Aspire Public Schools
Fiscal Control Policy & Procedures
Effective June 21, 2018

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the authority limits for each officer and employee to execute contracts and purchase goods or services on behalf of Aspire Public Schools, and to set out the policies and procedures when employees incur business expenses on behalf of Aspire Public Schools in the furtherance of its mission.

Authorized Approvers and Authorization Limits

1. Definition of obligations:

   Contractual and disbursement obligations include all oral and/or written commitments on Aspire Public Schools’ behalf including contracts for goods or services, construction contracts for new or existing school sites and facilities, employment contracts, lease commitments, investments, purchase orders, vendor invoices and other similar obligations. Contractual and disbursement obligations also include traditional payment transactions such as checks, wire transfers, bank transfers, and payroll disbursements.

2. Review and due care:

   All contractual and disbursement obligations must be reviewed for budget impact, risks, legal considerations, optimal procurement practices, Aspire Public Schools internal control policies, and consistency with Aspire Public Schools Strategies and Priorities.
3. **Authorized approvers and approval limits (see chart):**

The tables below set out the limits of authority for Home Office employees, School Site employees and the Board of Directors:

### Home Office Approval Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teammate Group</th>
<th>Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Office Staff</td>
<td>No Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers and Directors without budget oversight</td>
<td>≤ $300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Program Specialists</td>
<td>≤ $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directors with budget oversight</td>
<td>≤ $3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Presidents* and Senior Directors</td>
<td>≤ $10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Officers</td>
<td>≤ $50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO and CFO</td>
<td>≤ $250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>&gt; $250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Vice Presidents include General Counsel and Chief of Staff

### School Site/Regional Approval Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teammate Group</th>
<th>Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers and Other School Site Teammates who are not Supervisors</td>
<td>No Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Managers, Office Managers and Supervisors</td>
<td>≤ $300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principals</td>
<td>≤ $3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Area Superintendents</td>
<td>≤ $10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Superintendents</td>
<td>≤ $50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO and CFO</td>
<td>≤ $250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>&gt; $250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any purchase or authorization of service greater than $250,000 must be approved by the Board of Directors pursuant to the Bylaws. However, no further Board approvals for contractual or disbursement obligations are required if the Board has previously approved a specific budget within which the contractual or disbursement obligation is included. For example, if the Board approves a total project budget for $2,000,000, individual contracts above $250,000 related to the total project budget previously approved, do not need to go to the Board for further approval.

All leases, monthly benefit costs and similar recurring transactions that cost in excess of $120,000 annually should be reviewed and approved once annually by the Executive Committee of the Board or the entire Board.
4. **Approval process:**

   Approvals may be structured as "up to" approvals. For example, the Board of Directors may approve of a known commitment in advance with a maximum amount approved. If the item is renegotiated for an amount greater than 10% of approved maximum amount, the request must be submitted again for approval.

5. **Review of Policy:**

   The Board of Directors is to review this policy and the appropriate limits at least annually.

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**Procurement Policy**

1. **Procurement:**

   Aspire Public Schools purchases only those goods and services that are necessary for the organization to achieve its mission or other approved purposeful need. With every purchase, authorized approvers and employees will take into account price, quality, and level of service. Vendors may be selected based on any or all of these factors. Purchases paid with federal grants will follow procurement methods stated in Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200.317-200.326, except where Aspire’s policy is more conservative. Purchases of $5,000 or greater are capitalized as a fixed asset, tagged, and tracked until it has been disposed.

   Aspire Public Schools employees planning to make purchases with federal grants should do so in accordance with our [Procurement for Purchases with Federal Funds](#) policies and procedures. When executing a sealed bid or competitive proposal, refer to the [Competitive Bidding Documentation template](#).

2. **Related Party Transactions:**

   All Employees and Board members must disclose relationships with current or proposed vendors in accordance with Aspire Public Schools' [Conflict of Interest Policy](#). Any purchases that are paid through federal grants must follow the conflicts of interest requirements per Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200.118.

3. **Contract Goods and Services:**

   To ensure protection, Aspire Public Schools requires contracts for goods or services to state expectations from both parties, delivery timing, payment terms, and other standard legal protections. Common types of contracts Aspire Public Schools utilizes include independent contractor agreements, memorandum of understanding, janitorial contract, and purchasing contract. Aspire Public Schools employees should utilize the contracts page created by the Aspire Finance team to help with any questions regarding contracts or to obtain a template to begin drafting a contract.
Aspire Public Schools requires completion of IRS Form W-9 for all new vendors, except local, state or federal government entities (in order to set up a new vendor in the accounting system and to issue 1099 forms) before payment can be made to the vendor.

