

IDEA Greater Cincinnati, Inc.

INVESTMENTS POLICY



Sec. 1. PURPOSE OF POLICY.

Through this policy, the Board of Directors (“Board”) of IDEA Greater Cincinnati, Inc. (“IDEA Cincinnati”) shall address applicable legal requirements, including:

- (a) Ohio Community Schools Act Chapter 3314;
- (b) Ohio Nonprofit Corporation Act Chapter 1702; and
- (c) Ohio Administrative Code.

Sec. 2. AUTHORITY OVER FISCAL MATTERS.

Sec. 2.1. In accordance with state law, the Board has primary and ultimate authority over fiscal matters. If a matter or decision-making process is not addressed in this or other duly adopted policies of the Board, authority rests with the Board. In the event of a conflict between this policy and any other Board policy, such conflict shall be brought to the Board for resolution. Refer to the Board’s Authority Over Fiscal Matters Policy (the “Controlling Policy”) for requirements applicable to this policy.

Sec. 2.2. The Delegates (as defined in Sec. 3(b) of the Controlling Policy) shall not engage in any business arrangement or transaction with an individual that is an officer, as defined in Sec. 5 of the Controlling Policy, and any conflicted, interested or related party³, as defined in other Board policy or applicable law. IDEA Cincinnati (and its officers) may not enter into a business arrangement or conduct a transaction in such a manner so as to circumvent this requirement.

Sec. 3. INVESTMENT OFFICERS.

Sec. 3.1. The Delegates are designated investment officers. In this capacity, the Delegates shall be responsible for investment decisions and activities.

Sec. 3.2. The Delegates shall receive training as follows:

- (a) Attend at least one training session totaling one (1) to four (4) hours of instruction relating to the investment officer’s responsibilities within six (6) months after taking office or assuming duties;
- (b) Annually attend an investment training session and receive at least one (1) to two (2) hours of instruction relating to investment responsibilities from an independent source that has been approved by the Board; and
- (c) Ensure that the training attended includes training on diversification of the investment
- (d) portfolio.

Sec. 3.3. Training periods will run concurrently with the fiscal year starting July 1st and ending June 30th.

Sec. 3.4. The training requirement of Sec 3.2 is waived if IDEA Cincinnati has only interest-bearing depository accounts or certificates of deposit or a combination of the two.

Sec. 4. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES.

In general, the Board and Delegates shall observe the following objectives when making authorized investments:

- (a) Preservation and safety of principal;
- (b) Maintenance of sufficient liquidity to provide adequate and timely working capital;
- (c) Optimization of yield, as expressed in terms of rate of return and revenue;⁸
- (d) Maintenance of the public trust as custodians and managers responsible for the investment of funds subject to state and federal laws;
- (e) Diversification of investments in terms of maturity, instruments, and issuers, within the context of the overall investment policy; and
- (f) Avoidance of speculative investments.

Sec. 5. ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE.

The Delegates shall ensure that investments are maintained in discrete and distinct accounts that separate funds pertaining to non-charter school activities, functions, programs, and services from public funds.

Sec. 6. ANNUAL REVIEW.

Sec. 6.1. The Board shall review its investment policy and investment strategies not less than annually.

Sec. 6.2. The Board shall adopt a written resolution stating that it has reviewed the investment policy and investment strategies and that the written resolution so adopted shall record any changes made to either the investment policy or investment strategies.

Sec. 7. CONTRACTUAL CONSIDERATIONS.

The Delegates shall ensure that investments are made in accordance with any applicable provision or covenant contained in a debt instrument, bond indenture, or similar agreement.

Sec. 8. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS.

Sec. 8.1. IDEA Cincinnati shall limit its investments to the following authorized investments:

- (a) Obligations of or guaranteed by a governmental entity;
- (b) Certificates of deposit and share certificates;
- (c) Repurchase agreements;
- (d) Securities lending programs;
- (e) Banker's acceptances;
- (f) Commercial paper;
- (g) Mutual funds;
- (h) Guaranteed investment contracts; and
- (i) Investment pools.

Sec. 8.2. The Delegates shall ensure that the specific requirements for each authorized investment are met before any funds are invested.

Sec. 8.3. The Delegates shall submit to the Board any recommendations for investments, as required by state law.

Sec. 9. PROHIBITED INVESTMENTS.

The Delegates may not acquire investments prohibited by state law.

Sec. 10. INTERNAL CONTROLS.

