

BY-LAW

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 pupils of the district, the board adopts this code of ethics. All members of the Board are bound to comply with the provision of the Code of Ethics, and each member of the Board assumes this obligation freely upon accepting election or appointment to the Board, and ratify their acknowledgement of this obligation by their taking the Oath of Office.

- 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 the 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 behave toward my fellow board members with the respect due their office – demonstrating courtesy, decorum, and fair play at all public meetings and in all public statements.
- E. I will refrain from inappropriate conduct in public meetings and in making public statements, refraining from any disparagement of my fellow board members or others on a personal, social, racial, or religious basis.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. 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.

- J. I will vote to appoint the best-qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief school administrator.
- K. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- L. I will refer all complaints to the chief school administrator and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Each Board member is required to sign an acknowledgement that he/she received a copy, read and will become familiar with the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. The Superintendent or his/her designee will provide each Board member with a copy of the Code of Ethics and the required acknowledgement on an annual basis and will maintain the original signed acknowledgement (s) in the District's Administrative office.

The Board will receive a copy of and discuss the School Ethics Act and the Code of Ethics for School Board Members, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12-21 et seq., at a regular scheduled public meeting each year. The discussion may include presentations by school administrative staff, the Board Solicitor, Board members and/or other professionals familiar with the School Ethics Act and the Code of Ethics. In addition, the Superintendent or his/her designee will keep the Board informed of decisions by the School Ethics Commission, Commissioner of Education, State Board of Education and courts.

Any breaches by board members of the Code of Ethics, especially if repeated, may render the offending member subject to admonition, censure or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the School Ethics Commission or Commissioner of Education, including, but not limited to possible removal from office.

Date: June 9, 2003

Date Revised: March 30, 2009

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:12-2	Inconsistent interests or office prohibited
N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.	School Ethics Act
N.J.A.C. 6A:4-1.1	Appealable decisions
N.J.A.C. 6A:28.1.1 et seq.	School Ethics Commission
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.2	Requirements for the Code of Ethics for school board members and charter school board of trustee members

Cross References:

4112.8	Nepotism
9000	Role of the Board
9010	Role of the Member
9200	Orientation and Training of New Members
9223	Oath of Office
9270	Conflict of interest