

CODE OF ETHICS

As a guide in performing their duties, Board members should:

1. As an agent of the state, uphold and enforce all laws, rules, regulations and court orders pertaining to public schools, and bring about any needed change only through legal and ethical means.
2. Help create public schools which meet the educational needs of all children and provide a learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, disability, religion or sexual orientation.
3. Recognize that a Board member's responsibility is not to "run the schools," but rather to see that they are well-run through effective policies.
4. Concentrate Board action to policy-making, planning, and appraisal, and consult with those who will be affected by the Board's actions.
5. Arrive at conclusions after fully discussing the issue at an open meeting, and abide by the principle of majority rule.
6. Recognize that authority rests only with the whole Board assembled in a meeting, and make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the Board.
7. Never use the position on the Board for personal gain.
8. Hold confidential all discussions held in executive session as well as all matters pertaining to the schools that, if disclosed, might needlessly injure individuals or the schools or violate privacy laws.
9. Ensure that all school business transactions be truthful and ethical.
10. Ensure that the best personnel available are appointed to all positions in the district.
11. Refer all complaints through the proper "chain of command" within the system, and act on such complaints at public meetings only when administrative solutions fail.

Adapted from "Standards of Leadership for Members of Boards of Education" recommended by the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.