
PURCHASING CARD FISCAL POLICY

Sage Oak Charter Schools (“SOCS” or the “Charter School”) adopt this Purchasing Card Fiscal Policy to apply to the issuance, authorized expenditures, and operational use of purchasing cards.

All purchases made using a Sage Oak Charter School’s (“School”) Purchasing Card (“Card”) must be for official school business and in accordance with the School’s fiscal purchasing policy. The card must not be used for personal expenditures, regardless of the reason. Unauthorized purchases or misuse of the card may render the individual purchaser liable for the goods or services and corrective action up to and including termination and/or possible criminal charges.

Failure to provide adequate documentation for a purchase will constitute misuse of the card. Adequate documentation consists of at least one of the following documents (referred to hereafter in this policy as the receipt) signed by the cardholder:

1. Original itemized invoice on company letterhead
2. Cash register receipt (itemized)
3. Printed online order form (itemized)
4. Facsimiles of itemized order form (faxed from company)
5. Handwritten itemized voucher from vendor describing items purchased and including original signature, phone number, address and tax identification number
6. Signed affidavit from purchaser itemizing purchase. This option is reserved as a last resort in the case of a lost or stolen original itemized receipt. Abuse of this option will result in reprimand and corrective action.

Note: The customer's copy of the charge slip showing only the total charge is insufficient documentation. The receipt must list specific items purchased.

If an original sales slip/invoice is unavailable at the time of statement reconciliation, the School is not liable for the purchase and will invoice the cardholder to reimburse the charge.

When the Card is issued, the cardholder must sign the Purchase Card Receipt Acknowledgement Form. This form states that the cardholder accepts responsibility for the protection and proper use of the card. If the procedures are not followed, leading to the unauthorized use of the card, the cardholder will be held responsible for any cost to the School.

The use of the purchase card is intended for legitimate purchases, such as conference reservations, group meals for meetings with an agenda, hotel reservations, and/or flights, and

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may be used for routine or planned purchases for business purposes. Generally, the purchase card should not be used for purchases requiring contracts. Additionally, strict enforcement of these procedures must be adhered to in order to operate in compliance with audit requirements in regard to purchase card usage and receipt documentation and to prevent misuse, fraud, or potential embezzlement of funds.

Rewards points

Rewards, points, miles, or other promotional features (collectively called “rewards”) provided by a School card must be used according to the following:

Any benefits accrued from such “rewards” programs must be directed towards the school's advantage, specifically by reducing or offsetting expenses that the school would otherwise need to allocate funds for from its budget. “Rewards” earned should not be seen as perks for individual use but as assets that can support the school's financial health such as:

1. Enhancing School Programs: “Rewards” can be used to support or expand educational programs, extracurricular activities, or resources that benefit students directly but might have been limited by budget constraints.
2. Professional Development: “Rewards” might cover expenses related to staff professional development, including training sessions, workshops, or conferences that would otherwise be a budgetary burden.
3. Reducing Operational Costs: “Rewards” may be used to purchase supplies, equipment, services, or any other costs that the School would otherwise have to pay for directly from its budget.

In order to remain transparent and accountable, all use of “rewards” is to be documented by the School’s fiscal team, ensuring that rewards are used in a manner that maximizes their benefit to the school's mission and financial stability. The use of “rewards” shall be approved by the Superintendent or their designee. The use of the “rewards” shall be periodically reported to the Board for ratification.

Review and Approval of Purchasing Cards

1. The purchasing cardholder will review the card statement to ensure it includes only their own approved charges.

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2. The accounting department will review all charges on the card statement against all purchase documents the cardholder submits.
3. Any charges not made by the cardholder will be identified and discussed with the accounting department staff and forwarded to the Director of Business Services or their designee.
4. The Director of Business Services or their designee will review charges and supporting documentation for the monthly statement before approving any payment.
5. Each Card will have a credit limit of \$15,000. A temporary increase up to the School's combined total credit limit may be coordinated and approved in advance by the Executive Director or designee.
6. The Card will have a single transaction limit of \$5,000; charges above this amount require pre-approval from the Director of Business Services or their designee.
7. All cardholders should report the loss or theft of their Card immediately to the issuing bank and the Director of Business Services, even if the loss or theft occurs on a weekend or holiday. If a Card is stolen, the cardholder should file a police report, and a copy of the report should be maintained for insurance purposes.