

## **GIFTS AND SOLICITATIONS**

The North Middlesex Regional School District encourages the expression of appreciation to staff without the obligation of formal gift giving.

### Gifts

The acceptance of gifts worth \$50 or more by school personnel in a calendar year when the gift is given because of the position they hold, or because of some action the recipient could take or has taken in his/her public role, violates the conflict of interest law. Acceptance of gifts worth less than \$50, while not prohibited by the conflict of interest law, may require a written public disclosure to be made.

In keeping with this policy, no employee of the school district will accept a gift worth \$50.00 or more that is given because of the employee's public position, or anything that the employee could do or has done in his or her public position. Gifts worth less than \$50.00 may be accepted, but a written disclosure to the employee's appointing authority must be made if the gift and the circumstances in which it was given could cause a reasonable person to think that the employee could be improperly influenced. The value of personal gifts accepted is aggregated over a calendar year (4 gifts of \$20.00 value is the same as 1 gift of \$80.00 if given in the same calendar year).

### Class Gifts

There is a specific exception to the prohibition against accepting gifts worth \$50 or more, when the teacher knows only that the gift is from the class, not from specific donors. A single class gift per calendar year valued up to \$150 or several class gifts in a single year with a total value up to \$150 from parents and students in a class may be accepted provided the gift is identified only as being from the class and the names of the givers and the amounts given are not identified to the recipient. The recipient may not knowingly accept an additional gift from any of the individuals who participated in the class gift.

### Gifts for School Use

Gifts given to a teacher solely for classroom use or to purchase classroom supplies are not considered gifts to an individual employee and are not subject to the \$50 limit. However, an employee who accepts such gifts must keep receipts documenting that money or gift cards were used for classroom supplies.

### Solicitations

In spirit, the North Middlesex Regional School District School Committee supports the many worthwhile charitable drives that take place in the community and is gratified when school employees give them their support. However, the solicitation of funds from staff members through the use of school personnel and school time is prohibited by the conflict of interest law. Therefore, no solicitation of funds for charitable purposes should be made among staff members. Staff members, of course, remain free to support charitable causes of their choosing.

The North Middlesex Regional School District supports the philanthropic activities of our student groups.

For school groups, any district-wide solicitation of funds by and from students of the school district will be made only as approved by the School Committee.

The solicitation of funds for charitable purposes by and from students at a specific school within the school district will be made only as approved by that school's building administrator.

For the solicitation of funds by non-school groups, see Policy KHA (Public Solicitations in the Schools).

Any organization desiring to distribute flyers or other materials to students in connection with fund drives may do so only with the approval of the Superintendent.

SOURCE: MASC

CROSS REFS.: JP, Gifts and Solicitations  
JJE, Student Fund Raising Activities  
KHA, Public Solicitations in the Schools  
KHB, Advertising in the Schools