



# south carolina school board member ethical principles

## As a member of my district's school board

I pledge my efforts to improve public education  
in my community and will solemnly try to:

**represent** the interests of the entire district when making decisions and to rely on available facts and on our judgment rather than on individuals or special interest groups;

**understand** the proper role of the board to set policies governing the district and to hire the chief administrative officer to carry out these policies;

**encourage** an open exchange of ideas by all board members during the decision-making process;

**seek** regular communications between the board and students, staff and all segments of the community;

**attend** all board meetings, to study issues facing the board and to enact policies and official actions only after full discussion at such meetings;

**work** with other board members in a conscientious and courteous manner befitting the public trust placed in the position of school board trustee;

**communicate** concerns and public reaction to board policies and school programs to the superintendent and other board members in a professional manner;

**support** employment of the persons best qualified for staff positions and to ensure a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;

**avoid** conflicts of interest and to refrain from using my board position for personal or partisan gain;

**encourage** recognition of the achievements of students and staff and of the involvement of community residents;

**support** legislation and funding which will improve the educational opportunities and environment for students and staff;

**take** no individual action which would compromise the integrity of the board or administration and to respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under the Freedom of Information Act;

**study** current educational issues and to participate in training programs such as those offered through the South Carolina School Boards Association and the National School Boards Association; and

**make** our district's educational setting the best possible to encourage all students to achieve and to love learning.