

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Lease Capitalization

Effective Date: Retroactive to July 1, 2021

General Policy

The Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD) shall not enter into a lease with a duration of more than one year (12 months), nor a lease with an option to extend beyond one year unless such a lease provides the District with preferred pricing or another significant business advantage.

Leases that are not classified as short-term and whose aggregate payments made or received exceed \$1.5 million will be capitalized (“Capitalization Threshold”) in compliance with GASB 87, except as noted below:

- Leases that transfer ownership and do not contain termination options
- Short-term leases (12 months or less)
- Leases of assets that are investments
- Intangible assets (mineral rights, patents, software, copyrights)
- Biological assets (timber, living plants, living animals)
- Supply contracts
- \$1 Leases or similar, not an exchange/exchange-like transaction

This policy shall be reviewed annually and adjusted as conditions warrant. This policy and future changes will be made by the Assistant Superintendent of Business and Administrative Services, and approved by the Governing Board.

The capitalization threshold of \$1.5 million represents about half of one percent (0.5%) of VUSD’s fixed assets net of depreciation.

Definitions

Lease: A contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity’s nonfinancial asset (underlying asset) as specified by the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.

Short-term lease: A lease that, at the beginning of its term, has a maximum possible term under the contract, including any option to extend, of 12 months or less.

Financed purchase: If a contract (1) transfers ownership of the underlying asset to the lessee by the end of the contract and (2) does not contain termination options other than fiscal funding or cancellation clauses, the contract is not a lease and should be reported as a financed purchase.

Finance Lease: A finance lease is a leasing arrangement in which the lessee obtains ownership of the leased asset by the end of the lease term. With the implementation of GASB 87 effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021, there is no longer an operating vs. capital classification. Instead, all leases will be referred to as financing leases.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Lease Capitalization (continued)

Measurement of a Finance Lease

As of the commencement date of a lease, the lessee measures the liability and the right-of-use asset associated with the lease. These measurements are derived as follows:

Lease Liability: The present value of the lease payments, discounted at the discount rate for the lease. This rate is the rate implicit in the lease when that rate is readily determinable. If not, the lessee instead uses its incremental borrowing rate.

Right-of-Use Asset: The initial amount of the lease liability, plus any lease payments made to the lessor before the lease commencement date, plus any initial direct costs incurred, minus any lease incentives received.

Determining Lease Term

Noncancelable Period
+ Period covered by option to terminate when it is NOT certain to be exercised
+ Period covered by the option to extend when it is reasonably certain to be exercised
= Total Lease Term

VUSD will reassess the lease term if one or more of the following occurs:

- Lessee or lessor elects to exercise an option even though originally determined that the lessee or lessor would not exercise that option.
- Lessee or lessor elects to not exercise an option even though previously determined that the lessee or lessor would exercise that option.
- An event specified in the contract that requires an extension or termination of the lease takes place.

This Board policy will be reviewed annually and adjusted as conditions warrant, such as changes in net assets, or other required updates by the GASB.