

## **Ethical Conduct for School Directors**

### **Policy Statement**

Each board director has taken an oath of office to support the Constitutions of the United States and Washington state. The \_\_\_\_\_ School Board and each of its school directors is committed to upholding the oath of office and to ethical behavior.

Ethical behavior is an individual responsibility. Each school director and the board as a whole will base their conduct on these core ethical principles:

*Objectivity* – School directors must place the public’s interest before any private interest or outside obligation – choices need to be made on the merits.

*Selflessness* – School directors should not take actions or make decisions in the performance of their position in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

*Stewardship* – School directors should conserve public resources and funds against misuse and abuse.

*Transparency* – School directors must practice open and accountable government. They should be as open as possible about their decisions and actions, while protecting truly confidential information.

*Integrity* – School directors should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organizations that might inappropriately influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Failure to adhere to these core ethical principles or failure to comply with other policies adopted by the board or the law may result in the school board taking formal censure of the offending school director in accordance with **1825 – Addressing School Board Director Violations**. **Modify as accurate for your district.**

Cross References: 1111 – Oath of Office  
1220 – Board Officers and Duties of Board Members  
1610 – Conflicts of Interest  
1825 – Addressing School Board Director Violations  
5271 – Reporting Improper Governmental Action

Legal References: RCW 28A.320.040 Bylaws for board and school government  
RCW 28A.635.050 – Certain corrupt practices of school officials  
RCW 42.20 – Misconduct of Public Officers

Management  
Resources: 2021 - October Issue

Wishram School District 94

Adoption Date: **10/2023**  
Classification: **Discretionary**  
Revised Dates:

---

© 2020-2025 Washington State School Directors' Association. All rights reserved.