



New Jersey School Boards Association

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Code of Ethics for School Board Members

N.J.S.A 18A:12-24.1

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
- c. I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- d. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.
- e. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.
- f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.
- h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- i. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.2

Requirements for the code of ethics for district board of education members and charter school board of trustees members

- (a) Each district board of education and charter school board of trustees shall:
 - 1. Discuss annually the School Ethics Act and the Code of Ethics for School Board Members, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq., at a regularly scheduled public meeting;
 - 2. Adopt policies and procedures regarding the training of district board of education and charter school board of trustees members in understanding the Code of Ethics; and
 - 3. Provide documentation pursuant to (b) below that each member of the district board of education or charter school board of trustees has received and reviewed the Code of Ethics.
- (b) Each member of the district board of education or charter school board of trustees shall sign an [acknowledgement of receipt](#) of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.* The acknowledgement of receipt requires each district board of education member and charter school board of trustees member to read and become familiar with the Code of Ethics.