

## Board Member Ethics Code and Conflict of Interest

Board Policy: SB-4  
Adopted: August 14, 2000  
Revised: March 8, 2010

### I. General Policy Statement

The board recognizes that, collectively and individually, all members of the board must adhere to a code of ethics as required by NC General Statutes. All board members are subject to the criminal laws related to conflict of interest in public office, including strict restrictions against having a pecuniary interest in any business of the Board. In addition, board members will not let any personal or business interest interfere with his or her duties as a public official, including ethical duties as specified in the Code of Ethics for School Board Members.

### II. Board Member Ethical Requirements

The following considerations will guide each board member in the performance of his or her official duties.

1. the need to obey all applicable state and federal laws regarding official actions taken as a board member;
2. the need to uphold the integrity and independence of the board member's office;
3. the need to avoid impropriety in the exercise of the board's and board member's official duties;
4. the need to perform faithfully the duties of the office: and
5. the need to conduct the affairs of the board in an open and public manner, complying with all applicable laws governing open meetings and public records.

### III. Other Board Member Commitments

Each member of the board shall commit to the following:

1. attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
2. endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings;
3. render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
4. encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members and seek systematic communications between the board and students, staff and all elements of the community;
5. work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent;
6. communicate to other board members and the superintendent expressions of public reaction to board policies and school programs;
7. learn about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the state and national school boards associations;
8. comply with North Carolina General Statute 115C-50 by earning the required 12 hours of training annually;

9. support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
10. avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using the board member's position on the board for personal or partisan gain;
11. take no private action that will compromise the board or administration and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law; and
12. remember always that a board member's first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.
13. comply with G.S. 160A-84 by earning two hours of ethics education within 12 months of election or appointment to the board.

**Legal References: General Statutes 160A-83, -84; 115C-36, -50 and 115C-47(57)**