RIDGEDALE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special Update - School Support Organizations - October 2026

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November 11, 2026

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OCTOBER 2026

OVERVIEW AND COMMENTS

These update materials were created with coordination between Neola and Givebacks (a content expert regarding Student Fundraising and School Support Organizations) and have been reviewed by Gingo & Bair Law, LLC for consistency with Federal and State law.

Why Are These Policy Revisions Important for School Districts to Consider:

Student Protection - These policies ensure fundraising is voluntary, age-appropriate, and does not coerce or exploit students. They also prohibit unsafe practices (like raffles or unapproved advertising) and protect students from exposure to inappropriate content.

Financial Transparency & Legal Compliance - All fundraising activities—whether student-led, parent-run, or externally supported—must follow strict financial controls, comply with GASB 84, and meet state and federal reporting standards (e.g., F-33 Federal Financial Report). This promotes accountability, reduces the risk of fraud, and ensures donor confidence.

Equity & Integrity - Policies ensure that gifts, grants, and donations support educational equity and are distributed fairly. They protect schools from accepting contributions that may impose future obligations, create conflicts of interest, or lead to favoritism.

Community Involvement with Boundaries - While encouraging engagement from PTAs, booster clubs, and donors, the policies clearly define the autonomy and responsibilities of these groups, ensuring they operate independently while aligning with District values.

District Branding and Liability Protection - Policies restrict the use of the District's name, logo, facilities, or personnel in unauthorized fundraising or promotional efforts, guarding against misrepresentation, reputational harm, or unintended political/ideological association.

Support for Student Leadership - By allowing students to manage their own activity funds (with oversight but without adult control), these policies encourage real-world learning, leadership, and financial responsibility.

Policy Revisions

Policy 5830 - Student Fundraising (Revised)

This policy governs student fundraising activities within the school district. It ensures that fundraising is conducted in a controlled, ethical, and educationally appropriate manner. Fundraising must be for school-related purposes, approved by the Principal (and Superintendent if above a certain threshold), and comply with Federal dietary and financial regulations.

This policy protects students from coercion, ensures transparency and accountability in fund management, aligns fundraising with educational goals, and ensures compliance with legal and health standards. It also maintains the integrity of the school environment and prevents misuse of school resources.

The revision has technical corrections, financial requirements, additional oversight options, and cross-references to other policies. These revisions are recommended but not required.

Policy 6605 - Crowdfunding (Revised)

This policy regulates the use of online crowdfunding platforms to raise money or resources for district-approved educational activities, classrooms, or school-related programs. It ensures that crowdfunding activities align with the District's educational mission, maintain financial transparency, and protect student privacy. It also prevents misuse of school branding and resources, ensures legal compliance, and protects donors by requiring the use of secure, low-fee platforms.

The revision adds crowdfunding platforms and additional monitoring requirements. These revisions are recommended but not required.

Policy 6608 - Accountability And Oversight of Fundraiser and Crowdfunding Disbursements (New)

This policy states that all funds raised through student, parent, or private group-led fundraising and crowdfunding efforts—whether managed by the District (custodial) or by outside groups (non-custodial)—are properly documented, reported, and aligned with State and Federal financial standards, including GASB 84 and Federal reporting requirements. It requires detailed profit-and-loss reports, receipts, and records of how funds are spent or donated to the district. The policy also outlines consequences for non-compliance. This helps protect the integrity of school financial operations and maintains trust with the public and donors.

This new policy provides additional accountability for fundraising and crowdfunding activities. It is strongly recommended but not required for adoption.

Policy 6610 - Student Activity Fund (Revised)

This policy allows the creation and maintenance of student activity accounts for approved activities that do not receive financial support from the District. While the District holds these funds in custodial accounts (per GASB 84), students are fully responsible for managing the funds—including budgeting and spending—without any financial control or approval from District staff. Staff advisors may supervise but cannot make or influence financial decisions. These activities must follow established guidelines for fundraising, accounting, and use of District resources. The policy requires that student-led, self-funded activities be managed independently but responsibly, with proper safeguards in place to comply with legal and financial regulations.

The revision adds an accounting requirement and includes technical corrections. These revisions are recommended but not required.

Policy 7230 - Gifts, Grants, and Bequests (Revised)

This policy outlines how the District accepts and manages gifts, grants, and bequests from individuals or organizations. The Board retains the right to approve, reject, or define the use of any donation. Accepted gifts become the property of the District and must align with Board policies and applicable laws. The policy also cites non-discrimination in the acceptance of donations and establishes reporting, tax acknowledgment, and transparency requirements. This helps create a process that handles donations ethically, legally, and transparently, protecting both the District and the donor. Additionally, it helps prevent the acceptance of gifts that could create liability, favoritism, or conflicts of interest, maintaining the trust of the school community.