Drafted contracts should be delivered to the Contracts team at contracts@aspirepublicschools.org. Completed contracts will be uploaded to Coupa by the Accounts Payable team where invoices are to be submitted against them. All invoices derived from an approved contract should be submitted in Coupa against the contract so it does not go through another approval chain. Once a contract has gone through the contracts process, invoices related to the approved contract and within the stated contract value will go directly to the AP team for review, and no further approval is needed.

4. **Non Contract Goods and Services:**

Aspire Public Schools allows for the purchase of goods and services from a vendor agreeing to bill the organization after the goods or services have been delivered. In some cases, a deposit may be required up front prior to delivery of goods or services. In case where purchase orders are needed, Aspire Public Schools employees will utilize Coupa to submit the purchase request.

In rare cases where goods or services have been delivered without a Purchase Order or Contract, a non-backed invoice can be submitted in Coupa to go through the necessary approval chain. This type of invoice submission should be avoided as much as possible through use of Purchase Requests and contracts.

5. **Credit Card Purchases:**

At times, it is necessary for purchases to be made on a corporate credit card. Aspire Public Schools issues credit cards to specific authorized employees to benefit Aspire Public Schools and the purchaser through prompt payment to suppliers and vendors. Credit Cards are issued at the discretion of the CFO and Controller to current employees who are granted purchasing authority (see Approval Matrix). Cardholders agree to all purchasing policies and procedures as well as the cardholder agreement (see Cardholder Agreement).

Violations of these policies will be investigated and may result in a written warning, suspension or revocation of credit card privileges, disciplinary action, or termination. The CFO and Controller have the authority to investigate any potential violations and determine recommended actions as deemed appropriate.

Cardholders are responsible for the activity on the card. Aspire Public Schools may suspend or cancel the card at any time for any reason and cardholders will surrender the card upon request.

Credit card violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Purchase of personal items or items for family/friends
- Credit card usage for cash advances
- Credit card payments for invoices without proper authorization
- Failure to return cards upon request
- Loaning of card to any other person
- Failure to reconcile credit card statement on monthly basis
- Failure to provide other support for charges as requested
- Two incidences of missing receipts over a three month period

Below are a list of credit policies for card holders to closely follow:

- The credit card is to be used for business purposes only
- Credit card limits will be established based upon role and responsibilities and will not exceed $10,000.
- If a greater limit is needed for a particular employee, a request may be submitted by the employee’s supervisor.
- No personal items should be charged to Aspire issued credit cards.
- Should an employee experience two (2) violations in a three (3) month period, they will be subject to at least one (1) month suspension on credit card privileges.
- Continual violation of credit card policies may result in cards being canceled.
- Credit cards may not be used to pay for invoices from vendors unless authorized by the CFO and Controller.

Each cardholder is expected to do the following in regards to receipts and reporting:

- Complete credit card reconciliation (statement review).
- Provide copies of corresponding receipts within stated deadline to online site. Receipts should be itemized and show entire details of what is purchased, especially for meals and restaurants (a credit card charge slip or statement is not sufficient).
- Maintain original receipts and send to Finance team employee upon request.
- When providing receipts, cardholders are expected to provide a brief description of purchase, provide codes such as object and resources, and ensure receipts uploaded are viewable.
- When receipts are missing, cardholders must complete Missing Receipt Acknowledgement Form which is uploaded as receipt image in lieu of receipt and approved by the cardholder’s supervisor.
- Follow-up on any erroneous charges, returns, or adjustment to ensure proper credit is given on a timely basis.
- If card is lost or stolen, contact the Assistant Controller and Wells Fargo immediately to report.

**Employee Expense Reimbursement Policy and Procedures**

1. **Purpose:**

   The purpose of Aspire Public Schools’ expense reimbursement policy is to:

   - Maintain effective controls on resources
   - Authorize reimbursement to teammates for reasonable and appropriate business purposes
   - Ensure expenses are in compliance with IRS, state, and/or granting/funder agency regulations
• Ensure that resources are wisely used to achieve the organization’s mission

All employees of Aspire Public Schools are eligible to submit expense reimbursements, documented with receipts, through our expense reporting system and are expected to do so in a timely fashion. All expenses must be approved by a supervisor or authorized person other than the employee before payment. Employees should make every effort to submit requests weekly or within 30 days of incurring such expense. Items submitted **45 calendar days** after the date it was incurred may not be reimbursed.

