

OMEGA Object Codes - Universal Guidelines

The following account categories are definitions of the major expenditure categories for budgeting and recording expenditures in OMEGA. The descriptions provided are examples only; the examples provided are not an exhaustive list. For further clarification on the proper expenditures of funds, contact your school division budget or finance office, the Program Office grant specialist in the Virginia Department of Education, or refer to the appropriate federal act or grant program specifications.

1000 Personal Services

2000 Employee Benefits

3000 Purchased / Contracted Services

4000 Internal Services

5000 Other Charges

6000 Materials and Supplies

7000 Payment to Joint Operations – not used for OMEGA applications or claims reporting

8000 Capital Outlay

9000 Other Uses of Funds – not used for OMEGA applications or claims reporting

1000 Personal Services

Includes all compensation for the direct labor of persons in the employment of the local government. Salaries and wages paid to employees for full- and part-time work, including overtime, shift differential, and similar compensation. Includes payments for time not worked, including sick leave, vacation, holidays, jury duty, military leave, and other paid absences that are earned during the reporting period.

For the purposes of this report, the term “salaries” means all compensation including base wage. This also includes amounts paid through salary reduction plans, such as tax-sheltered annuities and flexible benefit plans. Do not confuse this definition with the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) definition, which excludes supplements for retirement calculation purposes in some circumstances.

2000 Employee Benefits

Job related benefits provided to employees as part of their total compensation. Fringe benefits include the employer’s portion of FICA, pensions, insurance (life, health, disability income, etc.) and employee allowances.

NOTE: Fringe Benefits are a significant component of employee compensation and, like salaries and wages, are charged to the appropriate object of expenditure within each program. If possible, fringe benefit costs should be charged to the applicable educational program or activity on an ongoing basis. An alternative is to charge all fringe benefits to various benefit accounts. As part of the year-end closing process, these accounts are closed, and all costs are allocated to the appropriate educational program or activity. The following methods are suggested for allocating such cost at year-end. If these methods do not provide reasonable allocations based on circumstances within the school division, then the school division should use another reasonable allocation method. Consistency in application should be maintained at all times.

- 1) Allocation by percentage of payroll dollars
- 2) Allocation by Head Count
- 3) Direct to Program or Activity

3000 Purchased / Contractual Services

Services acquired from outside sources (i.e., private vendors, public authorities, or other governmental entities). Purchase of the service is on a fee basis or fixed time contract basis. Payments for rentals and utilities are not included in this account description. Allowable payments would be to individual or firms that are independent contractors and not employees of the grantee or sub-grantee organization. The word honorarium is sometimes used to characterize such payments; the term “fee” is preferred.

Food Purchases – Prepared meals, working meals, and/or catered services purchased through a vendor are included in this object code. Reimbursement is capped at the per diem rate for the meal listed according to the state travel regulations. Examples for this object code include meals provided during day-long professional development sessions, or meals provided to support attendance at family engagement activities. Food purchased from catering services and restaurants such as Pizza Hut, Panera Bread, and Subway is included in this object code.

Transportation Services Public Carriers – Payments to public carriers for transportation of pupils on vehicles that are used by the public. Include payments for pupils transported in intra-city transit buses, taxicabs, airplanes, and intercity/interstate passenger buses.

Transportation Services Private Carriers – Payments (either cash or tokens) to parents for transportation of pupils in lieu of providing transportation on school buses. Include allowable payments to parents for pupils attending public, private, and non-sectarian schools. Include costs associated with transporting special education students in school board-owned vehicles to and from school.

Transportation Services by Contract – Payments to private owners of school buses who contract with the school board to transport pupils to and from public schools. Include payments to owners of private vehicles that contract with the school board to transport pupils to and from designated public and private schools.

Purchase of Service from Other Governmental Entities – Payments for services purchased from other governmental entities (i.e., other local governments, public authorities, state agencies, and other LEAs) on a contract/fee basis. **Tuition payments to other local governments for a jointly operated center are not included here but are reported under “Payments to Joint Operations” (object code 7000).**

Tuition Paid – Other Divisions In-State, Tuition Paid – Other Divisions Out-of-State, and Tuition Paid – Private Schools are included in this object code.

4000 Internal Services

Charges from an Internal Service Fund to other functions/activities/elements of the local government for the use of intergovernmental services, such as data processing, automotive/motor pool, central purchasing/central stores, print shop, and risk management. These services are provided by internal services within the School District and possibly the county but not a vendor.

Food Purchases – Food purchased from the food services department of a school division or sub-grantee equivalent to support professional development or family engagement events is included in this object code. For example, internal expenses for school cafeterias to provide meals to support attendance at family engagement activities are included in this object code.

5000 Other Charges

Include expenditures that support the use of programs. Includes expenditures that support the program, including utilities (maintenance and operation of plant), staff/administrative/consultant travel, office phone charges, training, leases/rental, indirect cost, and other.

Food Purchases – Food Purchases under this object code is restricted to food purchases related to travel reimbursement for meals only (see Travel below). If the sub-recipient’s internal travel policies conform to state travel regulations, reimbursement is allowable at per diem meals rates according to state travel regulations. If the sub-recipient’s internal travel policies require reimbursement for the cost of each meal, reimbursement is capped at the per diem rate for the meal listed according to the state travel regulations. Sub-recipients must elect either meals per diem or per meals costs as their internal travel policy.

