4053
Conflict of Interest

Any school district employee who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this policy:

   a. Business with which an employee is associated shall include the following:

      (1) A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.

      (2) A business in which the employee or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or he or she, or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the employee reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

   b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.

2. Contracts with the School District.

   a. No employee or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district's regular business hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded.

b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the employee has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the employee's interest known, may render a contract null and void.

c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for public notice shall apply when the employee, or his or her immediate family (parent, spouse, or child) has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a direct pecuniary fee or commission as a result of the contract.

3. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

a. An employee may employ or recommend or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:

(1) The employee does not abuse his or her position.

(a) Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:

(i) who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;

(ii) for any unreasonably high salary;

(iii) who is not required to perform the duties of the position.

(2) The employee makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.

(3) The employee makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board.

(4) The board approves the employment or supervisory position.

b. The employee shall not terminate the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

4. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment

a. No employee shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:

(1) a public official, public employee, or candidate.

(2) a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.

(3) a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or (2) above is associated.

b. No employee shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the employee would thereby be influenced.

c. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public employment or any confidential information received through the public employment to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself or a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.

d. An employee shall not use or authorize the use of personnel, resources, property, or funds under that person's official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items for personal financial gain, other than compensation provided by law.

5. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

a. Except as provided below, an employee shall not authorize the use of school district personnel, property, resources, or funds for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination

or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.

b. This does not prohibit an employee from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.

c. This does not prohibit an employee from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.

d. This does not prohibit an employee under the direct supervision of a public official from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.

e. An employee may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the school district. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.

6. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: 3/18/19
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____