



CASH RECEIPTS

A. Purpose

To establish The Ranches Academy policy and procedure for the handling of all cash receipts, to include currency, coin, checks, ACH transactions, and credit card transactions.

B. Scope

This policy applies to all Ranches Academy administration licensed educators, staff, students, organizations, and individuals that handle cash receipts or accept payment in any form on behalf of The Ranches Academy. The scope includes all activities at The Ranches Academy and in all locations where The Ranches Academy activities and public funds are collected.

C. Segregation of Duties

Wherever possible, duties such as collecting funds, maintaining documentation, preparing deposits and reconciling records should be segregated among different individuals. When segregation of duties is not possible due to the small size and limited staffing of The Ranches Academy, compensating controls such as management supervision and review of cash receipting records by independent parties should be implemented.

D. Definition

“Public funds” are defined as money, funds, and accounts, regardless of the source from which the funds are derived that are owned, held, or administered by the state or any of its political subdivisions, including The Ranches Academy. [Utah Code 51-7-3(26)]

E. Policy for Cash Receipts at The Ranches Academy

1. The school will comply with all applicable state and federal laws.
2. All receipting of funds at The Ranches Academy should be done at the front office. No receipting is to be done in other offices or in unapproved off-site activities or functions. Please refer to the Fundraising Policy.
3. School Employees should not open bank accounts, outside of The Ranches Academy, for the receipting or expending of public funds associated with school-sponsored activities. The Director must approve all checking and savings account used in The Ranches Academy school business.
4. All funds shall be kept in a secure location controlled by the front office staff until they can be deposited in The Ranches Academy approved fiduciary institution. Funds should be deposited daily or within three days after receipt, in compliance with Utah Code 51/4/2(2) (a), in The Ranches Academy approved account. Employees should never hold funds in any location for any reason.

5. If the front office staff has left for the day or funds are receipted on the weekends, administrators should be available to lock cash receipts or cash boxes in The Ranches Academy safe until the next business day. Cash receipts should not be taken home by employees or volunteers, or left in offices.
6. All checks should be made payable to The Ranches Academy. Checks should not be made payable to an employee, a specific department, or a program.
7. Appropriate internal controls and segregation of duties should be implemented for all cash activity. Cash should always be verified. Where verification is difficult, cash should be counted by two individuals.
8. All funds (cash, checks, credit card payments, etc.) received must be receipted and recorded in The Ranches Academy accounting records. All transactions are recorded in the accounting records by the school secretary who is not allowed to receive or make deposits.
9. Documents should be available, and should demonstrate that proper cash controls are in place (signatures for approval, tally sheets, reconciliations, etc.).
10. Under no circumstances are disbursements to be made directly from cash receipts, (i.e., for purchases, reimbursements, refunds, or to cash personal checks).
11. All payments of fees shall correspond with the approved fee schedule, as required by Board Administrative Rule 277-407.
12. Periodic and unscheduled audits or reviews should be performed for all cash activity.
13. All activities involving cash must be supervised by The Ranches Academy employee or authorized volunteer to ensure adequate controls are in place. Training should be given to those involved in handling cash.

F. Petty Cash/Change Funds

1. Petty cash and change funds must be authorized by The Ranches Academy business office.
2. All petty cash and change funds will be reflected on the school's accounting records and reconciled monthly.
3. These funds should not exceed the amount designated by The Ranches Academy business office.
4. All petty cash funds and change funds should be kept locked, in a secure location.
5. Checks may not be made payable to "cash" or "bearer" and cashed by The Ranches Academy or school employees to create change funds or petty cash funds outside of the approved petty cash and change fund accounts.
6. Reimbursements to petty cash accounts will be made only when supported by receipts and approved by the director.
7. Expenditures should not be paid out of change funds. Change funds will be included in all tally forms or on deposit count sheets, and accounted for with each use.
8. Funds are subject to unannounced counts by The Ranches Academy personnel at any time.