

**BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
H 11: GIFTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Former Policy KH**

The Burlington School Board is appreciative of public interest and good will toward its schools. This is often manifested through public or private gifts, grants, bequests, and endowments. School-business relationships based on sound principles can contribute to high quality education. . It is not the intention of the School Board to provide a forum for the promotion of commercial interests. Sponsors and donors may not use the schools to promote commercial interests through their donations. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for donors, and for school personnel who may be called upon to act for the Board in these matters

The Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized to accept gifts to the District, and others whom he/she may designate may be authorized to accept gifts for a particular school or program on behalf of the School Board.

In the instances where the Superintendent or designee questions the appropriateness of the proffered gift, or the terms under which it is offered, the matter shall be referred to the appropriate committee(s) of the School Board as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

All gifts given to the school will become the property of the District and may be assigned to specific schools or programs at the discretion of the Superintendent.

All gifts or offers must be reported to the Superintendent or designee. Any gift with a value that exceeds \$1,000 must receive prior approval from the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The School Board shall include in its annual report, a description of grants or gifts accepted during the year and associated expenditure in accordance with 16 V.S.A. §563(22).

The following guidelines shall be used by the Superintendent and/or designee and/or the appropriate committee(s) of the School Board in determining the appropriateness of gifts:

1. The objectives, and conditions, if any, of the gift or donation must support the goals and objectives of the schools and satisfy any applicable legal requirements. Sponsored and donated material shall be held to the same standard used for the selection and purchase of curriculum materials.
2. The gift should not initiate a program that the School Board may be unwilling to fund upon the termination or depletion of the gift or grant. Any gift that generates indirect costs, overhead, capital outlay or direct operating costs should be subject to terms that address how these expenses will be funded.

3. Acceptance of a gift will not be construed to be a testimonial or endorsement by the District of a product or business enterprise and shall not require students to observe, listen to, or read commercial advertising. Sponsor and donor recognition e.g. corporate logos, shall be restricted to avoid the appearance of commercial promotion.
4. The District welcomes gifts of books and other materials to libraries provided that they meet the same standards of selection as those that apply to such books and materials acquired through normal channels of purchase.
5. Gifts and donations must be structured to meet an identified educational need, not a commercial motive, and must be evaluated for educational effectiveness by the school/district on an ongoing basis.
6. Acceptance of a gift or donation shall not limit the discretion of the schools and teachers in the use of sponsored materials.
7. Other criteria as may be deemed appropriate by the School Board if donation warrants closer scrutiny.

Legal Reference:

16 V.S.A. §563(22) – Powers of School Boards

Cross Reference:

G 12 – Selection of Instructional Materials

POLICY ADOPTED:	December 3, 1992
POLICY REVIEWED:	March 11, 1997
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