

**Template for School Board Trustee Code of Conduct
Nevada Association of School Boards
Adopted by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors,
April 12, 2008**

As a member of my local School Board of Trustees, representing all the citizens of my community and responsible to the electorate through the democratic process, I recognize:

- o That my fellow citizens have entrusted me, through the electoral process, with the education of the children and youth of the community.
- o That trustees are the children's advocates and my first and greatest concern is the best interest of each and every one of these children without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
- o That trustees are educational leaders who realize that the future welfare of the community, of the state, and of the nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education we provide in the public schools to fit the needs of every learner.

In view of the foregoing, I will:

- o Devote time, thought and study to the duties of a school board trustee so that I may render effective and creditable service.
- o Work professionally and respectfully with my fellow board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion.
- o Treat all school staff, community members and students in a professional and respectful manner.
- o Consider information received from all credible sources and base my personal decisions upon proven best practices and other available facts in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind.
- o Abide by and uphold final majority decisions of the board.
- o Encourage active co-operation by citizens, organizations, and the media in establishing policy on current school operations and future developments.
- o Work together with my fellow board members to communicate to the electorate all the facts about their schools, to the end that they will

understand the importance of public education and provide the finest possible school program, school staff, and school facilities.

- Remember that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meeting of the board, and conduct my relationships with the school staff, the community, and all communication media on the basis of this fact.
- Refer members of the media to the board spokesperson for official statements.
- Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a school board member to benefit either myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school jurisdiction.
- Uphold board policy, administrative regulations, and state and federal laws.
- Recognize that my responsibility is not to run the schools, but, together with fellow trustees, to see that they are well run; to understand and accept that the basic function of a trustee is policymaking, not administration.
- Disclose no information of a confidential or private nature that relates to district employees or students.
- Support and protect employees in the proper performance of their duties, with the respect and consideration due skilled professional employees.
- Direct concerns, inquiries and requests for information to the superintendent, recognizing that he directs staff members and that information obtained should be shared with all Trustees.
- Listen earnestly to concerns of constituents and staff, but direct complaints to the person who can properly and expeditiously address them.
- Contact the superintendent before board meetings for more information on agenda items or to address concerns, rather than surprise him in public.
- Present personal criticism of district operations to the superintendent, not to district staff or to the board in open meeting.
- Work with the Nevada Association of School Boards to support and implement the vision, mission, and strategic goals of the Association in promoting success for all students through local school board leadership.