



Mitchell School District 17-2 POLICY

Category	Approval								
Series 700: Foundations and Basic Commitments	<table><tr><td>Adopted</td><td>Revised</td></tr><tr><td>11/14/16</td><td></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Reviewed</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">6/12/17, 5/24/21</td></tr></table>	Adopted	Revised	11/14/16		Reviewed		6/12/17, 5/24/21	
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CROWDFUNDING/EMPLOYEE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

MSD 747

Inasmuch as desired enhancements to educational programming have always and will always exceed school resources, school employees may at times choose to seek private funds for school improvements. One modern manifestation of this is commonly referred to as ‘crowdfunding,’ or the placement of needs on various websites in order to secure donations to meet those needs. Two popular sites of this sort include GoFundMe and Donors Choose. Such fundraising methods are permissible within the Mitchell School District and the Board commends school employees for their efforts to secure outside funding to better serve the needs of their students.

Nevertheless, certain issues have arisen in relation to crowdfunding in other parts of the country and it is the intent of the Board to address those issues through this policy. Specifically, District employees wishing to secure crowdfunding should keep the following requirements/considerations in mind:

1. Such funding requests should occur only with the pre-approval of their building administrator. Any person failing to secure such approval will not be permitted to use the name, logos, or mascot of the Mitchell School District or any of its attendance centers.
2. It is generally advisable for the monies or items secured through crowdfunding to become the property of the Mitchell School District. Teachers/employees who seek crowdfunding should be explicit about the ownership of such items so that donors understand this point for tax and other purposes. If the items are to be the property of the Mitchell School District, all such funds must be accounted for through the District Business Office. If the crowdfunding site requires that it collect the dollars, purchase the described items, and send them to the teacher/employee, then a simple record of the acquisition should be sent to the building principal and District Business Office.
3. It is the intention of the District to ensure that items purchased through such fundraising endeavors remain with the teacher/employee, unless the teacher/employee leaves the district or the program for which the items were purchased, in which case the building administrator will seek input from the teacher/employee responsible for raising the funds as to the subsequent placement of the items.
4. When making requests for crowdfunding support, teachers/employees must comply with student privacy and other requirements set out in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Thus, student images, names, and descriptions which would cause students to be identifiable or would allow logical deductions about disabilities or other factors deemed to be within the student sphere of privacy must not be used on such websites or elsewhere, unless written, parental permission is secured in advance.
5. Crowdfunding requests should not argue for the need for funds for purposes the District is already legally required to meet. (Thus, for example, if a student requires a particular intervention to meet an IEP goal, the District must provide such and it would not be appropriate to seek private donations for such.)

LEGAL REFS: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
Individual with Disability Education Act

