

9270 Conflict of Interest

The Governing Board desires to maintain the highest ethical standards and help ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of the district and the public. Accordingly, no Board member, district employee, or other person in a designated position shall participate in the making of any decision for the district when the decision will or may be affected by the Board member's, district employee's, or other designated persons financial, family, or other personal interest or consideration.

Even if a prohibited conflict of interest does not exist, a Board member shall abstain from voting on personnel matters that uniquely affect the Board member's relatives. However, a Board member may vote on collective bargaining agreements and personnel matters that affect a class of employees to which the Board member's relative belongs. Relative means an adult who is related to the Board member by blood or affinity within the third degree, as determined by the common law, or an individual in an adoptive relationship within the third degree. (Education Code 35107)

A relationship within the third degree includes an individual's parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and the similar family of the individual's spouse/registered domestic partner unless the individual is widowed or divorced.

The Board shall adopt for the district a conflict of interest code that incorporates the provisions of 2 CCR 18730 by reference, specifies the district's designated positions, and provides the disclosure categories required for each position. The conflict of interest code shall be submitted to the district's code reviewing body for approval, in accordance with Government Code 87303 and within the deadline for submission established by the code reviewing body. (Government Code 87303)

Upon direction by the code reviewing body, the Board shall review the district's conflict of interest code and submit any changes to the code reviewing body, or, if no change is required, the Board shall submit a written statement to that effect. (Government Code 87306.5)

When a change in the district's conflict of interest code is necessitated due to changed circumstances, such as the creation of new designated positions, changes to the duties assigned to existing positions, amendments, or revisions, the amended code shall be submitted to the code reviewing body within 90 days after the changed circumstances necessitating the amendments have become apparent. (Government Code 87306)

When reviewing and preparing the district's conflict of interest code, the Superintendent or designee shall provide officers, employees, consultants, and members of the community adequate notice and a fair opportunity to present their views. (Government Code 87311)

Board members and designated employees shall annually file a Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 in accordance with the disclosure categories specified in the district's conflict of interest code. The Statement of Economic Interest/Form 700 shall be filed with the district's filing officer. The district filing officer shall maintain the statements in the Superintendent's Office and make them available for public review and inspection when requested.

A Board member who leaves office or a designated employee who leaves district employment shall, within 30 days, file a revised statement covering the period of time between the closing date of the last statement and the date of leaving office or district employment. (Government Code 87302, 87302.6)

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Conflict of Interest under the Political Reform Act

A district official, including a Board member, designated employee, or other person in a designated position shall not make, participate in making, or in any way use or attempt to use his/her official position to influence a governmental decision in which he/she knows or has reason to know that he/she has a disqualifying conflict of interest. A disqualifying conflict of interest exists if the decision will have a “reasonably foreseeable material financial effect,” which is distinguishable from the effect on the public generally, on the Board member, designated employee, or other person in a designated position, his/her immediate family, or any financial interest described in 2 CCR 18700.

(Government Code 87100, 87101, 87103; 2 CCR 18700-18707)

A district official, makes a governmental decision when, acting within the authority of his/her office or position, he/she authorizes or directs any action on a matter, votes or provides information or opinion on it, contracts or appears before a district official for the purpose of affecting the decision, or takes other action as specified in 2 CCR 18704.

However, a district official shall participate in the making of a contract in which the district official has a financial interest if such participation is required by the rule of necessity or legally required participation pursuant to Government Code 87101 and 2 CCR 18705.

Conflict of Interest from Campaign Contributions

To avoid improper influence over the Board's decision-making involving the issuance of a license, permit, or other entitlements for use, including a contract, district officers, which includes Board members or agency heads, shall comply with Government Code 84308, including the following:

(Government Code 84308)

1. A district officer is prohibited from accepting, soliciting, or directing a contribution of more than \$250 from any party or participant to a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, including a contract, or from that person's agent, while the proceeding is pending before the Board and for 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered in the proceeding, if the Board member knows or has reason to know that the party or participant has a financial interest in the Board's decision.
2. Any district officer who received a contribution of more than \$250 from a party or participant in the preceding 12 months shall disclose that fact on the record of the proceeding prior to the Board rendering a decision in the proceeding. If the district officer willfully or knowingly received the contribution and knows or has reason to know that the participant has a financial interest in the Board's decision, the district officer shall not make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use the official position to influence the Board's decision.
3. A district officer who receives a contribution that would otherwise require disqualification as described in Item #2 above may participate in the proceeding if the contribution is returned within 30 days from the time the district officer knows or should have known about the contribution and the proceeding.
4. A district officer who unknowingly accepts, solicits, or directs a contribution of more than \$250 during the 12 months after the date of the Board's final decision on the proceeding may cure the violation by returning the contribution, or the portion exceeding \$250, within 14 days of accepting, soliciting, or directing the contribution, provided the district officer did not knowingly or willfully

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accept, solicit, or direct the prohibited contribution. The district officer shall maintain records of curing the violation.

