

BOARD OF EDUCATION CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education of the Topeka Public Schools recognizes that each Board Member serves our entire school district by virtue of a district-wide election and that each Board Member's conduct reflects upon the public image and perception of our students, staff and the school district as a whole. The Board of Education also recognizes that Board Members have a responsibility to convey a positive example for our students. Therefore, the Board of Education of the Topeka Public Schools adopts the following principles by which we will govern the school district:

I. IN MEETING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO OUR COMMUNITY WE WILL:

- A. Appraise both the present and future education needs of the school district;
- B. Ensure adequate resources and provide financial oversight;
- C. Be motivated by a desire to serve in the best interests of our community, students and learners;
- D. Maintain effective communications with the community;
- E. Consider ourselves to be trustees of public education; and
- F. Comply with the Kansas Open Meetings Act and the Kansas Open Records Act.

II. IN OUR ROLE AS SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS WE WILL:

- A. Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings, coming prepared and informed on the issues to be considered at the meeting, or notify the Board Clerk's office of necessary absences;
- B. Recognize that school business must be transacted according to law;
- C. Recognize that the Board speaks through a majority vote;
- D. Respect the right of others to have and express personal opinions, but once the Board has acted, accept the will of the majority;
- E. Comply with the provisions of Board Policy 1060, Conflicts of Interest;
- F. Participate in the governance process respectfully while conforming to district policies and guidelines;
- G. Monitor and annually evaluate the Board's process and performance;
- H. Demonstrate the discipline necessary to govern with excellence;
- I. Retain independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
- J. Voice opinions respectfully and maintain good relations with other board members, administrators, school staff and members of the public, refraining from making personally disparaging remarks about anyone; and
- K. Refrain from divulging confidential information as required by state and federal law and board policy, including all legal matters and matters relating to student and personnel records.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CODE OF CONDUCT (continued)

III. IN WORKING WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE STAFF WE WILL:

- A. Recognize our responsibility, together with other board members, to see that the schools are properly run;**
- B. Hold the superintendent responsible for the administration of the school district;**
- C. Give the superintendent authority commensurate with the responsibility;**
- D. Communicate Board policy decisions and other official action to school district staff through the superintendent;**
- E. Work through the administrative employees of the district as determined by the superintendent;**
- F. Assure that the best professional personnel available administer the school district;**
- G. Expect the superintendent to keep the school board adequately and timely informed;**
- H. Refer all complaints to the proper administrative officer or insist that they be presented in writing to the entire schoolboard; and**
- I. Participate in the regular evaluation of the superintendent.**

Violations of this policy may be addressed by a vote of four or more Board Members at an open public meeting.