

## **GASB No. 84 Fiduciary Activities Questions and Answers**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) states the objective of GASB Statement Number 84 (GASB No. 84) is to “improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported.” **The requirements of this Statement go into effect for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, effective July 1, 2019.**

GASB published the [GASB Exposure Draft for Proposed Implementation Guide of GASB 84 for Fiduciary Activities](#) on December 17, 2018 (please note this implementation guide is currently in draft form). Given the upcoming implementation date, the GASB subcommittee decided it was important to distribute a question and answer (Q&A) document for Minnesota school districts as quickly as possible. The GASB subcommittee, a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Financial Management (Advisory Committee), is comprised of Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Financial Management staff, several certified public accountants (CPAs) from Minnesota school district audit firms, business managers, region representatives and accountants.

[Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.49, Extracurricular Activities; Insurance](#) has been updated to align with GASB 84.

These questions and answers were developed by the GASB subcommittee to assist with implementation of GASB 84 Fiduciary Activities. MDE will update this document as needed for general questions, which will be included in the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards (UFARS) Manual Chapter 14. For student activities, the questions are sorted into two categories: student activities currently **not** under board control and student activities currently under board control.

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## Background

GASB has provided the following summary to GASB Statement No. 84 to help readers understand the purpose of this statement:

*The objective of this Statement is to improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported.*

*This Statement establishes criteria for identifying fiduciary activities of all state and local governments. The focus of the criteria generally is on (1) whether a government is controlling the assets of the fiduciary activity and (2) the beneficiaries with whom a fiduciary relationship exists. Separate criteria are included to identify fiduciary component units and postemployment benefit arrangements that are fiduciary activities.*

*An activity meeting the criteria should be reported in a fiduciary fund in the basic financial statements. Governments with activities meeting the criteria should present a statement of fiduciary net position and a statement of changes in fiduciary net position...*

*...This Statement describes four fiduciary funds that should be reported, if applicable: (1) pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, (2) investment trust funds, (3) private-purpose trust funds, and (4) custodial funds. Custodial funds generally should report fiduciary activities that are not held in a trust or equivalent arrangement that meets specific criteria...*

*...This Statement also provides for recognition of a liability to the beneficiaries in a fiduciary fund when an event has occurred that compels the government to disburse fiduciary resources. Events that compel a government to disburse fiduciary resources occur when a demand for the resources has been made or when no further action, approval, or condition is required to be taken or met by the beneficiary to release the assets.*

## Fiduciary Activities

### Does GASB 84 affect other financial activities?

Yes. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) should review and update all local policies to ensure they are not in conflict with GASB 84. This GASB statement may affect other financial activities at the LEAs in addition to student activities. The requirements of this Statement go into effect for FY 2020, effective July 1, 2019.

### Will Agency Fund 09 remain in the UFARS manual?

No. Agency Fund 09 will be inactivated. All LEAs will need to determine if the current activity in the Agency Fund 09 belongs in the General Fund 01, Trust Fund 08 or **Custodial Fund 18** (new fund for FY 2020 and beyond).

### How does GASB define Custodial Funds?

Per GASB 84 paragraph 18, *“custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, investment trust funds, or private-purpose trust funds. The external portion of investment pools that are not held in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 11c (1) should be reported in a separate external investment pool fund column, under the custodial funds classification.”*

The UFARS manual currently includes the following Fiduciary Funds: Post-Employment Benefits Irrevocable Trust Fund 45 and Trust Fund 08. In addition, MDE will add Custodial Fund 18 for FY 2020.

### What are some examples of activities that will be required to use Custodial Funds?

For UFARS Custodial Fund 18, GASB 84 section B28 states, “Fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in pension (and other employee benefits) trust funds, investment trust funds, or private-purpose trust funds should be reported in custodial funds.”

An LEA could use Custodial Funds for the following examples if the entity has no administrative or direct financial involvement, or the activity is not administered through a qualifying trust:

- The entity is a fiscal host of a grant or flow-through funds
- Scholarships without a legally binding trust agreement
- Assets of the employees (i.e., Deferred Compensation/457)

This list is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of Custodial Fund activities. Please consult with your auditor for questions regarding financial activities that may need to be recorded in the Custodial Fund.

### How does an LEA know if they have administrative involvement?

A government has administrative involvement with the assets if, for example, it: (a) monitors compliance with the requirements of the activity that are established by the government that does not receive the direct benefits of the activity, (b) determines eligible expenditures that are established by the government that does not receive the direct benefit of the activity, or (c) has the ability to exercise discretion over how assets are allocated.

## **How does GASB 84 affect the way scholarships are recorded?**

To account for scholarships, MDE will add Finance Code (FIN) 340, Scholarships, and Balance Sheet Account Code 402, Restricted/Reserved for Scholarships. When there is administrative involvement and no formal trust agreement, use General Fund 01 with Finance Code 340 and Balance Sheet Account Code 402. When there is a legal trust agreement associated with the scholarship, use Trust Fund 08 with Finance Code 340 and Balance Sheet Account Code 402. When the requirements of a fiduciary activity are met, use Custodial Fund 18 with Finance Code 340 and Balance Sheet Account Code 402. These codes will be available effective July 1, 2019.

For further information, please review GASB 84 and consult with your auditor.

## General Questions for Student Activities

### How does GASB 84 apply to student activities?

Student activities are subject to administrative involvement, therefore, they are not considered to be fiduciary activities.

### How does GASB 84 affect outside organizations (i.e., Booster Clubs, PTOs, PTAs, etc.) and their relationship with LEAs?

Outside organizations such as Booster Clubs, Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs) and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) are separate entities that have their own tax identification (ID) number and are not allowed to use the LEA's tax ID number. GASB 84 does not affect the financial relationship between the LEA and the outside organizations because they are not part of the LEA.

### Would a Special Revenue Fund be appropriate for student activities?

No. The requirements of UFARS necessitates the activity be recorded and reported in the General Fund 01.

### Will there be a specific Finance Code to record student activity revenues and expenditures?

Yes. Finance Code 301, Extracurricular Activities, will be added to the UFARS manual for FY 2020. Finance Code 301 should be used with the following Program Codes: 292, 294, 296 and 298. Note: salaries and benefits will not be allowed with Finance Code 301. Refer to FY 2020 UFARS Manual Chapter 4 – Finance Dimension and Chapter 10 – Permitted Code Combinations ([UFARS Manual](#)).

### Are there other program codes available to use with Finance Code 301, Extracurricular Activities?

Please see proposed UFARS Manual Chapter 10 restricted grid for Finance Code 301.

FIN	Description	Funds	Org	Programs	Object
301	Extracurricular Activities	01	001-999	292 Boys/Girls Athletics 294 Boys Athletics 296 Girls Athletics 298 Extracurricular Activities	305, 329, 315, 350, 357, 358, 360, 365, 366, 369, 401, 405, 455, 465, 490, 505, 530, 555, 820, 899

### Will there be a specific Fund Balance Account for student activity fund balances?

Yes. Fund Balance Account 401, Restricted Reserved for Extracurricular Activities, will be added for FY 2020. This Fund Balance Account should be used with Finance Code 301, Extracurricular Activities. Refer to FY 2020 UFARS Manual Chapter 8 – Balance Sheet Accounts.

## **Will Chapter 14 - Student Activities Accounting remain in the UFARS Manual?**

Yes. UFARS Manual Chapter 14 will provide guidance for student activities accounting. MDE will update Chapter 14 in the UFARS Manual.

## **Is there a list of allowable and unallowable expenditures for student activities and donations?**

Yes. See [Attachment A, Student Activity Accounting Guidance](#).

## **Can student activities pay for staff salaries and benefits?**

No. Salaries and benefits will be processed through General Fund 01, Finance Code 000. Student activity accounts are not responsible for salaries and benefits of staff providing services for that activity.

## **Can student activities pay for contracted services?**

Yes. The school board or school board policies will determine who must approve all contracts. The student activity account would record the transaction in General Fund 01, Finance Code 301.

## **When recording fees or fundraising revenue, how do LEAs determine when to use Finance Code 000 or Finance Code 301, Extracurricular Activities?**

The school board approves fees, such as: student activity participation fees, gate receipts, etc., in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, sections 123B.34 to 123B.37. Fees that are approved by the school board are recorded as General Fund 01, Finance Code 000. Student activity revenues generated by fundraising, admissions, dues, etc., that are not established by the LEA's board would be recorded in General Fund 01 with Finance Code 301.

## **Does the sales tax exemption for fundraising still apply once the student activity funds are rolled into the General Fund?**

Districts should reference the Minnesota Department of Revenue, Sales Tax Fact Sheet 111, [Sales Made by Schools](#), section starting on Page 3 (<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/businesses/sut/factsheets/FS111.pdf>). Districts should contact the Minnesota Department of Revenue with specific questions regarding fundraising activities for sales tax questions.

## **How do LEAs account for the funds when individual students are conducting fundraising for a group activity (i.e., trip to Greece for any currently enrolled high school student)?**

The LEA's policy would determine eligibility and the procedure to account for this fundraising activity. Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.49, subdivision 4(a) states, "*Extracurricular activities means all direct and personal services for pupils for their enjoyment that are managed and operated under the guidance of an adult or staff member.*"

## **How should LEAs handle student activity fundraising for charitable organizations?**

The LEA must review the student activity and determine whether it is in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.49. The LEA's policy would determine the appropriateness of the fundraising activity.

Donations to charitable organizations that do not meet the requirements of a fiduciary fund or where the LEA has administrative involvement would be recorded in General Fund 01. Donations that meet the requirements of the Fiduciary Fund would be recorded in Custodial Fund 18.

UFARS Manual Chapter 14 will provide guidance for student activities accounting. MDE will update Chapter 14 in the UFARS Manual.

## **Can districts use unapproved software to record the student activity accounting?**

No. Student activities will be rolled into General Fund 01. Therefore, they must follow all statutory requirements of UFARS including Minnesota Statutes, section 125B.05, State Information System. All financial transactions (including revenues, expenditures and journal entries) are required to flow through MDE-approved software. For a list of approved finance systems, please see the [UFARS Overview Chapter](#).

## **If an audit opinion for student activities not under board control had been modified in the past, what will happen to the audit opinion for the district's financial statement since student activity funds will be reported within the General Fund 01?**

The effect to the audit opinion will depend on the auditor's judgement of the materiality and financial impact of the student activities on the General Fund 01. Improved internal controls due to accounting for the activities within the General Fund 01 could also be a factor. It is important to communicate with your audit firm and begin discussions regarding the potential impact GASB 84 may have on the audit opinion in your district. Each district should review policies and procedures, including student activities, to make sure these align with GASB 84.

## **What steps can the district implement to obtain an unmodified opinion over revenue recognition of student activity funds?**

Districts should work with their auditors to improve internal controls over cash receipts to reduce the risk of loss by implementing policies and procedures. Some examples include: inventory the items for sale; complete reconciliation of receipts of items sold and remaining inventory; use of numbered receipts; and balancing cash registers and cash drawers.

If the district is unable to develop sufficient internal controls to meet the requirements of revenue recognition, they may want to consider moving the fundraising activity to an outside organization, i.e., Booster Club or PTO to eliminate a modified opinion.

## **How may the ASBO Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting be affected by the change in student activity reporting?**

An opinion modification would disqualify a district from receiving the certificate because an unmodified opinion within the independent auditor's report is a requirement to receive the certificate.

## Student Activities Currently Not Under Board Control

### How does GASB 84 affect school districts with student activities not under board control?

The requirements of GASB 84 and the related implementation guide indicate that student activities should be reported in the district's General Fund 01. Based on this guidance, Minnesota school districts will no longer be allowed to report student activities "Not Under Board Control" separate from the General Fund. The LEA **should review** all student activities to ensure they belong in the LEA's financial records. If it is determined the student activity should be in the LEA's financial records, the activity should be reported in General Fund 01 with Finance Code 301, Extracurricular Activities, and Fund Balance Account 401, Restricted/Reserved for Extracurricular Activities.

### Is board action required to move the student activities from *not under board control* to *under board control* within the General Fund 01?

MDE encourages the LEA's board to adopt and acknowledge the accounting responsibility for the student activities, effective July 1, 2019. If there are current district policies governing student activities not under board control, the board policies will need to be updated and adopted by the board to reflect changes in statute and accounting practices.

### How does the LEA transfer the student activity funds not under board control on July 1, 2019?

LEAs will need to review each student activity account not under board control to determine whether the activity belongs within the General Fund 01, Custodial Fund 18 or should not be part of the district's financial system (i.e., outside organizations such as Booster Clubs). This analysis should include any accruals (accounts receivable, accounts payable, unearned revenue, prepaids, etc.) to properly account for prior year-ending balances. The prior year-ending balance may require a restatement of June 30, 2019, ending balances in the district's financial statements. Consult with your auditor.

