

**Policy KH: PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS**

**Status: ADOPTED**

**Original Adopted Date:** 2003 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/13/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 08/13/2024

## Definitions

*Crowdfunding* – The activity or process of raising money through solicitations, typically via an online community or platform. Crowdfunding does not include district requests for direct gifts made using the district's social media accounts or website.

*District-Approved Crowdfunding* – Crowdfunding activities approved by the superintendent or designee and initiated by the district, a district employee, or any agent or volunteer acting on behalf of the district, even if the district is not specifically named.

*Gifts* – For the purpose of this policy, any gift, donation, or bequest made to the district or a district foundation.

## Gifts to the District Foundation

The board of education encourages the community to direct all gifts to foundations created to support the district. Gifts made to foundations allow the district greater flexibility in using the funds for the benefit of the district.

## Gifts to the District

All gifts the district accepts will become district property, and the board, in its discretion, may expend or use them, in accordance with board policies and law, for the district's benefit. In general, the superintendent or designee is authorized to accept gifts to the district, but the board must vote to accept gifts of real property and gifts that require ongoing annual service, a maintenance fee, significant personnel time, or initial or continuing financial commitments from the district.

In deciding whether to accept a gift, the superintendent, the board, or its designee will minimally consider whether the gift:

1. Will further the goals of the district;
2. Will be used;
3. Is appropriate for the school environment; and
4. Will unequally distribute resources in the district.

The board requires gifts of real property to have acceptable evidence of title and the district's agreement to accept any encumbrances on the property.

The superintendent or designee will report all accepted gifts to the board. Gifts will be publicly announced and appropriately acknowledged. The donor will be officially thanked in the district's name unless the donor wishes to remain anonymous.

## **Memorials**

Memorials are a type of gift, subject to the general provisions above, given to commemorate an individual or event. Memorial text on physical items must be simply presented as the name of the individual or event; birth, death, or event dates and the words "donated in memory of" or "in memory of" unless the board specially permits a variation of this language. The district recognizes the following as appropriate forms of memorialization:

1. *Memorial scholarships* – The district must first approve the award criteria, the administrative process, and the process to be used if the scholarship becomes insolvent or the principal is significantly diminished.
2. *Purchases of library materials, school supplies, and equipment* – Selections must be aligned with the district's needs and curriculum.
3. *Plants and trees* – The administration must approve the type and placement of any planting before it is placed.
4. *Benches, tables, and other outdoor fixtures, such as sidewalks, stones, and statuary* – The district will accept this type of memorial only to the extent that there is a suitable location and the style is complementary to the buildings and grounds.

## **District-Approved Crowdfunding**

The rules in this section apply only to district-approved crowdfunding activities. The purpose of these controls is not to thwart the charitable intentions of donors but to promote legal compliance, consistent messaging, and confidence in the handling of funds, as well as to prevent duplication of efforts and gift purposes.

The superintendent or designee shall vet proposed crowdfunding platforms and limit them to those with a satisfactory reputation and expected functionality for both donors and the district.

Before a solicitation through crowdfunding, the superintendent or designee must give approval in writing after reviewing all relevant details of the request. The superintendent or designee's review must include, but is not limited to:

1. An assessment of legal and district policy compliance;
2. A determination of whether the crowdfunding will interfere with other fundraising efforts;
3. Assurance that the district does not have the targeted property, supplies, or materials (if any); and
4. An investigation into whether the district can adequately support, store, or maintain the gift when received.

In district-approved crowdfunding, the requesting party hosting the solicitation is the agent of the school district for financial purposes. The personal profile of the requesting party as it appears on the website or platform must reference the party's connection to the district. All funds, supplies, materials, and property that are donated via district-approved crowdfunding are considered the property of the district, not the requesting party.

The crowdfunded gift(s) will be transferred from the crowdfunding website or platform directly to the district whenever possible. The superintendent or designee is responsible for determining how and where to use the gifts in a manner consistent with the purpose of the crowdfunding request.

The district does not issue individual acknowledgments or receipts to crowdfunding donors, although the crowdfunding site may do so. Donors are responsible for their own tax considerations and documentation when using crowdfunding to support the district.

© 2024, Missouri School Boards' Association  
Version KH-C.1C (05/24)

---

**Policy Reference Disclaimer:**

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

**Cross References**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
ECB	<a href="#"><u>BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE</u></a>
IIAC	<a href="#"><u>INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA CENTERS/SCHOOL LIBRARIES</u></a>
IIAC-AF(1)	<a href="#"><u>INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA CENTERS/SCHOOL LIBRARIES - (Consent for Disclosure of Library Records)</u></a>