

## **Gifts, Grants, Bequests and Fundraising**

The following criteria shall be used in examining and evaluating gifts, grants, bequests and fundraising for, or on behalf of, Newton Public Schools.

As an overarching policy, the School Committee has two primary interests:

The first is to ensure that the school department exercises control over the curriculum, programming, and staffing of Newton Public Schools.

The second is to maintain equity among the schools within the system. This does not mean that each school will be exactly the same, but that schools in our system generally will have equal opportunities for programs, staffing and materials. It is the intent of this policy to promote innovation and new ideas.

In keeping with these interests, the School Committee directs the Superintendent to make recommendations for the use of private funds in keeping with the educational objectives of the system as a whole and distributed using principles of equity.

At the discretion of the Superintendent, the gift may be used in a particular school for a pilot or other program or when otherwise appropriate. Items contributed to the school district become the property of the district and are subject to the same laws, controls and regulations that govern the use of all school-owned property.

To be acceptable, private funds given to Newton Public Schools must satisfy the following criteria:

1. While the donor may express a preference, and the intention of this policy is to honor the donor's request whenever possible and consistent with this policy, the final decision for the use of a gift shall be made by the Superintendent and approved by the School Committee. The School Committee and the Superintendent shall retain free and unconstrained authority to make decisions regarding curriculum, programs, administration, and faculty.
2. Any and all equipment and/or supplies to be donated must be reviewed by the Superintendent or his/her designee to determine its acceptability in regard to: safety, compatibility with existing equipment, programs and/or materials, installation costs and maintenance costs, and general impact upon the curriculum.
3. Have a purpose consistent with those of Newton Public Schools.
4. If the gift is to fund an approved program, the gift must support multiple years and not encumber the School Committee to take over funding said program.

5. Would not bring undesirable or hidden costs to the school system.
6. Will place no unacceptable restrictions on the school system.
7. Will not be inappropriate or harmful to the education of students.
8. Will not be in conflict with any provision of state law or federal law.
9. Will not give any private individual or group undue influence over the administration, staff, faculty or programs.
10. Will not represent a commercial or individual interest that is inappropriate and/or disruptive to a school environment.

*The School Committee will require that the acceptance of a gift to a specific elementary school be treated as if that school's PTO had purchased the item and such a gift will be subject to the Elementary Equity Policy. If the item would not be allowed under the Elementary Equity Policy, the School Committee may decline to accept the gift. If the gift would be allowable, but subject to the Allowable Technology Equity Spending cap or the Allowable Non-technology Equity Spending cap, then the Principal and PTO leadership of that school should be consulted before the gift is accepted to be sure that the value of the gift can be included as an equity-limited expenditure either in the current fiscal year or the next year and that the gift is in accordance with the educational objectives and needs of the school. If necessary to comply with the PTO's Allowable Equity Spending, the school's PTO will be allowed to amortize the amount of the gift as an equity expense over a 4-year period if approved. However, each PTO will only be permitted to amortize the value of one equity-limited gift at a time.*

The School Committee and Superintendent will be made aware of and approve all gifts received by the district and individual schools.

Acceptance of a donation, gift, bequest or funds related to advertising on school property shall in no case be considered as a testimonial or endorsement by the school system of a product, service, or other business enterprise. The School Committee retains the authority to allow and limit advertising on school property and the placement of names of individuals or commercial entities on school property to the maximum extent provided by state and federal law.

Any private funding rejected by the School Committee shall be returned to the donor or the donor's estate with a statement indicating the reason for the rejection of such gift.