

Bylaw

CODE OF ETHICS

The members of the board of education recognize that they hold authority not as individuals but as members of the board. In order to make a clear public statement of its philosophy of service to the students of the district, the board adopts this code of ethics.

- A. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures;
- B. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing;
- C. I will confine my board action to policymaking, planning and appraisal and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them;
- D. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run;
- E. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the board;
- F. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends;
- G. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools;
- H. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the superintendent;
- I. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties;
- J. I will refer all complaints to the superintendent and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

The board shall ensure that all members of the board receive training in understanding and adhering to this code of ethics and shall discuss it annually at a regularly scheduled public meeting. Each member shall sign documentation that he/she has received a copy of it and has read and understood it.

Adopted: October 28, 1996
1st Reading: February 22, 2011
Adopted: March 22, 2011
NJSBA Review/Update: April 2015
1st Reading: December 15, 2015
Readopted: January 5, 2016

Key Words

Conflict of Interest, Code of Ethics, Board Member Conflict of Interest, Board Member Ethics, Ethics

CODE OF ETHICS (continued)

<u>Legal References:</u>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:12-2	Inconsistent interests or office prohibited
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:12-21 <u>et seq.</u>	<u>School Ethics Act</u>
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:12-24, -24.1	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:4-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Appeals
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:28-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	School Ethics Commission
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-3.2	Requirements for the Code of Ethics for school board members and charter school board of trustee members

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*4112.8/4212.8	Nepotism
	*9270	Conflict of interest

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.