Reimbursements typically occur weekly on Thursday’s but may vary due to holidays or Home Office closures. Once a supervisor has approved a report, it will go to the Accounts Payable team to process the payment. The Accounts Payable team will utilize direct deposits as the method of payment to expedite reimbursements to employees where direct deposit have been set up. It may take up to **7 business days** from the supervisor approval for a reimbursement to be issued to a staff member.

2. **Expenses eligible for reimbursement**

Aspire Public Schools will reimburse employees for reasonable, necessary, and pre-approved work-related out-of-pocket expenses. Examples of reimbursable expenses include: mileage, tolls and parking for travel beyond your normal commute, postage, supplies, meals, gas for rental cars, air travel, rental cars, and lodging. Below are specific guidelines for reimbursement of mileage, air travel, car rentals, other transportation, hotels, and meals and entertainment.

3. **Expenses ineligible for reimbursement**

Aspire must adhere to certain guidelines as set forth by the California and Tennessee Department of Education for the use of State and Federal funds. The following is a list of non-reimbursable items:

• Personal expenses or family member expenses
• Alcohol and tobacco (with exceptions noted in the Aspire Alcohol Policy)
• Laundry or cleaning expenses
• First class tickets or upgrades
• Early check-in fees for hotels, flights, and reservations
• Travel insurance
• Room upgrade fees
• Membership dues at any country club, private club, athletic club, or tennis club
• Baggage fee for less than 3 nights stay
• Hotel gym or health club fees
• Massages or spa services
• Traffic citations
• Movies or PPV in hotels
• In room minibar items
• Clothing or jewelry purchases
• Fee for obtaining background check and/or TB clearance test
• Cash advances
• Political contributions or donations
Common purchases from common vendors used on an ongoing basis exceeding a $1,000 threshold should not be charged to personal credit cards. Instead, expenses exceeding the threshold of $1,000 should be entered in Coupa as either a check request, or purchase order. Employees should follow up with their Office Manager about this process.

4. **Submitting an expense reimbursement**

The following guidelines must be followed to avoid delay in reimbursement of expense reports:

- When an expense is incurred, the original itemized receipt should be scanned or saved in PDF or JPEG format. Original receipts should be maintained by the employee for their own records. Receipts are required for all items above $25, and items $25 and below without receipt support may be rejected.
- A clear explanation of the expense should be provided in the expense template, so the supervisor and the Accounts Payable team (AP) can understand what the money was spent on. For meals, the business purpose of the meeting and the names and positions of all the attendees should be noted.
- The Expense Reimbursement Template should be completed. Select the project/site code affiliated with the expense report.
- When submitting business airline/mileage/car rental for reimbursement, follow the guidelines specific to those sections of the policy.
- Click on the “submit” icon located on the bottom of the page in order for the report to go through the appropriate approval chain process.
- Managers/Supervisors are responsible for reviewing that expenses are reasonable in amount, appropriate based on the employee’s responsibilities, supported by a receipt, coded accurately, and consistent with Aspire Public School’s expense policy prior to approving.

5. **Mileage**

Employees can be reimbursed for the cost of driving their personal car on Aspire Public School business (2018: Currently 54.5 cents per mile). The trip must be reasonable and necessary and approved by an employee’s supervisor. Mileage must be submitted in the following format as displayed in the line item description: “Home Office to Monarch”; or “CV Regional office to CHA”.

Note that an employee cannot be reimbursed for a "normal" commute. For example, if an employee has a normal 2 mile round-trip to work, and is assigned on a particular day to go to another location and that round trip is 10 miles, the mileage reimbursement will be for 8 miles.

Reimbursement for cross-country trips or relocation expenses requires the approval of the Controller, CFO, or a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) member.

Aspire Public Schools is not responsible for parking tickets, or moving violation tickets.

