INTRODUCTION

Only a group or organization that has entered into a written cooperative agreement and understanding of financial responsibility with the board may use the name, mascot, or logo of a school, the school district’s property or facilities to solicit or raise money, materials, property, securities, services, or other things of value.¹

A civic organization that has come into agreement with the board to operate concessions or parking at school-sponsored events is not a school support organization subject to this policy.

REPORTING AND RECORDS

The director of schools or his/her designee shall annually post a list of organizations that are recognized as school support organizations on the school district’s web site.

Any forms, annual reports, or financial statements submitted shall be open to public inspection as a public record.

PROCEDURES

The director of schools or his/her designee shall create procedures to oversee the relationship between the board and any school support organization. These procedures shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1. Any agreement between the board and a school support organization shall be in writing and signed by the director of schools or his/her designee and an authorized agent of the school support organization seeking authorization. This agreement shall contain, at a minimum, the following provisions:

   a. An agreement to abide by any policies and procedures regarding school support organizations; and

   b. An agreement to indemnify the board, the director of schools, and all other agents of the local education agency for the actions of the school support organization and any individuals within the organization.

2. Prior to entering into any agreement, a school support organization shall submit the following to the director of schools or his/her designee:
a. Documentation confirming the school support organization’s status as a nonprofit organization, foundation, or a chartered member of a nonprofit organization or foundation;

b. A written statement of the goals and objectives of the group or organization;

c. The telephone number, address, email address and position of each officer of the group or organization; and

d. A copy of the school support organization’s written policy specifying reasonable procedures for accounting, controlling, and safeguarding any money, materials, property, securities, services, or other things of value collected or disbursed by it.

3. The director of schools shall designate a date prior to the beginning of the regular school year for the school support organization to submit a form to the director of schools or his/her designee which verifies the information previously provided by the school support organization as correct, or if the information is no longer correct, that date shall be the deadline for any corrections. The organization shall submit a detailed report of revenues and disbursements to the director of schools or his/her designee before the end of the school year.

4. The school support organization shall abide by all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations in its activities.

5. The school support organization shall maintain, at a minimum, detailed statements of receipts and disbursements, a copy of its charter, bylaws, minutes, and documentation of its recognition as a nonprofit organization.

6. The school support organization shall maintain financial records for a period of at least four (4) years and be available upon request by any member of the organization, principal, director of schools or his/her designee or the office of the Comptroller of Treasury.

7. The school support organization shall operate within the applicable standards and guidelines set by a related state association, if applicable, and shall not promote, encourage, or acquiesce in any violation of student or team eligibility requirements, conduct codes, or sportsmanship standards.

8. The school support organization’s officers shall ensure that school support organization funds are safeguarded and are spent only for purposes related to the stated goals and objectives of the organization.

9. The school support organization shall obtain the approval of the director of schools or his/her designee before undertaking any fundraising activity. The director of schools or his/her designee shall consider, at a minimum, the following when approving or denying a request by a school support organization to engage in a fundraising activity:

   a. Whether the fundraising activity, as scheduled, conflicts with the fundraising activity of the school district or an individual school within that district; and
b. Whether the fundraising activity is consistent with the goals and mission of the school or school district.

c. A principal may allow funds raised by fundraisers conducted by a school support organization outside the school day and involving students to be collected during the school day by the school support organization. The funds shall be school support organization funds; provided, that school employees are not involved in the accounting of the funds and the funds are turned in using sealed envelopes.

10. The school support organization shall provide access to all books, records, and bank account information for the school support organization to officials of the local school board, local school principal, or auditors of the office of the comptroller of the treasury upon request.

11. A school representative cannot act as a treasurer or bookkeeper for a school support organization or be a signatory on the checks for a school support organization. A majority of the voting members of any school support organization board should not be composed of school representatives.

The director of schools may enact procedures to suspend or revoke the authorization of any school support organization for a failure to abide by the policies and procedures regarding school support organizations.

**OPERATION OF A SCHOOL BOOKSTORE**

The principal of a school may enter into a written agreement with a recognized school support organization for the operation of a bookstore located on school grounds, which makes direct sales to students and faculty, pursuant to procedures promulgated by the director of schools or his/her designee. These procedures shall provide, at a minimum, the following:

1. One hundred percent (100%) of the profits of the operation of the bookstore are used for support of the school; and

2. The school support organization provides the school with the relevant collection documentation that would have been required pursuant to the provisions of the manual produced under TCA 49-2-110 for student activity funds.

The director of schools or his/her designee may provide such other procedures and forms as he or she deems necessary.

**CONCESSIONS AND PARKING**

The principal of a school may agree to allow an authorized school support organization to operate and collect money for a concession stand or parking at a related school academic, arts, athletic, or social event on school property. Prior approval of the director of schools or his/her designee shall be obtained as mentioned under fundraising activities. Any money payable to the school pursuant to the agreement with the principal will be considered school support group funds and not student activity funds if the school support organization provides the school with the relevant collection documentation required by the student activity funds manual produced by the State.
Legal References

1. TCA 49-2-604(a) - 49-2-606