

Policy Type: Governance Process**Board Member Code of Conduct**

The Board commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as Board members. The Board acting in its legislative capacity shall have the authority and responsibility to interpret and apply these standards of conduct.

Accordingly:

1. Board members will represent the interests of the citizens of the entire school district. This accountability to the whole district supersedes any conflicting loyalty to other advocacy or interest groups. It also supersedes the personal interest of any Board member who is also a parent of a student in the district or who is an employee of the district.

This ultimate accountability to the whole district is not intended to stifle the democratic process essential to effective board decision-making. In order to promote a dynamic exchange of ideas and viewpoints during board deliberations, Board members are expected and encouraged to engage the community in a variety of ways and express the community's values at the board table. The community is broadly defined to encompass as many viewpoints as possible. In addition, Board members are expected and encouraged to fully and openly express their own viewpoints during deliberations on school district issues.

2. Board members may not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization except as explicitly set forth in Board policies.
 - a. Members' interaction with the Superintendent or with staff must recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly authorized by the Board.
 - b. Members' interaction with the public, press or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the inability of any Board member to speak for the Board except to repeat explicitly stated Board decisions.
 - c. Members will not publicly make or express individual negative judgments about Superintendent or staff performance. Any such judgments of Superintendent performance will be made only by the Board, meeting in executive session as appropriate.

3. **Board members shall maintain the confidentiality of all matters required to be kept confidential by federal or state law or regulations and all matters discussed in executive session.**

Adopted: August 2005

Monitoring Method: Board self-assessment
Monitoring Frequency: November Retreat