Fundraising for Individuals/Families

There have been numerous situations in which school members (students and teachers) wish to do fundraising and/or collect donations for individuals/families in need.

School fundraisers or school donations for the benefit of individuals or families are not allowable. Once money is deposited into a District account, it is considered public school funds.

The District’s use of public funds to support individuals or families is outside the scope of our tax exemption, which is education and education-related activities. What this means is the donor may receive an income tax deduction for contributions to the District; however using contributions for purposes other than education and education-related activities violates our tax exempt status.

If there is a desire from the school community to assist individuals/families, the donations should NOT be deposited into the District accounts. The donation or fundraiser should clearly stipulate funds will NOT be used for District needs and will be used to support a specific individual/family. Any checks should be written directly to the individual/family and any cash collected would be handed to the individual/family. There should be a clear understanding that any money donated for this purpose may NOT be taken as an income tax deduction by the donor.

All monies which are collected at the school level for charitable purposes (such as Angel Funds, Sunshine Funds) must be deposited into a Fund 74 Student Activity Fund. Money should not be directly given to an individual or family. However, purchases may be made to support the individual/family, such as non-perishable groceries and/or clothing. Again, there should be a clear understanding that any donations made to this charitable funds may NOT be taken as an income tax deduction by the donor.

A school MAY raise money through a fundraiser or donations to support another nonprofit and tax exempt organization such as the American Heart Association. The organization must give the school an acknowledgement letter of the donation as documentation.

Please remember that a District employee may not receive cash or cash equivalents (gift cards) with District funds because it is considered illegal compensation.

It is all of our responsibility to protect the District’s tax exempt status. Please call Financial Services at 303-682-7203 with any questions.

September 11, 2012