

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DBD
(LOCAL)

Note: For conflicts of interest and gifts and gratuities related to federal grants and awards, see CB and CBB.

This policy shall govern employee conflict of interest situations not already prohibited by Board policy, state law, or the Educators' Code of Ethics at DH(EXHIBIT).

A District employee shall not directly or indirectly use coercive means, promise special treatment, or capitalize upon his or her position in order to influence professional decisions, purchases, adoptions, or colleagues. It is a violation of ethics for any employee to use his or her position with the District to seek personal or professional advantage. [See DH(EXHIBIT)]

The District has an obligation to eliminate or restrict all transactions that would indicate an apparent conflict of interest involving the District and any employee. Therefore, the District shall not enter into any business transactions or negotiations for services or for the purchase of any product with any of its employees, whether the employee is acting as an agent for any vendor or for his or her own interest in any separate business, except as expressly permitted by this policy.

Definitions

The following definitions shall apply for purposes of this policy.

Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest is a situation in which the personal interests of a contractor or District employee are, or appear to be, at odds with the best interests of the District.

A conflict of interest arises when a District employee holds an interest in, is an employee of, and/or consultant with, another business if that business is a supplier of products or professional service to the District, employees, or students. Under certain circumstances, however, such conflict may be waived after full disclosure, as discussed further below.

**Business
Ownership**

Business ownership shall be defined as any percentage interest of ownership in a business by an employee or his or her immediate family.

Immediate Family

For the purpose of this policy, "immediate family" shall include persons related to an employee in the first degree by consanguinity (blood) and affinity (marriage). Relationships by consanguinity include an employee's parents and children; relationships by affinity include an employee's spouse and the spouse's parents and children.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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Disclaimer	A disclaimer is a statement to the effect that an employee (or his or her immediate family) has no business interest in any entity conducting or planning to conduct business with the District.
Disclosure Statement	A disclosure is a statement that makes known and explains an employee's (or his or her immediate family's) business interest (ownership or employment) in an entity conducting or planning to conduct business with the District.
Disclosure-General Standard	An employee shall disclose to his or her immediate supervisor a personal financial interest, a business interest, or any other obligation or relationship that in any way creates a potential conflict of interest with the proper discharge of assigned duties and responsibilities or with the best interest of the District.
Specific Disclosures Substantial Interest	<p>The Superintendent shall file an affidavit with the Board President disclosing a substantial interest, as defined by Local Government Code 171.002, in any business or real property that the Superintendent or any of his or her relatives in the first degree may have.</p> <p>Any other employee who is in a position to affect a financial decision involving any business entity or real property in which the employee has a substantial interest, as defined by Local Government Code, 171.002, shall file an affidavit with the Superintendent; however, the employee shall not be required to file an affidavit for the substantial interest of a relative.</p>
Interest in Property	The Superintendent shall be required to file an affidavit disclosing interest in property in accordance with Government Code 553.002.
Affidavit / Disclosure of Ownership or Employment	<p>District employees shall comply with the following guidelines in accordance with the District's conflict of interest policy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Any District employee with primary purchasing responsibilities (employees with budget authority) shall file an affidavit with the District's executive director procurement and school resources. The executive director procurement and school resources shall file an affidavit with the chief financial officer.2. The executive director procurement and school resources shall submit a statement to the chief financial officer that discloses a potential conflict of interest from District employees with primary purchasing responsibilities.3. The aforementioned statement (that includes a listing of affidavits for employees with primary purchasing responsibilities) shall be approved by the Superintendent and submitted for approval by the Board at the beginning of the fiscal year. Any additions to that document shall also be submitted for Board approval.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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4. Purchasing transactions shall be reviewed periodically (at least annually) under the direction of the Superintendent to ensure that conflicts of interest do not exist.

Requirements and Restrictions

The District shall make no purchase, either directly or indirectly, of labor, services, supplies, materials, equipment, or real estate from a District employee or from a business owned by a District employee or his or her immediate family.