The revision includes additional accountability and protections for the Board and District. These revisions are recommended but not required.

Policy 9210 - Parent Organizations (Renumber/Rescind)
Policy 9211 - District-Support Organizations (Renumber/Rescind)
Policy 9215 - School Support Organizations (Renumber/Replacement)

This policy establishes the standards, responsibilities, and oversight for school support organizations (SSOs)—such as PTAs, PTOs, Booster Clubs, and educational foundations—that raise funds or donate resources to support District schools and activities. The policy defines what constitutes an SSO, outlines approval and documentation requirements, and ensures transparency and accountability in financial activities. The policy protects the District's integrity, financial transparency, and legal compliance while supporting valuable community involvement. It ensures SSOs operate independently yet responsibly, aligning their goals with those of the District without creating liability for the school system. It also

ensures donations and fundraising are managed ethically, helping to maximize benefits to students while safeguarding public trust.

This policy has been redrafted by Neola legal counsel. Its re-adoption is strongly recommended, as it contains important text that satisfies state and federal accountability requirements.

Policy 9700 - Relations with Special Interest Groups (Revised)

This policy sets clear rules for how non-school-affiliated (outside) groups may interact with students, staff, and District facilities. It prohibits the use of District resources—including names, logos, facilities, or personnel—for advertising, promotion, or fundraising. The policy balances the value of community involvement with the need to safeguard educational priorities and legal responsibilities.

Neola is reissuing this policy with one revision. The policy is referenced in several of the update policies in this special update, and clients may desire to confirm their original choices as a part of this update process.

Policy 9700.01 - Advertising and Commercial Activities (Revised)

This policy outlines the rules and limitations for advertising and commercial activities involving students, staff, or District property. It defines advertising broadly and establishes strict controls over when, where, and how commercial messages or promotions may appear in schools. By balancing community involvement with strict oversight, the policy ensures any commercial presence aligns with the District's mission and public trust.

The policy contains expanding restrictions in the option for political advertising. In addition, this policy is referenced in several of the update policies in this special update, and clients may desire to confirm their original choices as a part of this update process.

Administrative Guideline Revisions

AG 5830 - Student Fundraising (Revised)

This procedure sets clear rules for how student fundraising activities must be planned, approved, and supervised to ensure they are safe, voluntary, educationally appropriate, and do not disrupt learning or school operations. It protects students' safety, academic focus, and well-being, ensures accountability for money and materials, and prevents misuse of District resources or identity.

The revision has technical corrections, clarified language, and new cross-references to other policies. These revisions are recommended but not required.

AG 6605 - Crowdfunding (Revised)

This procedure sets clear rules for how staff, students, and school-affiliated groups may use crowdfunding to raise money for school-related projects. It requires pre-approval, transparency, legal compliance, and protection of student privacy. This protects the District from legal risks and ensures that fundraising supports education ethically and effectively.

The revision adds an option for detailed crowdfunding/management platform requirements, technical corrections, and legal compliance to State gaming regulations. These revisions are recommended but not required.

AG 6610 - Student Activity Fund (Revised)

This guideline outlines how student activity funds—used for school-sponsored student groups and events—must be managed, approved, tracked, and audited. It includes rules for budgeting, fundraising, spending, and financial reporting to ensure proper use and legal compliance. This protects both the students' interests and the District from financial and legal risks.

This revision includes technical corrections and additional clarifying language. These revisions are recommended but not required.

AG 7230 - Public Gifts to the District (Revised)

This procedure sets the rules for accepting donations or gifts to the District, ensuring they align with educational goals, do not impose burdens, and become District property. All gifts must be formally approved and acknowledged. This protects the District from unintended liabilities and maintains the integrity of its operations.

This revision includes technical corrections and additional clarifying language. These revisions are recommended but not required.

AG 9211 - District-Support Organizations (Renumbered/Rescind)
AG 9215 - School Support Organizations (Renumbered/Revised)

These procedures outline the rules and expectations for school support organizations (like PTOs and booster clubs), including bylaws, fundraising plans, financial accountability, and coordination with the District. This protects students, staff, and the District while promoting responsible community involvement.

This revision includes technical corrections, additional options, and additional clarifying language. These revisions are recommended for consideration, but not required.

AG 9700 - Fundraising by Charitable Organizations (Revised)

This procedure sets rules for outside charitable organizations that wish to raise funds on school property or use District assets. It requires written approval, ensures strict criteria

are met, and limits student involvement. This ensures charitable activities align with District values and safeguard students and staff.

This revision includes technical corrections and references to related policies and guidelines. These revisions are recommended for consideration, but not required.

These documents may be imported to your Draft - Policy Manual book from the Local Policy/AG Update menu in the Subscriptions tab in your NPPT console. If you have questions about any of these Special Update materials, contact your Neola Associate.

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