Sec. 10.1. The Delegates shall establish a system of internal controls, which shall be documented in writing. The internal controls shall be reviewed by the independent auditors. The controls shall be designed to prevent losses of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, and misrepresentation by third parties, anticipated changes in financial markets, or imprudent actions by IDEA officers and employees. Controls deemed most important shall include:

- (a) Control of collusion;
- (b) Segregation of duties;
- (c) Separation of transaction authority from accounting and recordkeeping;
- (d) Custodial safekeeping,
- (e) Avoidance of bearer form securities;
- (f) Clear delegation of authority;
- (g) Specific limitations regarding securities losses and remedial action;
- (h) Written confirmation of verbal transactions;
- (i) Limiting the number of authorized investment officers; and
- (j) Documentation of transactions and strategies.

Sec. 10.2. No investment transaction shall be allowed with an investment firm with whom the Delegates have a prohibited fiduciary, family or business relationship.

Sec. 11. SAFEKEEPING OF INVESTMENTS.

All investments shall be issued in the name of IDEA Cincinnati. Certificates of deposit issued by the depository bank or other financial institution in IDEA Cincinnati's name shall be issued to IDEA Cincinnati in receipt form and held by the Delegates.

Sec. 12. EFFECT OF LOSS OF REQUIRED RATING.

Sec. 12.1. The Delegates shall periodically monitor investment ratings.

Sec. 12.2. The Delegates shall liquidate investments which do not have an adequate investment rating in a timely manner.

Sec. 13. PRUDENT PERSON RULE.

Sec. 13.1. The Delegates shall adhere to the “prudent person rule” which obligates a fiduciary to make investments with the exercise of that degree of judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived.

Sec. 13.2. Delegates acting in accordance with written procedures and exercising due diligence shall be relieved of personal responsibility for an individual security’s credit risk or market price changes, provided that deviations from expectation are reported in a timely fashion, and appropriate action is taken to control adverse developments.

Sec. 14. Prohibition OF PERSONAL BUSINESS INTEREST.

Sec. 14.1. In addition to the following requirements, refer to Sec. 3(c) of the Controlling Policy.

- (a) Sec. 14.2 The Board and each individual Delegate shall comply with the Ethics, Conflict Of Interest, And Nepotism policy when making and directing any investments.

Sec. 15. PORTFOLIO STRUCTURE.

Sec. 15.1. To meet IDEA Cincinnati’s investment objectives, the Delegates shall acquire an investment portfolio providing sufficient liquidity to preserve capital and maximize the investment yield and proceeds to coincide with IDEA Cincinnati’s projected cash flow needs.

Sec. 15.2. The Delegates may invest funds in the General Operating Fund for a period of more than one (1) year provided that all cash flow requirements have been met. The Delegates may invest available cash in all other funds, except for bond proceeds, for a period of up to ten (10) years provided that cash flow needs are met. Consistent with Sec. 7 of this policy, the Delegates may invest bond proceeds for a period up to five (5) years provided that the drawdown schedules permit such maturities.

Sec. 15.3. The Delegates shall adopt an investment plan and present said plan to the Board. The Board may counsel the Delegates on said plan or act pursuant to Sec. 2 of this policy.

Sec. 16. INVESTMENT RECORDS.

The Delegates shall ensure that IDEA Cincinnati creates and maintains accurate and complete records of any and all investments.

Sec. 17. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.

The Delegates shall formally adopt administrative procedures as reasonably necessary to properly administer this policy and to adhere to applicable law and rule. In doing so, the Delegates shall not adopt, and are prohibited from adopting, an administrative procedure that conflicts with applicable law or this policy. Accordingly, the Delegates shall confer with the Board or legal counsel before deviating from the requirements set forth in this policy. In the event that a deviation from this policy becomes necessary, the Delegates shall either recommend an amendment to this policy or the Board's approval of a specific deviation, including the purpose, scope and duration of the requested deviation.

Sec. 18. DATE ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE.

As set forth in the pertinent minutes to the meeting of the Board, the Board adopted this policy on _____.

Sec. 19. RETENTION

This policy shall be retained until superseded, expired, or discontinued and for five (5) years thereafter.

Sec. 20. CERTIFICATION.

The Undersigned, being the Secretary of the Corporation, hereby certifies that the foregoing represents a true copy of the Board Policy relating to Investments, as originally adopted by the Board on _____.