Exceptions

If labor, services, supplies, materials, equipment, or real estate cannot be acquired from other sources or the price from other sources is greater than that of the business owned by an employee or his or her immediate family, then purchases may be made from this business after full disclosure and Board approval of said disclosure(s). Evidence must show that such labor, services, supplies, materials, equipment, or real estate are needed. Exceptions shall be made for businesses owned by employees when such employees have qualified and are chosen as certified vendors through an established cooperative purchase program approved by the Board.

The District shall not purchase from a business unless an affidavit is on file in the purchasing department.

Endorsements

Employees shall not recommend, endorse, or require students to purchase any product, material, or service in which they have a financial interest or that is sold by a company that employs the District employee during nonschool hours. Professional employees shall not recommend or require students to purchase a specific brand of school supplies if there are other brands that are equal and suitable for the intended instructional purpose.

Sales

Employees shall not use their positions with the District to gain entrance to a home within the District or to obtain an audience with any District resident for the purpose of attempting to sell products or services.

Textbooks

In the event any textbook recommended by the local textbook adoption committee is written, endorsed, or sponsored (in whole or in part) by any current or former employee of the District, an ad hoc committee composed of the Superintendent, the executive director for kindergarten-grade 12 curriculum, and a facilitator in the applicable field selected by the Superintendent shall review the recommended selection and shall advise the Board regarding the selection.

Gifts

District employees and their immediate families shall not accept any gift, favor, loan, or service that could influence the employee in the discharge of official duties.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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District employees and their immediate families may accept the items listed below from those soliciting business relationships with the District or those already doing business with the District, providing acceptance is in keeping with good ethics and does not place the recipient under obligations to the giver:

1. Unsolicited gifts that are appropriate for ceremonial occasions or official events with a nominal intrinsic value of less than \$50.
2. Unsolicited occasional business meals of nominal intrinsic value accepted as a guest.
3. Unsolicited infrequent entertainment or social invitations of nominal intrinsic value accepted as a guest.
4. Unsolicited advertising novelty or merchandise gifts of nominal intrinsic value (\$25 or less).

Under no circumstances may a District employee or immediate family member accept cash or a negotiable instrument (e.g., check, draft, note, money order, and the like) in any amount. An employee shall obtain the Superintendent's prior approval before taking any vendor-related business trip as a guest and before accepting any trips in which a vendor is paying all or a portion of the expenses (food, lodging, transportation, or entertainment). The Superintendent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before accepting similar trips for himself or herself.

[See CAA, CB, and CBB]

**Nondistrict
Employment**

An employee shall not engage in any outside business or employment that may interfere with the employee's assigned duties or regularly assigned hours of work.

Coaching or tutoring of students for pay is permitted off campus provided the student is not coached or tutored in a subject by a certified employee who is, at the time, teaching the student the subject. As an exception to the above rule, fine arts teachers may provide private lessons for pay to their own students as long as it is not done on school property. The District's tutorial program is exempt from the above.

Consultant Services

The following shall apply:

1. All requests to serve as a consultant for another educational institution must be submitted by the requesting institution to the Superintendent. Such applications must be submitted far enough in advance so that arrangements can be made for the absence.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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2. An employee may be allowed to serve as a consultant a maximum of five duty days in a school year.
3. When an employee is approved and accepts a consultant assignment for another educational institution and is to be paid for his or her services, the employee may choose the consultant fee or the regular salary. If the employee accepts the consultant fee, he or she will be docked for the time off duty in order to serve as a consultant. If the employee chooses to be paid the District salary, any compensation paid for the employee's services must be turned in to the District's business office for deposit in the District's general account. Employees may accept reimbursement for actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred for travel to and from and per diem paid by the other educational institution.
4. Employees are at liberty to make whatever commitments they choose, and under such conditions as they may wish, during their vacation or nonduty periods. Employees may serve as consultants for organizations other than other educational institutions only during their vacation or nonduty periods. [See DCB(REGULATION) regarding nonduty days]
5. No part of the District's locally allocated travel allotment may be used by an employee when working with or for another educational institution. All travel costs must be borne by either the employee or the other educational institution.
6. None of the above provisions applies to requests from TEA. Such requests will be handled individually between the Superintendent and the person whose services are requested.

Violation of Policy

All documentation and information concerning an infraction of policy shall be referred to the Superintendent or designee for investigation.