

SECTION: FINANCES

TITLE: BUDGET ADOPTION

SHALER AREA

ADOPTED: June 18, 1998

SCHOOL DISTRICT

REVISED: March 21, 2007

604. BUDGET ADOPTION

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| 1. Purpose | It is the philosophy of the Board that the annual budget represents the position of the Board, and all reasonable means shall be employed to present and explain the preliminary and final budgets to District residents. Board members and District administrators shall be knowledgeable about, and understand the need for, proposed expenditures. |
| 2. Definition | Index – the tax rate limit that restricts the School District from increasing the rate of any tax for the support of District schools without seeking voter approval through referendum or an exception granted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) or the Court of Common Pleas with jurisdiction. |
| 3. Delegation of Responsibility
SC 687
53 P.S.
6926.301 et seq | The Board directs the Superintendent and/or the Business Manager to prepare both the preliminary and final budgets on the required forms; comply with advertising requirements; and make the budget documents and supporting information available in printed form for public inspection in the District and administrative offices, in accordance with the timelines specified in law and Board policy. |
| 4. Authority | The Board shall annually, but not later than the first business meeting of January, decide the budget option to be used for the following fiscal year. The Board shall approve either the Accelerated Budget Process Option or the Board Resolution Option. |

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53 P.S.
6926.311

Accelerated Budget Process Option

At least 150 days prior to the primary election, the Board shall prepare and present a preliminary budget on the required form.

The preliminary budget shall be made available in printed form for public inspection at least 110 days prior to the primary election. Public inspection shall be available for at least twenty (20) days prior to planned adoption. The Board shall give public notice of its intent to adopt at least ten (10) days prior to adoption of the preliminary budget.

The Board may hold an advertised public hearing prior to adoption of the preliminary budget.

The Board shall annually adopt the preliminary budget at least ninety (90) days prior to the primary election.

53 P.S.
6926.333

If the preliminary budget exceeds the increase authorized by the Index, an application for an exception may be filed with either a Court of Common Pleas with jurisdiction or PDE and made available for public inspection, consistent with the requirements of law. The application for an exception shall be submitted by the Superintendent, Business Manager, and/or Solicitor.

However, the Board may substitute the filing of an application for an exception to the Index limit by submitting a referendum question seeking voter approval for a tax increase, in accordance with law.

In the event that a court or PDE denies an application for an exception to the Index limit adopted as part of the preliminary budget, the Board may approve immediate filing of a referendum question, as authorized by law, seeking voter approval for a tax rate that exceeds the Index. This filing shall be performed by the Superintendent, Business Manager, and/or Solicitor.

Any referendum question shall include an accompanying nonlegal, interpretative statement referencing the expenditure items for which a tax increase is being sought and the consequences that will result if the referendum question fails. Such information shall be made available to the public through the district web site and/or media resources.

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At least 90 days prior to adoption, the final budget shall be presented to the Board on the required form and supplemented with information deemed necessary by the Board.

The final budget shall include any necessary changes from the adopted preliminary budget. Any reduction required as the result of the failure of referendum shall be clearly stated. If the actions taken do not include those previously stated as the outcome of referendum failure, they shall be accompanied by a detailed statement as to the reasons. The statement shall be prepared by the Board Finance Committee, Board Members, and/or Superintendent.

53 P.S.
6926.312

The final budget shall be made available in print for public inspection at least twenty (20) days prior to final adoption. The Board shall give notice of its intent to adopt at least ten (10) days prior to adoption of the final budget.

SC 508, 687

The Board shall annually adopt the final budget by a majority vote of all members of the Board prior to June 30.

Board Resolution Option

53 P.S.
6926.311

The Board shall adopt a resolution that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the following fiscal year by more than the Index. Such resolution shall be adopted no later than 110 days prior to the primary election and must contain the following unconditional certification that:

1. The Board will not increase any tax at a rate that exceeds the School District Index.
2. The Board will comply with Section 687 of the School Code for budget adoption.
3. The increase of any tax at a rate less than or equal to the Index will be sufficient to balance its final budget.

SC 687

At least thirty (30) days prior to adoption of the final budget, the Board shall prepare and present a proposed budget on the required form. The proposed budget shall be made available in print for public inspection and duplication at the District administrative offices at least twenty (20) days prior to adoption of the budget. The Board shall give public notice of its intent to adopt at least ten (10) days prior to adoption of the proposed budget.

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SC 508, 687

Final Budget

The Board shall annually adopt the final budget by a majority vote of all members of the Board by June 30.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 508, 687

Taxpayer Relief Act – 53 P.S. 6926.301 et seq