

## Fund Balance

The Board recognizes its responsibility to establish an unrestricted General Fund fund balance<sup>1</sup> in an amount sufficient to:

1. Protect the district from unnecessary borrowing in order to meet cash-flow needs;
2. Provide prudent reserves to meet unexpected emergencies and protect against catastrophic events;
3. Meet the uncertainties of state and federal funding; and
4. Help ensure a district credit rating that would qualify the district for lower interest costs and greater marketability of bonds that may be necessary in the construction and renovation of school facilities.

The Board targets 5 percent as an unrestricted General Fund fund balance and directs the superintendent to report should the fund balance fall below 5 percent. The Board directs the superintendent to manage the currently adopted budget in such a way to ensure an ending fund cash balance of at least 3 percent of total general fund revenues (not including beginning fund balance).

In determining an appropriate unassigned fund balance, the Board will consider a variety of factors with potential impact on the district's budget including the predictability and volatility of its expenditures<sup>2</sup>; the availability of resources in other funds as well as the potential drain upon general fund resources from other funds<sup>3</sup>; liquidity<sup>4</sup>; and designations<sup>5</sup>. Such factors will be reviewed annual and the superintendent

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<sup>1</sup>The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends, at a minimum, that general-purpose governments, regardless of size, maintain an unreserved fund balance in their general fund of no less than 5 to 15 percent of regular general fund operating revenues, or of no less than one to two months of regular general fund operating expenditures. The Oregon Association of School Business Officials recommends, at a minimum, an unreserved ending fund balance of no less than 3 to 8 percent of the general fund budget. In general practice, levels of fund balance, typically, are less for larger governments than for smaller governments because of the magnitude of the amounts involved and because the diversification of their revenues and expenditures often results in lower degrees of volatility.

<sup>2</sup>Higher levels of unreserved fund balance may be needed if significant revenue sources are subject to unpredictable fluctuations or if operating expenditures are highly volatile.

<sup>3</sup>The availability of resources in other funds may reduce the amount of unreserved fund balance needed in the general fund, just as deficits in other funds may require that a higher level of unreserved fund balance be maintained in the general fund.

<sup>4</sup>The disparity between when financial resources actually become available to make payments and the average maturity of related liabilities may require that a higher level of resources be maintained.

<sup>5</sup>The need to maintain a higher level of unreserved fund balance to compensate for any portion of unreserved fund balance already designated for a special purpose.

will make a recommendation for fund balance prior to the budget committee hearing to assist in the upcoming year's budget preparation.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 294.311\(18\)](#)

[ORS 294.398](#)

[ORS 332.107](#)