If the student activities not under board control does not represent a fiduciary activity, it should be recorded in General Fund 01, Fund Balance Account 401, Restricted/Reserved for Extracurricular Activities. If the student activities not under board control does represent a fiduciary activity, it should be recorded in Custodial Fund 18. Districts may, for local purposes, choose to have sub-accounts within the fund balance for each student activity (i.e., student council, chess club or band). Consult with your auditor if the activity does not represent a general fund activity or fiduciary fund activity.

### What can be done with obsolete student activity accounts (i.e., senior class graduates)?

This is addressed through the Student Activity Purpose Form, which can be found in UFARS Manual Chapter 14.



### **How would LEAs handle student organized dances (i.e., prom)?**

The answer will depend upon board policy and fundraising activity. There may be a blend between Program Code 298 with Finance Code 000 and/or Program Code 298 with Finance Code 301. For example, students may have fundraising activities that will pay for the prom as a whole and a portion of the fundraising activity would be used to pay for disc jockey (DJ) services. The DJ expenditures would be recorded in General Fund 01 using Program Code 298 with Finance Code 301 Extracurricular Activities. The additional prom expenditures could be recorded in Finance Code 000 or Finance Code 301.

## **Student Activities Currently Under Board Control**

### **How does GASB 84 affect LEAs with student activities currently under board control?**

Even student activities that are currently under board control will be impacted by GASB 84. All student activities must be reported in General Fund 01. The student activities will be required to use General Fund 01, Finance Code 301 and Fund Balance Account 401, which is a restricted/reserved fund balance account. Therefore, the districts will need to reclassify beginning fund balances into the restricted/reserved account if they were previously reported as committed or assigned fund balances in the General Fund 01, effective July 1, 2019.

An analysis of the effect on beginning fund balance/net position should be performed for those LEAs who previously reported the assets of student activity accounts that were offset by a liability indicating it was owed to the activity when there was no specific liability (not allowed under GASB 84).

### **How does the LEA reassign the student activity funds under board control on July 1, 2019?**

The LEA should follow their policies and procedures on how to reassign from Committed Fund 461 or Assigned Fund 462 within the General Fund 01 to General Fund 01, Fund Balance Account 401, Restricted/Reserved for Extracurricular Activities. LEAs may, for local purposes, choose to have sub-accounts within the fund balance for each student activity (i.e., student council, chess club or band).

## **Contact**

Please send your questions or comments regarding this document to the [MDE UFARS Helpdesk](mailto:mde.ufars-accounting@state.mn.us) (mde.ufars-accounting@state.mn.us).

## Attachment A

### Student Activity Accounting Guidance

All expenditures must benefit the students participating in the student activity who are currently enrolled. Local school boards may be more restrictive than the lists below. In addition, the school board may decide to cover other allowable costs in General Fund 01, Finance Code 000.

Appropriate expenditures for student activity accounts include, but are not limited to:

- Admission and participation fees for the entire group, not specific individuals within the group.
- Entertainment for specific student activity events, including contracted services (i.e. Disc Jockey for prom).
- Food.
- Lodging.
- Supplies and materials.
- Clothing for students participating in the student activity.
- Transportation.
- Travel expenditures.

Inappropriate expenditures for student activity accounts include, but are not limited to the following:

- assemblies not representative of the student activity purpose
- employee compensation, gifts or awards
- faculty meetings or events
- labor or service payments (staff salaries or independent contractors acting as staff)
- library books
- office supplies
- office or school furniture
- textbooks
- gift cards
- gift certificates
- field trips which are curricular in nature
- personal items for coaches, advisors or other staff members
- scholarships for students that are not enrolled

## Donations

Appropriate donations should meet the mission and vision of the student activity as determined by the students and may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Donations that the student activity determines after the students have realized a surplus fund balance should be recorded in the General Fund 01 with Finance Code 301.
- Donations that the students have pre-determined to raise funds for a non-profit organization (i.e., culinary club does a Second Harvest food drive or the Spanish club does a fundraiser for Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief) should be recorded in the Custodial Fund 18.

Inappropriate donations from the student activity accounts include, but are not limited to the following:

- donations to individuals
- donations for religious activities
- donations to booster clubs
- donations to parent teachers organizations
- donations to staff related accounts
- donations to school foundations
- donations to scholarship funds

LEAs should work with their auditors to determine the appropriate accounting practice to record charitable donations from these student activities.