

## ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR SCHOOL DIRECTORS

### **Policy Statement**

Each board director has taken an oath of office to support the Constitutions of the United States and Washington state. The Concrete School Board and each of its school directors is committed to upholding the oath of office and to ethical behavior.

Ethical behavior is an individual responsibility. Each school director and the board as a whole will base their conduct on these core ethical principles:

***Objectivity*** – School directors must place the public’s interest before any private interest or outside obligation – choices need to be made on the merits. A board member shall not, directly or indirectly, give or receive or agree to receive any compensation, gift, reward, or gratuity from a source except the school district, for a matter connected with or related to the board member’s services as such board member unless otherwise provided for by law.

***Selflessness*** – School directors should not take actions or make decisions in the performance of their position in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. Except as otherwise provided by law, it shall be unlawful for the superintendent or any principal, or any director of any school district, to request or receive, directly or indirectly, anything of value for or on account of his or her influence with respect to any act or proceeding of the district when such act or proceeding shall inure to the benefit of those offering or giving the time of value.

***Stewardship*** – School directors should conserve public resources and funds against misuse and abuse.

***Transparency*** – School directors must practice open and accountable government. They should be as open as possible about their decisions and actions, while protecting truly confidential information. A board member shall not disclose confidential information gained by reason of the board member’s position. A board member shall not accept employment or engage in business or professional activity that the board member might reasonably expect would require or induce him or her by reason of his or her position to disclose confidential information acquired by reason of his or her official position.

***Integrity*** – School directors should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organizations that might inappropriately influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Failure to adhere to these core ethical principles or failure to comply with other policies adopted by the board or the law may result in the school board taking formal censure of the offending school director in accordance with 1825 – Addressing School Board Director Violations.

Cross References:

1111 – Oath of Office  
1220 – Board Officers and Duties of Board Members  
1610 – Conflicts of Interest 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Districts  
5271 – Reporting Improper Governmental Action  
(Whistleblower Protection)

Management Resources:

RCW 28A.320.040 Bylaws for board and school government  
RCW 28A.635.050 Certain corrupt practices of school officials  
RCW 42.20 Misconduct of Public Officers

**Concrete School District**  
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