



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent
of Education

June 16, 2009

Alabama
State Board
of Education

MEMORANDUM

Governor Bob Riley
President

TO: City and County Superintendents
Chief School Financial Officers

Randy McKinney
District I
Vice President

FROM: *Warren*
Warren Craig Pouncey
Assistant State Superintendent

Betty Peters
District II

RE: Local School Funds

Stephanie W. Bell
District III

The elimination of classroom instructional support funds in the FY2010 Education Appropriations Act has many school officials and teachers concerned about funding sources to alleviate the loss of these funds. Although some school boards are providing local revenues to replace some or all of these allocations, others are turning to PTAs, parents and teachers for providing student instructional materials and supplies, as well as copiers. In reviewing local school fund sources we have determined two local school sources that may be available to assist in funding classroom instructional support.

Jr. Ethel H. Hall
District IV
Vice President
Emerita

Although many high schools charge a parking fee for students to park on school property during the school day, we have previously provided guidance that the use of these funds is limited to the costs of providing the parking, i.e. parking decals and parking lot costs. In consultation with the State Examiners of Public Accounts, we have determined the student parking fees may be used for any public educational purpose and these funds may be used for classroom instructional support.

Ella B. Bell
District V

David F. Byers, Jr.
District VI

Based on prior legal opinions, we have consistently provided guidance that locker rental fees charged to students cannot be used for other purposes. Allowable uses of locker rental fees include locker maintenance costs and amortizing the costs of locks and lockers purchased by the local school. Because many local schools have continued to charge locker rental fees that exceed the allowable uses of these funds, these schools have significant balances of unspent locker fees. Locker rental fee rates per student should be adjusted to an amount that would accumulate only the funds needed to pay for allowable locker expenses. However, unobligated balances in locker rental fees as of June 30, 2009, may be transferred to public funds for classroom instructional support, provided these funds are not needed for any allowable locker expenses.

Gary Warren
District VII

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor
District VIII
President Pro Tem

Joseph B. Morton
Secretary and
Executive Officer

If you have questions regarding local school funds, contact Mr. Dennis Heard at (334) 242-9747 or Ms. Sonja Peaspanen at (334) 353-9886.

WCP:DWH
FY09-3069