The provisions in Government Code 84308 as specified above do not apply to labor contracts, competitively bid contracts, and personal employment contracts. (Government Code 84308)

Additional Requirements for Boards that Manage Public Investments

Any Board member who manages public investments pursuant to Government Code 87200 and who has a financial interest in a decision shall, upon identifying a conflict or potential conflict of interest and immediately prior to the consideration of the matter, do all of the following:

(Government Code 87105; 2 CCR 18707)

1. Publicly identify each financial interest that gives rise to the conflict or potential conflict of interest in detail sufficient to be understood by the public, except that disclosure of the exact street address of a residence is not required.
2. Not discuss or vote on the matter, or otherwise act in violation of Government Code 87100. The Board member shall not be counted toward achieving a quorum while the item is discussed.

However, the Board member may speak on the issue during the time that the general public speaks on it and may leave the dais to speak from the same area as members of the public. The Board member may listen to the public discussion and deliberations of the matter with members of the public.

3. Leave the room until after the discussion, vote, and any other disposition of the matter is concluded, unless the matter has been placed on the portion of the agenda reserved for uncontested matters.

If the item is on the consent calendar, the Board member shall either make a motion to remove the item from the consent calendar or the Board member shall abstain from voting on the consent calendar. In any event, the Board member shall refrain from discussing or voting on the item. However, the Board member is not required to leave the room during consideration of the consent calendar.

4. If the Board's decision is made during closed session, disclose the interest orally during the open session preceding the closed session. This disclosure shall be limited to a declaration that the recusal is because of a conflict of interest pursuant to Government Code 87100. The Board member shall not be present when the item is considered in closed session and shall not knowingly obtain or review a recording or any other nonpublic information regarding the Board's decision.

Conflict of Interest under Government Code 1090 – Financial Interest in a Contract

Board members, employees, or district consultants shall not be financially interested in any contract made by the Board on behalf of the district, including in the development, preliminary discussions, negotiations, compromises, planning, reasoning, and specifications and solicitations for bids. If a Board member has such a financial interest in a contract made by the Board, the contract is void. (Government Code 1090)

A Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract if he/she has only a “remote interest” in the contract as specified in Government Code 1091, if the remote interest is disclosed during a board meeting and noted in the official board minutes. The affected Board member shall not vote or debate on the matter or attempt to influence any other Board member to enter into the contract.

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In addition, a Board member shall not be considered to be financially interested in a contract in which the interest is a "noninterest" as defined in Government Code 1091.5. Noninterest includes a Board member's interest in being reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, in the employment of a spouse/registered domestic partner who has been a district employee for at least one year prior to the Board member's election or appointment, or in any other applicable circumstance specified in Government Code 1091.5.

Common Law Doctrine against Conflict of Interest

A Board member shall abstain from any official action in which his/her private or personal interest may conflict with his/her official duties.

Incompatible Offices and Activities

Board members and employees shall not engage in any employment or activity or hold any office which is inconsistent with, incompatible with, in conflict with, or inimical to the Board member's duties as an officer of the district or the employee's employment with the district. (Government Code 1099, 1126)

Gifts

Board members and designated employees may accept gifts only under the conditions and limitations specified in Government Code 89503 and 2 CCR 18730.

The limitation on gifts does not apply to wedding gifts and gifts exchanged between individuals on birthdays, holidays, and other similar occasions, provided that the gifts exchanged are not substantially disproportionate in value. (Government Code 89503)

In addition, the limitation on gifts does not apply to informational materials such as books, reports, pamphlets, calendars, or periodicals. (Government Code 89503)

Gifts of travel and related lodging and subsistence are subject to the current gift limitation, except when: (Government Code 89506)

1. The travel is in connection with a speech given by a Board member or designated employee, provided the lodging and subsistence expenses are limited to the day immediately preceding, the day of, and the day immediately following the speech and the travel is within the United States.
2. The travel is provided by a person or agency specified in Government Code 89506, including a government, governmental agency or authority, bona fide public or private educational institution, as defined in Revenue and Taxation Code 203, or nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Gifts of travel exempted from the gift limitation, as described in items #1 and 2 above, shall nevertheless be reportable on the recipient's Statement of Economic Interest / Form 700 as required by law.

