

Greater Lowell Technical High School

Notice of Mandatory Conflict of Interest Law Requirement

Annual Summary Distribution

The Conflict of Interest Law (MA General Law Chapter 268A) applies to state, county, municipal employees and committee members. The Conflict of Interest Law addresses circumstances where public employees' private business, family or other interests conflict with their public responsibilities.

Conflict of Interest Law Summary & Acknowledgement

This summary of the conflict of interest law, General Law Chapter 268A, is intended to help municipal employees understand how that law applies to them. This summary is not a substitute for legal advice, nor does it mention every aspect of the law that may apply in a particular situation. Municipal employees can obtain free confidential advice about the conflict of interest law from the Commission's Legal Division at the Ethics website, phone number, and address below. Municipal counsel may also provide advice.

The conflict of interest law seeks to prevent conflicts between private interests and public duties, foster integrity in public service, and promote the public's trust and confidence in that service by placing restrictions on what municipal employees may do on the job, after hours, and after leaving public service, as described below. The sections referenced below are sections of G.L. c. 268A.

When the Commission determines that the conflict of interest law has been violated, it can impose a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 (\$25,000 for bribery cases) for each violation. In addition, the Commission can order the violator to repay any economic advantage he gained by the violation, and to make restitution to injured third parties. Violations of the conflict of interest law can also be prosecuted criminally.

A summary. <http://www.mass.gov/ethics/education-and-training-resources/required-education-and-training/municipal-employee-summary.html> of the law is distributed to all employees on an annual basis and to new employees during the hiring stage of employment. By law, employees must acknowledge that he or she has been provided with a summary. Please ensure you check the Conflict of Interest Summary box on the Verification form.

FYI-Public School Teacher FAQs on the Conflict of Interest Law

The State Ethics Commission has prepared a FAQ specifically for teachers which can be viewed at: <http://www.mass.gov/ethics/education-and-training-resources/educational-materials/explanations-of-the-conflict-of-interest-law/public-school-teacher-faqs.html>

Important note: Before acting, an employee may request free legal advice about how the law applies to them in a particular situation. The advice is confidential in most circumstances. You may request advice by calling the "Attorney-Of-The-Day," (617) 371-9500/(888) 485-4766 or online, or in writing by U.S. Mail: State Ethics Commission, Legal Division, One Ashburton Place, Room 619, Boston, MA 02108. The Legal Division may provide you only with advice concerning your own conduct.