6. **Air Travel**

Each employee is responsible for securing his/her flight arrangements if necessary at the best possible price. Aspire employees are expected to do the following when purchasing flights:
• Purchase airfare in Economy class or equivalent. If Economy class is unavailable, the employee must obtain approval from the CFO or Controller before purchasing a ticket.
• Purchase airfare at least 14 days ahead of travel when possible. Tickets purchased less than 14 days in advance must be approved by the employee’s supervisor in advance of purchase.
• If airline flights provide a credit for refunds with regards to business airfares which Aspire paid for, the refund should be reimbursed to Aspire Public Schools.
• When expense reimbursements are submitted, it must include the following description: Order confirmation number/itinerary number, and date of travel. For example: AEX1234 and 05/31/17.
• Only actual costs will be reimbursed. No reimbursement will be made for the value of premiums earned through frequent traveler programs applied to business travel. This includes free upgrades or free flights.
• Airline baggage fees for trips lasting two nights or less are not allowable, unless traveling with a discount airline. Charges incurred for baggage on domestic flights should not exceed $50 per flight.

Aspire Public Schools is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged luggage. Should this occur, the employee is responsible for filing a claim with the airlines and/or the employee’s own insurance company. If change fees are applicable due to a change in flight, the expense must be approved in advance by the employee’s supervisor. Aspire Public Schools does not reimburse for early check-in.

California/Memphis Air Travel: In a continued effort to contain travel costs, Aspire has instituted a cap on flight expenditures in California and Memphis. The following limits will be in effect for round trip flights between these regions (based upon making a reservation at least 14 days in advance of departure):

- Memphis--Los Angeles & SF Bay Area - $500
- Memphis--Sacramento - $600
- SF Bay Area--Los Angeles - $250
- Sacramento--Los Angeles - $250

Any exceptions to this policy must be approved in writing by the employee’s supervisor PRIOR to booking (approvals to be attached with receipt claiming reimbursement). Amounts over the listed limits will not be reimbursed.

7. Car rentals

Car rentals should be used only when needed and alternate forms of road transportation (uber, taxis, public transit, and personal vehicles) are not available. Aspire Public Schools’ corporate account with Enterprise should be utilized as much as possible because it will typically provide the best rate and may provide the best deal. The link to the Enterprise Corporate booking site is here (insert link). Aspire Public Schools employees are expected to do the following when booking rental cars:

- Rent “mid-size” models or lower and not exceed $40 per day base rate
- Loss Damage Waiver (LDW) insurance should be accepted when offered by rental agency
Aspire Public Schools will not be responsible for damages that occur during business use of either a personal or rented car.

Rentals over a weekend or holiday period are not reimbursable, unless adequately explained and approved (in advance) by a supervisor.

Refuel at a gas station prior to returning the vehicle at the end of the rental period, instead of purchasing the refill directly from the car rental company.

Car rentals should be submitted in the line item description as follows: (Order number/itinerary number & service date(s) incurred)

8. **Other Transportation**

Reimbursement will be made for reasonable transportation costs other than air travel and car rentals. This category includes:

- Uber/Lyft/Taxi fares between office/home and airport as well as between airport / hotel and final destination (e.g. conference) when traveling
- Public transportation used instead of taxis when traveling out of town
- Train Fares

9. **Hotels**

Reasonable lodging costs incurred in the course of business travel are reimbursable when an overnight stay is required.

- Aspire Public Schools employees are expected to stay in standard business class lodgings, and room rates are expected to be reasonable for the location, otherwise are subject to rejection and may not be reimbursed. Below is an approved list of hotels and lodging within each of our regional locations:

### Bay Area Regional Hotels and Rate Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Hotel rate</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bayside Hotel / Best Western</td>
<td>1717 Embarcadero, Oakland, CA 94606</td>
<td>510-356-2450</td>
<td>$159</td>
<td>See Google Doc HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Inn</td>
<td>1755 Embarcadero, Oakland, CA 94606</td>
<td>510-536-6633</td>
<td>$149</td>
<td>See Google Doc HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland Marriott City Center</td>
<td>1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607</td>
<td>510-451-4000</td>
<td>12% off stay</td>
<td>See Google Doc HERE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Central Valley Regional Hotels and Rate Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Hotel rate</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn Express</td>
<td>5045 S State Highway 99 E Frontage, Stockton, CA 95215</td>
<td>209-946-1234</td>
<td>$129</td>
<td>See Google Doc HERE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Los Angeles Regional Hotels and Rate Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Hotel rate</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Embassy Suites</td>
<td>8425 Firestone Blvd, Downey, CA 90241</td>
<td>562-861-1900</td>
<td>10% - 15% off stay</td>
<td>See Google Doc HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millennium Hotels</td>
<td>506 S Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90071</td>
<td>213-612-1511</td>
<td>$185</td>
<td>See Google Doc HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown Plaza</td>
<td>6121 E Telegraph Rd, Commerce, CA 90040</td>
<td>323-728-3600</td>
<td>$179</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Memphis Regional Hotels and Rate Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Hotel rate</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheraton Memphis Downtown Hotel</td>
<td>250 North Main St, Memphis, TN 38103</td>
<td>901-527-7300</td>
<td>$129 - $135</td>
<td>See Google Doc HERE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- For other hotels/lodging, use the current GSA per diem lodging rates below as a guide (rate per night excluding taxes). Reimbursements submitted in excess of these rates may not be approved:
  a. Bay Area: $171
  b. Central Valley: Sacramento: $128
  c. Central Valley: Stockton/Modesto: $107
  d. Los Angeles: $173
  e. Memphis: $125

