

GIFTS TO AND SOLICITATIONS BY STAFF

Code **GBEBC** Issued **2/13**

Purpose: To establish basic structure regarding solicitation by staff members and the giving of gifts to staff members.

Selling items for personal profit

In the interest of preserving a completely professional relationship between district employees and those whom they serve, it is the policy of the board not to permit school employees to sell on school premises for personal profit products of any kind to students or patrons of the school in which they teach.

Soliciting of staff

No organization may solicit funds from staff members within the schools nor may they distribute flyers or other materials related to fund drives through the schools without the approval of the superintendent. Staff members will not be made responsible or assume responsibility for the collection of any money or distribution of any fund drive literature within the schools without such activity having the superintendent's approval.

As a matter of policy, the board expects such activities to be kept to a minimum. The superintendent will seek direction from the board in instances where prior practice has set no policy as to a particular fund drive.

Gifts to staff members

Any good school system expects to employ staff members who are ethical in their relationships with students, parents, other school personnel and all companies with whom the district does business.

Staff members may accept no personal gifts, bonuses or gratuities – consistent with guidelines issued by the State Ethics Commission – from companies which do business with the district, whether or not companies give such gifts in the hope of increasing the sale of a product or to influence school personnel. Exceptions to this policy are the acceptance of minor items which are generally distributed by the company or organization through their public relations program.

Any gifts received as the result of the district's business, financial or operational affairs will accrue to the school system as a unit. "Gifts" include the "savings stamps" offered by various companies.

Adopted 2/2/98; Revised 10/4/10; 3/7/11; Issued 2/4/13

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Legal references:

A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 9-13-100 et seq. – Ethics, government accountability and campaign reform.
2. Section 8-15-10 et seq. – Local or local and state officers and employees generally.
3. Section 16-17-420 – Prohibits activities that disturb school.