

Code of Ethics

According to New Jersey statute, a school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics:

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall 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 that 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 policy making, 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 that 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. 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 school.
- h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- i. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

Code of Ethics for School Board Members

Please sign this acknowledgement of receipt to confirm that you have received a copy of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within this recent amendment to the School Ethics Act, C.178, P.L. 2001.

Each school board member and charter school trustee is responsible to read and become familiar with the Code of Ethics for School Board Members. Questions about the policy should be directed to your Business Administrator/Board Secretary. If unable to answer the question, the BA/BS may direct you to the School Ethics Commission from whom you may request an advisory opinion.

The Code of Ethics became part of the School Ethics Act on July 26, 2001 so it is effective immediately. Failure to sign this acknowledgment will not relieve a board member of the responsibility to understand and adhere to the Code of Ethics.

BOARD MEMBER’S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

BOARD MEMBER’S SIGNATURE

DATE

Please sign and return this sheet to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary or Lead Person of a Charter School.