- Any lodging stay outside of that stated above must be approved by the employee’s supervisor (written consent to be attached with receipts).
- Employees will not be reimbursed for a stay in a city longer than that is legitimately necessary.
- The actual hotel bill with the form of payment (charge slip or zero balance) must be submitted with the expense form as documentation. A charge slip alone is not acceptable. In the event of an express checkout, a hotel invoice along with a form of payment on the invoice (such as a credit card number) is acceptable.
- When work commitments require Friday and Monday trips to the same city, employees are ordinarily expected to return home for the weekend. However, if such travel would be more costly or time-consuming than remaining at the distant location for the weekend, lodging and reasonable meals costs for the traveler are reimbursable with the following restrictions:
  a. Hotel laundry or valet charges are reimbursable only for unexpected extended trips.
  b. Items of clothing purchased when traveling are not reimbursable. This includes replacement of lost or stolen items as well as clothing purchased as a result of an unexpected extended stay.
10. *Meals and Entertainment*

For U.S. tax reporting purposes, reimbursable meal expenses are defined as the costs incurred for food and beverages in the conduct of business. Entertainment expenditures require pre-approval. Entertainment expenses include the cost of amusement or recreational facilities, as well as attendance at the theater, sporting events, etc.

Meals made necessary by travel are reimbursable. Every effort must be made to ensure that the cost of such meals is reasonable. Please see below for breakdown of Aspire’s maximum daily reimbursement of $60:

- Breakfast (6:30 am – 11 am) $10 including tip
- Lunch (11:30 am – 4:30 pm) $20 including tip
- Dinner (5 pm – 9 pm) $30 including tip

It is not acceptable to purchase one meal for one person at the daily maximum of $60.

Meals and entertainment expenses require the following documentation for reimbursement to occur:

- Meals and entertainment expenses must be listed separately on the expense form (including those that were paid as part of a hotel bill).
- An itemized receipt of food/drinks purchased as well as the description of purpose of meal is required. This must include the number of individuals and the names of those attending, their titles, business relationship, if applicable, and business purpose of meal and/or entertainment.
- Tear-away stubs are not acceptable as receipts; the employee must include a form of payment such as a credit card slip or cash register receipt.

11. *Teachers’ Classroom Expenses*

Teachers will be reimbursed for pre-approved and budgeted expenses for books and supplies used in the classroom, both consumable and non-consumable. Principals provide each teacher with an “allowance” for this purpose. Note that any items purchased with or reimbursed with Aspire funds become the property of Aspire.

Note: Please verify with the Office or Business Manager if certain orders can be placed through the punch out catalog through Coupa in which vendors can automate invoices through the software. This will provide an additional discount when using the catalog, and diminish excess charges on personal credit cards.

**Alcohol Policy**

Per California Education Code Section 32435, no school district, county board of education, or county superintendent of schools can expend public funds on the purchase of alcohol. In addition, the risks associated with the consumption of alcohol at events sponsored by Aspire Public Schools
must be actively managed. The purpose of this section is to outline when and how alcohol expenses at Aspire Public Schools-sponsored events will be reimbursed and how to manage the risk associated with serving alcohol.

No alcohol purchased for an Aspire Public Schools-sponsored event can be paid for with public funds. Any such expenses must be approved and paid for with private, unrestricted philanthropy. The following Aspire-sponsored events may include alcohol consumption paid for with private funds:

- Annual Town Halls
- Annual Leadership Retreat
- All-Principal Meetings
- All-Directors Meetings
- Region, School or Department Retreats

Any other alcohol expenses must be reviewed and pre-approved by Chiefs, for department or other Aspire-wide events, or Area Superintendents for school or regional events.

