

Template for School Board Trustee Code of Conduct Nevada Association of School Boards

**Originally Adopted by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors,
April 12, 2008, and Adopted as Revised, June 25, 2018**

As a member of my local Board of School Trustees, representing all the citizens of my community and responsible to the electorate through the democratic process, recognize that:

- I represent all school district constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.
- My fellow citizens have entrusted me, through the electoral process, with the education of ALL the children and youth of the community.
- School trustees are the children's advocates and my first and greatest concern is the best interest of each and every one of these children without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
- Trustees are educational leaders who realize that the future welfare of the community, of the state, and of the nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education we provide in the public schools to fit the needs of every learner.

In view of the foregoing, I will:

- Devote time, thought and study to the duties of a school board trustee so that I may render effective and creditable service;
- Work professionally and respectfully with my fellow board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion;
- Abide by the majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels;
- Make decisions in compliance with the Open Meeting Law;
- Treat all school staff, community members and students in a professional and respectful manner;
- Consider information received from all credible sources and base my personal decisions upon proven best practices and other available facts in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind;
- Maintain confidentiality of information and discussion conducted in executive/closed session;
- Encourage active collaboration with citizens, organizations, and the media in establishing policy on current school operations and future developments;
- Work together with my fellow board members to communicate to the electorate all the facts about their schools, to the end that they will understand the importance of public education and provide the finest possible school program, school staff, and school facilities;
- Remember that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meeting of the board, and conduct my relationships with the school staff, the community, and all communication media on the basis of this fact;

- Expect an equitable amount of board meeting time be spent both learning about educational programs and conducting the business of the board;
- Refer members of the media to the board spokesperson for official statements;
- Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a school board member to benefit either myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school jurisdiction;
- Uphold board policy, administrative regulations, and state and federal laws;
- Recognize that my responsibility is not to run the schools, but, together with fellow trustees in the context of an open meeting, to see that the schools are well run; to understand and accept that the basic function of a trustee is policymaking and fiduciary oversight and accountability—not oversight in day-to-day administrative decisions;
- Disclose no information of a confidential or private nature that relates to district employees or students;
- Support and protect employees in the proper performance of their duties, with the respect and consideration due skilled professional employees;
- Direct concerns, inquiries and requests for information to the superintendent, recognizing that he directs staff members and that information obtained should be shared with all school trustees;
- Listen earnestly and carefully to concerns of constituents and staff, but direct complaints to the person who can properly and expeditiously address them;
- Contact the superintendent before board meetings for more information on agenda items or to address concerns, rather than surprise him in public;
- Strive for a positive working relationship with the superintendent, respecting the superintendent’s authority to advise the board, implement board policy, and administer the district;
- Present personal criticism of district operations to the superintendent, not to district staff or to the board in open meeting;
- Be informed about educational issues through individual study and by participating in trustee development opportunities such as those sponsored by the Nevada and National School Boards association, the Nevada Department of Education, the Certified Public Official program, and other education organizations; and
- Work with the Nevada Association of School Boards to support and implement the vision, mission, and strategic goals of the Association in promoting success for ALL students through local school board leadership.