Telecommunications – Include expenditures for recurring telecommunications services for the use of on-line computer technology (e.g., telephone/telecommunications line charges). Telephone charges for line service for Internet connectivity and the Electronic Classroom program. Package pricing from a vendor for Accident or cyber-risk insurance, LTE mobile carrier data plans, Internet access via an Internet Service Provider. Package pricing from a vendor for hardware, content filtering, data plans, extended warranty services and other components of the package when no breakout pricing is available.

Utilities – Payments for heat, electricity, water, and sewer services regardless of whether the service is provided by a private enterprise authority or an enterprise fund operated by a local government.

Communications – Payments for postal, messenger, and telecommunications services, typically office voice telephone charges. (Telecommunication costs directly related to technology uses should be coded under 6000.) In addition, office telephone charges would be coded under this code.

Insurance – Payments for insurance except those that relate to personal services (i.e., hospitalization, group life, worker’s compensation, unemployment)

Leases and Rentals – Includes payments for leases that are not capitalized and rental of land, structures, and equipment. Do not include payments made under a lease-purchase agreement.

Travel – includes payments for travel reimbursement for staff/administrative/consultant travel. These are travel costs that are being reimbursed directly to travelers. These costs may include lodging, mileage, meals, and incidentals as allowable according to state travel regulations or documented sub-recipient internal travel policies. If the sub-recipient does not have documented internal travel policies, state travel regulations will prevail.

Contributions to Other Entities – Includes payments to other governmental entities or community organizations that are not related to the direct purchase of a service on a fee basis (which is reported under object code 3000) or payments to joint operations (which are reflected under object code 7000).

Public Assistance Payments – Payments to individuals for public assistance programs (general government use only).

Miscellaneous Other Charges – Includes expenditures that support the program, including indirect costs and other costs.

6000 Other Materials and Supplies – Includes articles and commodities that are consumed or materially altered when used and minor equipment that is not capitalized. This includes any equipment purchased under \$5,000, unless the LEA has set a lower capitalization threshold. Therefore, computer equipment under \$5,000 would be reported in “materials and supplies.”

Food Purchases – Food items purchased from a grocery store or its equivalent for snacks or breaks is included in this object code. Examples include bottled water, granola bars, cookies, and fruit purchased from a store such as Wal-Mart, Food Lion, Costco, etc. Prepared meals is not included in this object code; see object code 3000 for prepared/working/catered meals as purchased/contracted services.

Vehicle and Powered Equipment Fuels – Gasoline, lubricating oils, or such other fuel used in the operation of vehicles and powered equipment (e.g., lawnmowers) purchased from private sources or governmental agencies.

Vehicle and Powered Equipment Supplies – Tires, spark plugs, batteries, and chains used in the operation of vehicles and powered equipment purchased from private sources or governmental agencies.

Textbooks – All textbooks and workbooks purchased to be used in the classroom.

Instructional Materials – Books (not textbooks) and other materials.

Technology Software/On-line Content – Include expenditures for videodiscs and computer programs used in the classroom for instructional purposes, operating system software (i.e., standalone software, not software that is pre-installed and included in hardware costs), application software, and on-line or downloadable software and content. Include expenditures for both additions and replacement.

Non-Capitalized Technology Hardware – Include expenditures for hardware or classroom technology equipment that is not capitalized.

Non-Capitalized Technology Infrastructure – Include expenditures for technology infrastructure that is not capitalized.

8000 Capital Outlay

Note: Indirect cost cannot be claimed against capital outlay and equipment.

Outlays that result in the acquisition of or additions to fixed assets. Capital Outlay includes the purchase of fixed assets both replacement and/or additional.

Capital Outlay Replacement

Technology – Hardware Replacements – Include capital outlay for replacement of hardware or classroom technology equipment. (For further clarification on which expenditures should be included in this object code, see the “Special Note” below.)

Technology – Infrastructure Replacements – Include capital outlay for replacement of technology infrastructure. (For further clarification on which expenditures should be included in this object code, see the “Special Note” below.)

Capital Outlay Additions – Include machinery, equipment, furniture, fixtures, communications equipment, motor vehicles, etc. that are capitalized.

Technology – Hardware Additions – Include capital outlay for additional hardware or classroom technology equipment. (For further clarification on which expenditures should be included in this object code, see the “Special Note” below.)

Technology – Infrastructure Additions – Include capital outlay for additional technology infrastructure. (For further clarification on which expenditures should be included in this object code, see the “Special Note” below.)

Special Note - Classification of Hardware and Infrastructure Expenditures:

Report expenditures under technology “hardware” for computers, associated peripheral equipment, and other specialized technology equipment. Computers include desktop and laptop machines, handheld computers (i.e., Personal Digital Assistants or PDAs), and mainframe machines. Peripheral equipment includes devices attached to computers, such as monitors, keyboards, disk drives, modems, printers, scanners, cameras and speakers, etc.

Report other specialized computer devices under technology “hardware” such as fax-back and voice-mail resources; videoconferencing and other distance education tools, including satellite transmitters and receivers; cable-based receivers; and modem or codec-based video equipment; projection devices, from transparent and opaque projectors to video monitors; and graphing calculators and other specialized computational aids.

Report expenditures under technology “infrastructure” for equipment and devices that enable the linking of computers or video hardware to networks (such as routers, hubs, switches, access servers, modems, or codecs). Infrastructure also refers to cabling installations, whether wire, fiber optic, or coaxial, as well as electrical capacity expansion or HVAC upgrades to support networks. In wireless networking systems, include receivers and transmitters under infrastructure.