A gift of travel does not include travel provided by the district for Board members and designated employees. (Government Code 89506)

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Honoraria

Board members and designated employees shall not accept any honorarium, which is defined as any payment made in consideration for any speech given, article published, or attendance at any public or private gathering, in accordance with law. (Government Code 89501, 89502)

The term honorarium does not include: (Government Code 89501)

1. Earned income for personal services customarily provided in connection with a bona fide business, trade, or profession unless the sole or predominant activity of the business, trade, or profession is making speeches.
2. Any honorarium which is not used and, within 30 days after receipt, is either returned to the donor or delivered to the district for donation into the general fund without being claimed as a deduction from income for tax purposes.

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ETIWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE
APPENDIX A
LIST OF DESIGNATED POSITIONS

Category 1:

Persons occupying the following positions are designated employees and must disclose financial interests in Category 1 defined in Appendix B:

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction /Pupil Services
Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services
Fiscal Analyst, Purchasing
Personnel Supervisor

Category 2:

Persons occupying the following positions are designated employees and must disclose financial interests defined in Category 2 of Appendix B:

Administrator of Personnel Services
Child Nutrition Manager
Executive Director of Special Education
Extended Day Program Coordinator
Director of Data, Assessment and Accountability
Director of Information Technology
Director of Instruction
Director of Operations and Facilities
Director of Personnel Services
Director of Pupil Services
Principal
 Substitute Principal
 Interim Principal
Systems Engineer, Security & Network

Category 3:

Persons occupying the following positions are designated employees and must disclose financial interests defined in Category 3 of Appendix B:

Members of Board of Trustees
Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
Director of Fiscal Services

Category 4:

Persons occupying the position of consultant must disclose financial interests in Category 4 defined in Appendix B:

No current consultant positions.

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Consultants shall be included in the list of designated employees and shall disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the code subject to the following limitation:

The Superintendent may determine in writing that a particular consultant, although a “designated position,” is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements described in this section. Such written determination shall include a description of the consultant’s duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Superintendent’s determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection.

ETIWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE APPENDIX B DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES

Category 1 – A person designated Category 1 shall disclose:

- a. Interests in real property located entirely or partly within district boundaries, or within two miles of district boundaries, or of any land owned or used by the district.
- b. Investments or business positions in or income from sources which are engaged in the acquisition or disposal of real property within the district, are contractors or subcontractors which are or have been within the past two years engaged in work or services of the type used by the district, or manufacture or sell supplies, books, machinery, or equipment of the type used by the district.

Category 2 – A person designated Category 2 shall disclose:

- a. Investments or business positions in or income from sources which are contractors or subcontractors engaged in work or services of the type used by the department which the designated person manages or directs.
- b. Investments or business positions in or income from sources which manufacture or sell supplies, books, machinery, or equipment of the type used by the department which the designated person manages or directs. For the purposes of this category, a principal's department is his/her entire school.

Category 3

Full Disclosure: Since it has been determined that the district’s Board members and/or Superintendent “manage public investments,” they and other persons designated for “full disclosure” shall disclose, in accordance with Government Code 87200:

- a. Interests in real property located entirely or partly within district boundaries, or within two miles of district boundaries, or of any land owned or used by the district.
- b. Investments, business positions, and sources of income, including gifts, loans, and travel payments.

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Category 4

Consultants are designated employees who must disclose financial interests as determined on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee's written determination shall include a description of the consultant's duties and a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements based upon that description. All such determinations are public records and shall be retained for public inspection along with this conflict of interest code. A consultant is an individual who, pursuant to a contract with the district, makes a governmental decision whether to: (2 CCR 18700.3)

1. Approve a rate, rule, or regulation.
2. Adopt or enforce a law.
3. Issue, deny, suspend, or revoke any permit, license, application, certificate, approval, order, or similar authorization or entitlement.
4. Authorize the district to enter into, modify, or renew a contract that requires district approval.
5. Grant district approval to a contract that requires district approval and in which the district is a party, or to the specifications for such a contract.
6. Grant district approval to a plan, design, report, study, or similar item.
7. Adopt or grant district approval of district policies, standards, or guidelines.

A consultant is also an individual who, pursuant to a contract with the district, serves in a staff capacity with the district and in that capacity participates in making a governmental decision as defined in 2 CCR 18704, subsections (a) and (b), or performs the same or substantially all the same duties for the district that would otherwise be performed by an individual holding a position specified in the district's conflict of interest code. (2 CCR 18700.3)

Board Approved:

January 30, 2025 / October 3, 2024
May 9, 2024 / July 27, 2023
April 27, 2023 / November 17, 2022
June 20, 2022 / February 10, 2022
June 23, 2021 / July 23, 2020
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March 10, 2016 / August 21, 2014
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