All alcohol expenses must be coded as follows:

- Object Code: 5206 (Approved Beverages)
- Resource Code: 0000 (Unrestricted and will be covered with private funds)
- Site Code: Home Office Department (100-199); Regional Office (200, 300, 400 or 500)

The Chief Financial Officer will be responsible for monitoring the overall adherence to the policy and for ensuring that the organization has adequate philanthropic funds to cover the purchase of alcoholic beverages such that no public funds are used. In addition, the Chief Financial Officer will report back to the Chiefs if the budget for alcohol for these events has been exceeded.

The Accounts Payable team will be responsible for monitoring alcohol reimbursement / invoice payment requests and for ensuring that alcohol beverages are coded to a home office or regional office site and the appropriate object code. If the itemized receipt includes food and alcohol, the coding for the expense reimbursement must be split into parts to differentiate between the object/site code for food and the object/site code for alcohol.

Risk Management
Aspire has an obligation to manage the risk exposure when alcohol is being serviced at an event. Here are some suggestions that Area Sups and Chiefs can consider when hosting an Aspire organized event that includes the consumption of alcohol:

- Limit the number of drinks
- Offer cabs
- Include some language in the agenda about responsible drinking
- Serve food with the drinks
Banking and Cash Policies

1. School Site Checking Accounts

Aspire has created one checking account for each school it operates and has opened three additional checking accounts at schools to support Student Body groups, Field Trip fundraising, and other Development teams. Each school site checking account is monitored on a weekly basis by the Accounting team to manage cash balances and sweep any excess funds deposited to the school’s general fund.

The School Site Checking accounts are to be utilized by the school sites for making deposits of donations or fundraising proceeds and to issue checks for the expenditures less than $250. Office Managers/Business Managers are responsible to keep support documents and maintain the ledger up to date by using the Online School Ledgers.

**Deposits:** Deposits must be made at least once a week. Prior to deposits, Office Managers/Business Managers should make copies the checks. Copies of checks are kept at the school for internal financial records. The Deposits Summary Sheet must be filled with deposits breakdown and check/cash count and verified by two personnel including Office Managers/Business Managers.

Mealt ime payment should not be deposited to school site account. It should be deposited to Aspire’s main checking account and all backup documents should be sent to Home Office by courier.

In cases where a parent has written a bad check repeatedly, a School may request other form of payment using the NSF Check Letter.

**Check Payments:** Check payments are limited to $250 per check. Writing multiple checks to pay for expenses greater than $250 is prohibited. Office Managers/Business Managers must obtain an invoice or receipt to write a check. Where invoices or receipts cannot be obtained, appropriate detail documenting the expense should be supplied. A Principal is the sole signer of checks. In absence of a Principal, the Area Superintendent may appoint an Interim Principal or other authorized person to sign checks.

**Online School Ledgers:** Within 5 business days of the transactions, Online School Ledgers must be updated with applicable documents uploaded. Coding and procedures are available here.

2. Bank Reconciliations

Bank reconciliations for all Aspire bank accounts are performed on a monthly basis by the Accounting staff. They are reviewed by either the Assistant Controller or Controller. Outstanding check lists are provided for each account in the reconciliation including a list of payroll checks for applicable accounts. The list of outstanding checks for vendor and employee expense payments is reviewed on a monthly basis by the Accounts Payable staff. Phone calls and emails to vendors with outstanding checks are made typically after an item becomes 90 days old. The list of outstanding
checks for payroll are sent to the payroll staff monthly for follow up. Phone calls and emails again are typically done after the item is 90 days old.

Reporting of unclaimed vendor or employee expense checks is performed after the check becomes 3 years old. These items are reported to the California State Controller’s Office on an annual basis. Unclaimed payroll checks are reported to the California State Controller’s Office once the check becomes 1 year old. Unclaimed payroll checks are reported on an annual basis.

3. **Cash Investments**

Aspire Public Schools has implemented a policy on Cash Investments. The purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines for the investment of Cash. This policy defines how decisions regarding the management and investment of Cash shall be made. The policy establishes the underlying goals of Aspire Public School's investment strategies and identifies the types of investment vehicles eligible for company investment.