

## **School Board Member Conduct**

Public office is a trust created by the confidence which the public places in the integrity of its public officers. To preserve this confidence, it is the desire of the Board to operate under the highest ethical standards.

In carrying out fiduciary duties, a Board member shall not:

1. Disclose or use confidential information acquired in the course of official duties to further substantially their personal financial interests.
2. Accept a gift of substantial value or substantial economic benefit tantamount to a gift of substantial value which would tend to improperly influence a reasonable person in such a position or which the member knows or should know is primarily for the purpose of rewarding the member for official action taken.
3. Engage in a substantial financial transaction for the member's private business purposes with a person whom the member supervises in the course of any official duties.
4. Perform an official act which directly and substantially confers an economic benefit on a business or other undertaking in which member has a substantial financial interest or in which member is engaged as a counsel, consultant, representative or agent.

The phrase "economic benefit tantamount to a gift of substantial value" includes a loan at a rate of interest substantially lower than the prevailing commercial rate and compensation received for private services rendered at a rate substantially exceeding the fair market value.

It is permissible for a Board member to receive:

1. Campaign contribution and contribution in kind which are reported in accordance with state law.
2. An occasional non-pecuniary gift which is insignificant in value.
3. A non-pecuniary award publicly presented by a nonprofit organization in recognition of public service.
4. Payment or reimbursement for actual and necessary expenditures for travel and subsistence for attendance at a convention or other meeting at which member is scheduled to participate.

5. Reimbursement for or acceptance of an opportunity to participate in a social function or meeting which is not extraordinary when viewed in light of member's position.
6. Items of perishable or nonpermanent value including but not limited to meals, lodging, travel expenses or tickets to sporting, recreational, educational or cultural events. Tickets to these events may have to be reported in accordance with the public official disclosure law.
7. Payment for speeches, appearances or publications reported in accordance with the public official disclosure law.

It shall not be considered a breach of conduct for a Board member to:

1. Use school facilities and equipment to communicate or correspond with constituents, family members or business associates.
2. Accept or receive a benefit as an indirect consequence of transacting school district business.

Adopted: January 21, 1992

Revised: February 1995

Revised: August 2000

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 1-45-101 *et seq.* (Fair Campaign Practices Act; requires report of campaign contributions and expenditures)  
C.R.S. 24-6-203 (Public Official Disclosure Act)  
C.R.S. 24-18-104  
C.R.S. 24-18-109