

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ETHICS

The Board of Education recognizes that sound, ethical standards of conduct serve to increase the effectiveness of school board members and their staff, as educational leaders in their community. Actions based on an ethical code of conduct promote public confidence and the attainment of district goals. The Board also recognizes its obligation to set forth a code of ethics under the provisions of the General Municipal Law.

The Board therefore adopts the following code of ethics, and its accompanying regulation, for the guidance of its officers and employees. Board members and their staff commit themselves to:

- **ASSURING** the opportunity for high quality education for every student and making the well-being of students the fundamental principle in all decisions and actions;
- **REPRESENTING** the entire community to the best of his/her ability without fear or favor and acting in the best interests of the entire community;
- **ACCEPTING** all responsibilities as a means of unselfish service, while not using their positions for personal gain;
- **ACTING** as part of an educational team with mutual respect and regard for each other's respective responsibilities and duties, recognizing that the strength of a school board is in acting as a board, not as individuals;
- **PRESERVING** the obligation of having all issues considered fairly and without bias;
- **UPHOLDING** the principles of due process and individual dignity, and protecting the civil and human rights of all;
- **MAINTAINING** high standards and the effectiveness of education through research and continuing professional development;
- **TRANSACTING** school business only at official meetings of the Board and only with the concurrence of a majority of the Board;
- **ENSURING** confidentiality of privileged information;
- **COMMUNICATING** the official policy of the Board whether or not the member agrees with the policy;

- **OBEYING** all national, state, and local laws, regulations pertaining to education and public agencies, and Board policies; and
- **INSTILLING** respect for community, state, and nation.

Cross-ref: 1810, Gifts to School Personnel

Ref: General Municipal Law ' ' 806-808

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