-wide fundraising activities and donations.
- 6.1.4. Only central staff can issue tax receipts for system-wide or school-related donations.

6.2. System Priorities Fund

- 6.2.1. To facilitate improved equity of resources among schools, a System Priorities Fund will be developed and maintained.
- 6.2.2. A process for voluntary allocation of funds to the System Priorities Fund will be determined and outlined in the accompanying Fundraising Procedure (PR508).

6.3. Conflict of Interest

- 6.3.1. All employees and school community members must avoid situations which may result in an actual or apparent conflict of interest and comply with all applicable TDSB policies, including the Employee Conflict of Interest Policy (P057), the Board Member Code of Conduct (P075) and Purchasing Policy (P017).

6.4. Funds Management

- 6.4.1. Schools should develop and organize fundraising activities with advice and assistance from the school community. The school

community must know how the school uses proceeds from fundraising.

- 6.4.2. Funds must be raised for a designated purpose and used for that intended purpose. School generated funds should be used within a two-year period unless specified for a specific project or use that will exceed a two-year period.
- 6.4.3. The fundraising plan will be documented in a school generated funds plan and incorporate input from the school council.
- 6.4.4. All school council financial activities must be tracked and reported to the Board bi-annually.

6.5. Promotional Materials for Fundraising Activities

- 6.5.1. All promotional materials related to fundraising and/or sponsorship activities require approval by the principal prior to distribution to the community and must comply with the Board's Advertising and Distribution of Materials Policy (P006), and other relevant policies and procedures including, for example, Human Rights (P031), Board Code of Conduct (PR585), Promoting Respect in the Workplace (PR739).

6.6. Fundraising to Support External Organizations and/or Other Causes

- 6.6.1. Fundraising to support external organizations and/or other causes will require approval of the school principal or central department lead. Where possible, contributions to an external organization or cause should be collected directly by the external organization. Upon receipt, responsibility for the funds will rest solely with the external organization.
- 6.6.2. The Board will not provide tax receipts for donations to support external organizations or other causes; this will be the sole responsibility of the external organization.
- 6.6.3. No external organization will fundraise in the name of the Board or the school, operate as a school council of the school, or conduct fundraising or other activities in a school, or use the school's name, without the principal and the Board's consent and approval.
- 6.6.4. Any external organization affiliated with schools will conform to Board and Ministry of Education policies and applicable legislation, including Ontario Regulation 612/00.
- 6.6.5. Central fundraising activities, including Board-initiated campaigns, including international disaster relief efforts will be managed by central staff and in accordance with the International Disaster Relief Procedure (PR609).

6.7. Participation and Consent

- 6.7.1. Participation in fundraising activities is strictly voluntary. No individual should feel compelled to participate in any fundraising activity supporting internal or external initiatives, nor should they be subject to penalties, or denied any benefits, if they choose not to participate.

6.8. Safety Considerations

- 6.8.1. Safety of students is a primary consideration in all fundraising activities. Parents/guardians/caregivers must be informed of all fundraising activities before they are undertaken by students. Student fundraising activities require supervision and should be age appropriate.

6.9. Procurement Requirements surrounding Fundraising Activities

- 6.9.1. Schools must use Board approved Fundraising/Fun Fair Vendors. Products used for school fundraising will be of good quality and provided by reputable companies as defined by the Board's purchasing guidelines to reflect the school community's standard of propriety and the Board's Mission, Values and Goals Policy (P002). A central Fun Fair and Fundraising Guide is found on the Board's website with vendors who are in full compliance with the Board's policies and procedures.

6.10. Raffles and Lotteries

- 6.10.1. Schools planning to fundraise using a 'game of chance' (i.e., raffles, bingo, 50-50 draw) must apply for and obtain a lottery license. All such activities are governed by the *Gaming Control Act* and all of its Regulations. A separate lottery bank account must be opened by the school principal, as signing authority, with TDSB's approved banking partner. The School Generated Funds bank account should not be used for games of chance.

6.11. Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Restrictions

- 6.11.1. All fundraising activities must comply with the TDSB's Restrictions on Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Use Policy (P095).

6.12. Donations, Grants and Sponsorships

- 6.12.1. Central agreements are required for sponsorship and donations and may be required for grants. The Fundraising Procedure (PR508) will outline the procedures related to agreements. Donors and sponsors will be recognized in accordance with the Advertising and Distribution of Materials Policy (P006).

6.13. School Council Fundraising

- 6.13.1. All school council fundraising activities and expenditures must be conducted in accordance with Board policies, Ministry directives and applicable legislation. School council activities must also align

with the annual School Generated Funds Plan, as approved by the school principal.

6.14. Online Fundraising and Crowdfunding

6.14.1. Fundraising may be conducted online, using only the TDSB's approved online donation portal or other centrally approved module. Fundraising may not be conducted using external fundraising websites and applications.

6.15. Eligible and Ineligible Uses of Fundraising Proceeds

6.15.1. Funds raised for school purposes are to be used to complement, not replace public funding for education. In accordance with the Ministry of Education's School Fundraising Guideline, school generated funds are not to be used to provide resources necessary for the delivery of curriculum.

6.15.2. School-funded projects are an eligible use of fundraising proceeds, but prior central approval is required before departments and/or schools begin to fundraise for this purpose.

7. SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

The Director of Education is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this Policy.

8. EVALUATION

This Policy will be reviewed as required, but at a minimum every five (5) years after the effective date.

9. APPENDICES

- N/A

10. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Legislation

- *Education Act*
- *Gaming Control Act*
- Ontario Regulation 612/00

Policies

- Advertising and Distribution of Materials (P006)
- Board Member Code of Conduct (P075)
- Employee Conflict of Interest (P057)
- Human Rights (P031)
- Mission, Values and Goals (P002)

- Purchasing (P017)
- Restrictions on Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Use (P095)

Procedures

- Board Code of Conduct (PR585)
- Fundraising (PR508)
- International Disaster Relief (PR609)
- Promoting Respect in the Workplace (PR739)

Other Documents

- Ministry of Education's School Fundraising Guideline