

Section _____; School Board Code of Ethics; Yearly ratification required.

A. The School Board adopts the following Code of Ethics applicable to all members serving on the School Board.

1. Each member of the School Board will be an advocate for students to improve public education and will place the safety, well-being, and academic success of students above all interests.
2. Each member of the School Board must have integrity in all matters and support the full development of all children and the welfare of the community, Commonwealth of Virginia, and Nation, avoid conflicts of interests, self-dealing, preferential treatment, or the appearance of impropriety, will not use the position for personal or financial benefit, or misuse authority for private interests, and act respectfully and professionally at all times.
3. Each member of the School Board will seek to encourage desired changes through legal and ethical procedures, in accordance with all laws, state regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools.
4. Each member of the School Board must attend School Board meetings and seek to be informed concerning issues under consideration, review materials in advance, ask informed questions, and make decisions based on facts, law, data, and community input and must also seek to be informed about current educational issues through individual study and participation in appropriate programs, such as those sponsored by the Virginia School Boards Association, and the Consortium of State School Boards Associations.
5. Each member of the School Board must work collaboratively in setting board policy, providing fiscal stewardship, and holding the school division accountable for results through the exercise of diligent oversight of budgets, contracts, programs, and the responsible use of taxpayer funds.
6. Each member of the School Board understands that the authority for the day-to-day operations of the schools and the administration of the schools is vested in the superintendent. The superintendent is responsible for establishing a process of accountability for administrators by establishing clear expectations, measurable goals, regular performance evaluation, and transparent accountability. This delegation of responsibility to the school superintendent does not diminish the School Board's authority or oversight responsibility.
7. Each member of the School Board will seek to encourage individual School Board member expressions of opinion and will also seek to facilitate an open, two-way communication process with all segments of the community to promote open communication, lawful transparency, and clear decision-making to maintain public confidence, and to communicate to the full School Board and superintendent, in

accordance with School Board policies, public reaction and opinion regarding School Board policies and school programs.

8. Each member of the School Board recognizes that parents and guardians are the primary decision-makers and advocates for their children, and should be afforded their right to transparency, timely information, meaningful involvement, and direct access to their elected officials on the School Board.
 9. Each member of the School Board will remain accessible and responsive to parents, staff, and citizens while encouraging civil, constructive, and respectful discourse.
 10. Each member of the School Board will prioritize safe schools and pursue ongoing learning to strengthen governance and leadership effectiveness.
 11. Each member of the School Board agrees to respect the confidentiality of privileged information and will make no individual decisions or commitments that might compromise the actions of the School Board or school administration.
- B. Each year at the organizational meeting of the School Board the School will affirm and ratify this Code of Ethics.