

306 ADMINISTRATOR CODE OF ETHICS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the requirements of the school board that school administrators adhere to the standards of ethics and professional conduct in this policy and Minnesota law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. An educational administrator's professional behavior must conform to an ethical code. The code must be idealistic and at the same time practical, so that it can apply reasonably to all educational administrators. The administrator acknowledges that the schools belong to the public they serve for the purpose of providing educational opportunities to all. However, the administrator assumes responsibility for providing professional leadership in the school and community. This responsibility requires the administrator to maintain standards of exemplary professional conduct. It must be recognized that the administrator's actions will be viewed and appraised by the community, professional associates, and students. To these ends, the administrator must subscribe to the following standards.

B. The Educational Administrator:

1. Makes the well-being of students the fundamental value of all decision-making and actions.
2. Fulfills professional responsibilities with honesty and integrity.
3. Supports the principle of due process and protects the civil and human rights of all individuals.
4. Obeys local, state, and national laws and does not knowingly join or support organizations that advocate, directly or indirectly, the overthrow of the government.
5. Implements the school board's policies.
6. Pursues appropriate measures to correct those laws, policies, and regulations that are not consistent with sound educational goals.
7. Avoids using positions for personal gain through political, social, religious, economic, or other influence.
8. Accepts academic degrees or professional certification only from duly accredited institutions.

9. Maintains the standards and seeks to improve the effectiveness of the profession through research and continuing professional development.
10. Honors all contracts until fulfillment, release, or dissolution is mutually agreed upon by all parties to the contract.
11. Adheres to the Code of Ethics for School Administrators in Minnesota Rule.

III. STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The standards of professional conduct for school administrators are listed below:

1. A school administrator shall provide professional educational services in a nondiscriminatory manner.
2. A school administrator shall take reasonable action to protect students and staff from conditions harmful to health and safety.
3. A school administrator shall take reasonable action to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning.
4. A school administrator shall not misuse professional relationships with students, parents, and caregivers, staff, or colleagues to private advantage.
5. A school administrator shall disclose confidential information about individuals only when a compelling professional purpose is served in accordance with state and federal laws and school district policies.
6. A school administrator shall not knowingly falsify or misrepresent records or facts relating to the administrator's qualifications, or to the qualifications of other staff or personnel.
7. A school administrator shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about students, students' families, staff or colleagues.
8. A school administrator shall not accept gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment, nor offer any favor, service, or item of value to obtain special advantage.
9. A school administrator shall only accept a contract for a position when licensed for the position or when a school district is granted a variance by the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education under Minnesota Statutes, section 121.11, subdivision 7b.
10. A school administrator, in filling positions requiring licensure, shall employ, recommend for employment, and assign only appropriately licensed personnel, or persons for whom the school district has been granted a variance by the appropriate state board or agency, unless, after making reasonable efforts to obtain a variance, an appropriately licensed person cannot be assigned and the position must be filled to meet legitimate emergency educational need.
11. A school administrator shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, or misrepresentation in the performance of professional duties.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 122A.14, Subd. 4 (Code of Ethics)
Minn. Rules Part 3512.5200 (Code of Ethics for School Administrators)

Cross References: MASA: Code of Ethics for School Administrators