

BOARD OF EDUCATION CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education hereby adopts this Code of Conduct. We adopt these standards to promote public confidence in school officials and to advance the attainment of district goals.

We recognize:

1. that we have been elected by our fellow citizens and entrusted with the authority and obligation to provide all of our students the opportunity for educational excellence.
2. that the welfare of our communities, state and nation depends in large measure upon the quality of education provided in the public schools to meet the needs of every student.
3. that the legal authority of boards of education is derived from the state, which ultimately sets the parameters in which school board service is conducted and board oversight of school districts is achieved.

In view of the foregoing considerations, it shall be our endeavor and commitment:

- a) to recognize that the primary function of a school board is to establish policies by which the schools are to be administered, and that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business is the responsibility of the superintendent of schools and school district staff.
- b) to remember that individual board members have no legal authority outside of duly convened meetings of the board, must behave accordingly, and must not attempt to exercise individual authority over district operations, staff or personnel decisions.
- c) to work with fellow board members as a team, in a spirit of harmony, civility and cooperation regardless of differences of opinion about issues; to respect the dignity, values and opinions of others; to be courteous to all; to encourage responsive and attentive listening and constructive ways of interacting; to focus on the issues at hand; and to recognize that expressions of differing opinions are part of the decision-making process.
- d) to appoint a superintendent of schools who is highly qualified for the position and who will represent the best interests of the school district and its students in all matters; to refrain from expressing individual judgments about the performance of the superintendent or staff in public and to conduct the appropriate evaluations in executive session.
- e) to develop a working relationship with the superintendent that is constructive and positive, which enables district staff to function as effectively as possible, and which recognizes the value of the chain of command, whereby board members will refer concerns and inquiries to the appropriate individual, such as teachers, principals and administrators, so that problems may be resolved closest to the source.

- f) to share concerns, issues raised by others, and materials of interest with the superintendent and the other members of the board in a timely fashion.
- g) to regularly attend board meetings, to take action after careful study of the issues and after full discussion at such meetings, to base each vote upon available facts, and thereafter, to abide by and uphold the decisions of the board.
- h) to devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of being school board members, in order to engage in effective, informed and credible service.
- i) to keep confidential all matters legally required to be kept confidential or which if disclosed would needlessly injure any individual or the school district.
- j) to honor the position of board member by adhering to policies regarding ethics and conflicts of interests.

Adopted: September 9, 2014

Cross Reference Board of Education Policy Number 2160 *Code of Ethics*