

**Introduction**

This Debt Management Policy for Southeastern Illinois College is established to help ensure that all College debt is issued in a prudent and cost-effective manner. This Debt Management Policy sets forth guidelines for the issuance and management of all financing for the College, and is intended to demonstrate a commitment to long-term financial planning. This Policy will be used in conjunction with the College's Master Facility Plan, Strategic Plan, long-range planning strategies, and Fund Balance Policy.

On a regular basis, the President shall develop, update, and share with the Board of Trustees proposed Administrative Procedures setting forth practices and protocols to be followed by College administrators for the effective implementation of this Debt Management Policy.

**Scope**

This Debt Management Policy shall be applicable to all debt instruments proposed and/or issued by the College, regardless of the basis for issuance or the funding source for repayment.

**Objective**

The College's primary objective is to ensure prudent debt management practices which:

- Maintain the College's financial stability
- Preserve public trust
- Minimize costs to taxpayers
- Minimize borrowing costs
- Demonstrate adequate administrative oversight of debt to the Higher Learning Commission, state agencies, credit ratings agencies, and other involved entities
- Maintain or improve the College's current credit rating

**Borrowing Methods**

Upon due and proper approval by its Board of Trustees, the College is authorized to issue any and all types of debt authorized by and under the Illinois Community College Act, the Illinois Local Government Debt Reform Act, and/or any other laws and regulations applicable to the College's operations and the contemplated transaction.

Upon approval of the Board of Trustees, the President shall be authorized to engage and consult with the College's retained counsel, specialty bond counsel, underwriters, external consultants, financial advisors, accountants, tax advisors, and/or other appropriate professionals to identify and evaluate borrowing methods, options, and products that may be available to the College with respect to potential borrowing situations.

## **GUIDELINES**

The College will consider all possible debt structures which (either individually or when combined) allow for flexibility in responding to future needs, address debt capacity, continue to emphasize credit considerations, and correspond well with the purposes for which debt is incurred.

## **COMPLIANCE**

The College shall implement procedures designed to ensure compliance with all laws, regulations, IRS provisions, and other mandates and/or restrictions applicable to the taxable and tax-exempt borrowing measures used by the College. The College's President is authorized and directed to ensure that all reporting, monitoring, and other regulatory activities are performed on behalf of the College in accordance with applicable requirements and the advice of any consultants or advisors the College has engaged with respect to particular transactions.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING**

The College's President and CFO shall:

- Review and recommend plans and options for College debt financing to the Board of Trustees' Finance Subcommittee prior to introduction to the full Board of Trustees
- Review bond proceeds expenditures and the status of various projects being financed for timeliness and expenditure compliance
- Maintain a long-term bonded debt planning guide for future bond issues
- Prepare an annual report as needed for the Board of Trustees' Finance Subcommittee, including the following information:
  1. Updates relating to outstanding transactions
  2. Ratings agency reports and information, along with similar information (when available) relating to other comparable community colleges
  3. Bond capacity and bond tax levy rates
  4. Bond financings and potential needs anticipated for subsequent years
  5. Recommended changes to the College's Debt Management Policy

# **DEBT MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

## **POTENTIAL BORROWING METHODS**

The College's Administration will consider, and will recommend to the Board of Trustees, debt management practices and options tailored to address particular College needs, projects, and financial situations. Among other options and to the extent permitted by applicable and prevailing law and regulations, the Administration may consider:

- General Obligation Bonds, including but not limited to Protection, Health and Safety Bonds, Building Bonds, Working Cash Bonds, and/or Funding Bonds
- Non-General Obligation Alternative Revenue Bonds and/or Debt Certificates
- Other Special Bond Types, including Refunding Bonds, Insurance Reserve Bonds, and Tort/Judgment Funding Bonds
- Short Term Borrowing Options, including Tax Anticipation Warrants, Lines of Credit, and Teacher Orders
- Lease Purchase Agreements for the acquisition of equipment and other capital assets.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- Debt is a financing tool, which should be judiciously used within the College's legal, financial, and debt market capacities
- Long-Term Debt: Bonds with long-term maturities of greater than twelve months will be considered for financing essential capital activities and/or to fund other special programs approved by the Board of Trustees
- The Administration's recommendations to the Board of Trustees shall comport with the College's Fund Balance Policy, unless the College's President recommends a departure from its provisions to the Board of Trustees, along with an accompanying plan to address said departure.
- Short Term Debt: Debt with a maturity of twelve months or less may be considered for projects that cannot be funded from available current resources. To the extent permitted by law, the College may consider short-term financing as a cash management tool to provide interim financing to cover temporary cash flow deficits within a fiscal year.
- The College will consider structuring debt to achieve the lowest possible net interest cost to the District given market conditions.
- The College shall, at all times, set its debt limit in accordance with applicable state law and (when applicable and required by law) with respect to the assessed value of the properties within the College's territorial jurisdiction.
- The College should attempt to maintain a debt service tax rate that is stable and avoids significant year-to-year fluctuations.
- Bond proceeds shall be deposited in various accounts according to the type of bond issue and as required by the laws, regulations, and practices then in effect

## **COMPLIANCE**

- It is the District's goal and policy to minimize the cost of arbitrage rebate and yield restriction while strictly complying with the law. Proceeds from the issuance of tax-exempt bonds shall be monitored by the President and CFO with regard to arbitrage, at frequencies required by law and/or regulation
- It is the College's goal and policy to provide appropriate disclosures to all its bond investors on a periodic basis as required by law and regulation, including but not limited to SEC Disclosure Rule 15c2-12, SEC Antifraud Provision Rule 10b-5, and MSRB Rule G-36, as may be amended from time to time.
- The College shall ensure that its Annual Financial Report and other related and required disclosures and information are issued in a timely manner. The College shall file its Annual Financial report with EMMA on a timely basis as required.
- The CFO and other advisors who are involved with documentation preparation shall review all disclosure statements, official statements, and undertakings.
- The release of any information, whether in response to an ad hoc question or self-initiated, that may be potentially relied upon by the market to impute the credit worthiness of the College's debt, whether intended for that purpose or not, shall be reviewed by the President and CFO and (if recommended by the President and CFO) other involved consultants and/or counsel to determine whether or not the information is already in the public domain, whether the information is a disclosure event as defined by the SEC and/or requiring prompt EMMA filing and/or whether the information is full, accurate, complete and not misleading.

Adopted: 8-14-18

Amended:

Legal Ref:

Cross Ref: