South Carolina School Boards Association

School Board Member Code of Ethics

Adopted by the 1986 SCSBA Delegate Assembly

As a school board member in South Carolina, 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 my judgment rather than on individuals or special interest groups;
- to 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;
- to encourage an open exchange of ideas by all board members during the decision-making process;
- to seek regular communications between the board and students, staff and all segments of the community;
- to attend all board meetings, to study issues facing the board and to enact policies and official actions only after full discussion at such meetings;
- to work with other board members in a conscientious and courteous manner befitting the public trust placed in the position of school board trustee;
- to communicate concerns and public reaction to board policies and school programs to the superintendent and other board members in a professional manner;
- to support employment of the persons best qualified for staff positions and to ensure a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
- to avoid conflicts of interest and to refrain from using my board position for personal or partisan gain;
- to encourage recognition of the achievements of students and staff and of the involvement of community residents;
- to support legislation and funding which will improve the educational opportunities and environment for students and staff;
- to 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;
- to 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
- to make the educational setting in our district the best possible to encourage all students to achieve and to love learning.

Date _____ Board member _____

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