

Franklin Special Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in July	Descriptor Term: Code of Ethics	Descriptor Code: 1.106	Issued Date: 04/10/23
		Rescinds: 1.106	Issued: 10/13/08

*General*¹

Board members and school district employees may not accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, money, gratuity, consideration, or favor that a reasonable person would understand was intended to influence the vote, official action, or judgment of the board member or employee in executing decisions affecting the school district. It is also prohibited for a board member's or an employee's spouse or child living in the same household to accept such items.

It shall not be considered a violation of this policy for a board member or employee to receive entertainment, food, refreshments, meals, health screenings, amenities, food, or beverages that are provided in connection with a conference sponsored by an established or recognized statewide association of school board officials or by an umbrella or affiliate organization of such statewide association of school board officials.

ETHICS COMPLAINTS

The Board may create a School District Ethics Committee (Ethics Committee), consisting of three (3) members who will be appointed to one-year terms by the Board Chair with confirmation by the Board. At least two (2) members of the committee shall be members of the Board. The Ethics Committee shall convene as soon as practicable after its appointment and elect a Chair and a Secretary. The records of the Ethics Committee shall be maintained by the Secretary and shall be filed in the Director of Schools' office, where they shall be open to public inspection.

Questions and complaints regarding violations of this Code of Ethics shall be directed to the Chair of the Ethics Committee. Complaints shall be in writing, signed by the person making the complaint, and include details as to the facts surrounding the complaint.

The Ethics Committee may investigate an ethical complaint received against a board member or employee and make recommendations to cease any activity that, in the Ethics Committee's judgment, constitutes a violation of this Code of Ethics. If a member of the Ethics Committee is the subject of a complaint, the member shall recuse himself/herself from all proceedings involving the complaint.

The Ethics Committee may:

1. Refer the matter to the board attorney;
2. In the case of a board member, refer the matter to the Board of Education for possible public censure, if warranted;

- 1 3. In the case of an employee, refer the matter to the Director of Schools/designee for possible
- 2 disciplinary action, if warranted; or
- 3
- 4 4. In a case involving possible violation of state statutes, refer the matter to the district attorney
- 5 for possible ouster or criminal prosecution.

Legal References

1. TCA 8-17-103

Cross References

Board Member Conflict of Interest 1.107
Duties of Board Members 1.202

Franklin Special Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in February	Descriptor Term: Ethics	Descriptor Code: 5.611	Issued Date: 09/14/98
		Rescinds: GBU	Issued: 08/09/93

An effective educational program requires the services of men and women of integrity, high ideals and human understanding. To maintain and promote these essentials, all employees are expected to maintain high standards in their school relationships.¹ These standards include the following:

1. The maintenance of just and courteous professional relationships with student, parent(s), staff members and others;
2. The maintenance of their own efficiency and knowledge of the developments in their fields of work;
3. The transaction of all official business with the properly designated authorities of the school system;
4. The establishment of friendly and intelligent cooperation between the community and the school system;
5. The representation of the school system on all occasions that the contributions of the school system to the community are recognized;
6. The welfare of children as the first concern of the school system when placing professional personnel. The use of pressure on school officials for appointments or transfers is unethical;
7. Restraint from using school contacts and privileges to promote partisan politics, sectarian religious views or selfish propaganda of any kind;
8. The responsibility to make any criticism of other staff members or of the school system directly to the particular school administrator who has the administrative responsibility for improving the situation and then to the director of schools, if necessary; and
9. The proper use and protection of all school properties, equipment and materials.

Legal Reference:

1. TCA 49-5-501(3)(D); TEA Code of Ethics of the Education Profession

Code of Ethics

Preamble

The educator, believing in the worth and dignity of each human being, recognizes the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence and the nurture of democratic principles. Essential to these goals is the protection of freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator accepts the responsibility to adhere to the highest ethical standards.

The educator recognizes the magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the teaching process. The desire for the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents and of the members of the community provides the incentive to attain and maintain the highest possible degree of ethical conduct.

The Code of Ethics of the Education Profession indicates the aspiration of all educators and provides standards by which to judge conduct.

Principle I

Commitment to the Student

The educator strives to help each student realize his or her potential as a worthy and effective member of society. The educator therefore works to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator -

1. Shall not unreasonably restrain the student from independent action in the pursuit of learning.
2. Shall not unreasonably deny the student access to varying points of view.
3. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter relevant to the student's progress.
4. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety.
5. Shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement.
6. Shall not on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social or cultural background or sexual orientation unfairly;
 - a. Exclude any student from participation in any program.
 - b. Deny benefits to any student.
 - c. Grant any advantage to any student.
7. Shall not use professional relationships with students for private advantage.
8. Shall not disclose information about students obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.

Principle II

Commitment to the Profession

The education profession is vested by the public with a trust and responsibility requiring the highest ideals of professional service.

In the belief that the quality of the services of the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards, to promote a climate that encourages the exercise of professional judgment, to achieve conditions which attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education, and to assist in preventing the practice of the profession by unqualified persons.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the profession, the educator -

1. Shall not in an application for a professional position deliberately make a false statement or fail to disclose a material fact related to competency and qualifications.
2. Shall not misrepresent his or her professional qualifications.
3. Shall not assist entry into the profession of a person known to be unqualified in respect to character, education or other relevant attribute.
4. Shall not knowingly make a false statement concerning the qualifications of a candidate for a professional position.
5. Shall not assist a non-educator in the unauthorized practice of teaching.
6. Shall not disclose information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.
7. Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about a colleague.
8. Shall not accept any gratuity, gift, or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or actions.