

Information

October 22, 2015

TO: All Principals
FROM: Bob Bravo, Chief of School Leadership
SUBJECT: Online Donation Websites

There have been recent inquiries from campuses regarding the use of certain online donation websites, such as GoFundMe and Kickstarter to name a few, for the purposes of fundraising for campus activities. While these type of websites can be good fundraisers for individuals, it is important to remember that the Dallas ISD is a governmental entity, not an individual or private sector entity. There are different laws that govern our district in regards to this issue.

The District does not currently approve these type of fundraisers for the reasons outlined below, as there are not appropriate guidelines in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of CDC, or the myriad of other policies and laws implicated by such fundraisers.

- Setting up these fundraisers creates a contract that imposes certain terms and conditions that violate state law and/or board policy, such as agreeing to indemnify the third party and being subject to non-Texas laws and jurisdiction. Staff is reminded that only certain employees are authorized to enter into a contract on behalf of the District.
- These websites collect a fee from each cause. For causes that meet or exceed their goal, the entity receives a scaled percentage fee, depending on the dollar amount raised. Financial Services would need to determine if these are appropriate fees.
- These webpages require certain information from the District, including but not limited to the District's Tax ID# or bank account information that we would not provide to an external party. There are also concerns related to how these websites actually disburse the funds.
- External parties are not agents or representatives of the District and cannot hold themselves out as such. They cannot use the District's name or logo to solicit funds without the express written permission of the Superintendent of Schools.

The Financial Services Department is aware of the desire to have an online donation option. As a result, the Financial Services Department has indicated that a pilot program for online donations that is maintained and controlled by the District will begin in approximately two months with select schools. Interested schools should prepare to use the District's program when available districtwide.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter, and please contact the Legal Department with any further questions or concerns.