

6470 PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

The Board of Education directs the prompt payment of legitimate claims by suppliers of goods and services to the school district, provided that each bill or obligation of this Board is fully itemized and verified before a warrant is drawn for its payment.

When an invoice is received, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall verify the voucher is properly submitted, acceptable goods were received or satisfactory services rendered, the expenditure is included in the Board's budget and funds are available for its payment, and the amount of the invoice is correct.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall identify and investigate, if necessary, the reason for any increase to a purchase order. If it is found by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary that an increase to a purchase order is warranted, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall either approve a revision to the original purchase order with the reason noted, approve the issuance of a supplemental purchase order for the difference, or cancel the original purchase order and issue a new purchase order. If it is found an increase is not warranted, the purchase order shall be cancelled and the goods returned. In no instance shall an adjustment be made to a purchase order that changes the purpose or vendor of the original purchase order or a bid award price.

The school district's financial systems shall be programmed to:

1. Limit system access so that only appropriate Business office staff may make purchase order adjustments;
2. Reject adjustments in excess of any established approval thresholds;
3. Prevent unauthorized changes to be processed;
4. Reject payments where the sum of the invoice amount plus any previous invoices charged to the purchase order exceeds the sum of the original purchase order amount plus any authorized adjustments;
5. Reject duplicate purchase order numbers;

6. Reject duplicate invoice numbers; and
7. Prepare an edit/change report listing all payments made in excess of the originally approved purchase order amount.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall review on a monthly basis edit/change reports listing all payments made in excess of the originally approved purchase order amount to ensure that all payments made are properly authorized.

If funds are not available in the budget line account to which the expenditure will be charged, funds may be transferred in accordance with Policy No. 6422.

The Board must approve all claims for payment, except such payments that are to be paid from funds derived from athletic events or other activities of pupil organizations. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4.1, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or the Superintendent are authorized to approve payment of claims not greater than \$250,000, interest on bonds as it becomes due, payments to redeem bonds as they become due, progress payments to contractors in accordance with a contract approved by the Board, and warrants to cover approved payrolls, reimbursements to district staff for tuition and conference expenditures, health insurance premiums and agency account deposits prior to presentation to the Board. Any such approval of payment must be presented to the Board for ratification at the next regular Board meeting.

All claims shall be fully itemized, verified, and shall be submitted for Board review and approval or ratification. Claims must be submitted to the Board in the form of a list that includes the number, amount, and date of the warrant; the payee; the reason for the expenditure; and the account charged. The list of approved warrants will be included in the minutes of the Board meeting. All claims that equal or exceed fifteen percent of the bid threshold amount established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3, except for payrolls and debt service, shall be verified by affidavit or by signed declaration in writing in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:19-3.

The list of claims maintained by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary must be accompanied by the original records that include copies of the purchase order, the receiving report, the vendor's invoice, and the purchase requisition.

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When a claim for payment is duly approved in accordance with this Policy, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and/or a designated staff member shall promptly prepare a warrant for payment, cancel the commitment placed against the appropriate account, and post the actual expenditure. All warrants shall be signed by the Board President and Board Secretary.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36; 18A:18A-3, 18A:19-1 et seq.; 18A:19-3;
18A:19-4; 18A:19-4.1; 18A:22-8.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.10

Approved: March 21, 2000
Revised: April 10, 2012
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Revised: December 4, 2018

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A. Receipt of Goods and Services

1. The staff member authorized to receive goods or services shall check them against the purchase order issued and determine whether the goods or services delivered meet the specifications and quantities set forth in the purchase order.
2. The authorized staff member will record his or her approval of the received goods or services on the receiving copy of the purchase order and return it to the Business Office. The school copy of the purchase order will be retained by the receiving staff member.
3. Any oversupply, shortage, substitution, or discrepancy must be reported immediately to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee.

B. Approval of Invoice

1. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall verify the vendor's invoice for the correct billing price and check the invoice for accurate extensions and omission of tax.
2. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall attach the vendor's invoice and verification voucher, if a verification voucher is necessary, to the copy of the purchase order received from the requisitioner certifying satisfactory completion of the service or receipt of the goods.
3. If the invoice price exceeds the purchase order price the invoice will be referred to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who will only approve a payment amount in excess of the approved purchase order amount in accordance with the provisions of Policy 6470 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.10.
4. If extensions are incorrectly calculated, the invoice will be returned to the vendor for correction.
5. If tax has been charged, the invoice will be returned to the vendor for correction with a copy of the district's tax exemption certificate.

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6. If goods or services received were not satisfactory, the receiving staff member and the vendor will be consulted in order to reach a resolution satisfactory to all parties.
 7. The final invoice, verification voucher (if necessary), verified receipt, and all accompanying papers will be forwarded to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee.
- C. Issuance of Warrants
1. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee may prepare warrants for expenditures for which the Board has waived approval as listed in Policy 6470.
 2. All claims paid without prior Board approval as permitted in Policy 6470 and N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4.1 et seq. shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting after the warrant is drawn.
 3. All other demands for payment will be submitted to the Board for approval.
 4. In accordance with Policy 6470, claims must be submitted to the Board in the form of a list that includes the:
 - a. Number, amount, and date of the warrant,
 - b. Payee,
 - c. Reason for the expenditure, and
 - d. Account charged.
 5. A warrant will be prepared in payment of goods or services. The warrant number will be recorded on the file copy of the vendor's invoice.
 6. All warrants shall be signed by the Board President and the Board Secretary, in accordance with the requirements of applicable statutes and administrative codes.

7. The Board of Education shall approve the authorized signatures to be required on warrants for each account. Warrants may be signed in one or more of the following manners:
 - a. Warrants may be run through a checkwriter machine for imprint of the required signatures. A checkwriter machine will be kept in a secured location. The key(s) to the checkwriter machine will be removed from the checkwriter machine when it is not in use and stored in a secured location not with the checkwriter machine.
 - b. Warrants may have the required signatures affixed by use of signature stamps. When the signature stamps are not in use they will be kept in a secured location.
 - c. Warrants may have an imprint of the signatures affixed by the computerized system when the warrants are printed. The computer system used to prepare warrants and affix signatures shall have appropriate security software to assure that unauthorized individuals do not have access to the system.
 - d. Warrants may be signed by the Board President and the Board Secretary

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