

## 9.17 Fund Balance (GASB 54)

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the School District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

**Non-spendable:** The non-spendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in a spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

**Restricted:** Fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

**Committed:** The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action (resolution) of the School District Board of Education. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the School District Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for the use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

**Assigned:** Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the School District Board of Education or a School District official delegated that authority by resolution or by State Statute. State statute authorizes the School District’s Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated. The School District’s Board of Education assigned fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in fiscal year 2016’s appropriated budget.

**Unassigned:** The unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance. The School District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first, followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which the amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

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