

EMPLOYEE CODE OF CONDUCT

Background

The Code of Conduct is intended as a guide for employees in their conduct in certain specified areas and emphasize an employee's responsibility to contribute to a civil and respectful workplace. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to provide specific guidance in every circumstance. Common sense, good judgment and discretion shall prevail in application of this regulation.

Further, the Code of Conduct is not intended to restrict or interfere with provincial statute, or the fundamental rights and freedoms that an employee enjoys as a citizen of Canada, or the rights that an employee may have as a member of a union to participate in authorized union activities, nor is it intended to regulate, restrict or interfere with any private interest or activities that are not detrimental to the interest or reputation of the Division.

Procedures

1. General

- 1.1 Employees, in the pursuit of their duties, shall treat students, parents and other members of the community with dignity and respect.
- 1.2 Employees shall conduct their employment-related responsibilities in an honest and diligent manner.
- 1.3 It is recognized that certain employees may belong to professional associations and that such employees are expected to adhere to the codes of conduct as established by their respective professional associations provided however, that such codes of conduct are not contrary to statutory and/or contractual obligations of the employees.

2. Conflict of Interest

Employees shall be in conflict of interest if they:

- 2.1 Use information gained through their positions as employees to gain monetary benefit either directly or indirectly.
- 2.2 Use their positions to give anyone special treatment that would advance their own interests or that of any member of the employee's family, their friends or business associates.
- 2.3 Utilize a private corporation in which they have shares with the intention of avoiding conflict of interest policy requirements.
- 2.4 Or their family members, friends or business associates have a personal or financial interest that might present a conflict or bias in connection with their duties as Division employees, they must report this conflict to the Director of Education or to the supervisor of the affected department or designates in writing.
- 2.5 Receive remuneration, directly or indirectly, as an agent for the sale of furnishings, apparatus, equipment or other goods for use by a school or in any other manner violate section 368 of *The Education Act, 1995*.

3. Representing Others

Staff may not appear before outside agencies or Divisional committees on behalf of the Division and may only represent themselves, their spouse, their parents or their minor children unless they have clear authority to represent the Division on such things as external boards or committees.

4. Gifts and Payments

Employees shall not accept a gift, payment, favour or service from any individual or organization in the course of performance of their assigned duties if that gift, payment, favour or service:

- 4.1 Is other than a normal exchange of hospitality between people doing business, or
- 4.2 Affects the fair and unbiased reception or the evaluation of the materials or services offered for use by the Division, or
- 4.3 Is of a value in excess of \$100.

5. Misuse of School Board Property

- 5.1 Employees shall not use Division property (including automated resources), equipment, resources (including financial, technical and human resources), or facilities (including communications channels) of the Division to promote or benefit personal business or political interests.
- 5.2 Employees shall be responsible for exercising all reasonable care to prevent abuse to, excessive wear of, or loss of Division-owned equipment or material entrusted to their care.

6. Outside Employment

Prairie South employees may engage in outside employment as long as those activities do not adversely affect performance of their Division jobs, do not create a conflict of interest or the appearance of such, and do not violate applicable laws and regulations. Outside employment that creates a conflict of interest, or the appearance of such must be declared in writing to the Director of Education. Outside employment is any activity, including consulting, which is beyond a Division employee's normal School Division responsibilities, and which may result in payment to the employee beyond that provided by Prairie South School Division. Employees must obtain advance written approval of outside employment activities which may not be in accordance with the above from the Director of Education that:

- 6.1 Take place during periods when an employee would normally be expected to be available to Prairie South School Division.
- 6.2 Use information specifically derived from Prairie South School Division work.
- 6.3 Employees may not engage in any outside work or business activity that:
 - 6.1.1 Conflict with their duties as Division employees;
 - 6.1.2 Will, or is likely to, negatively influence or affect them in carrying out their duties as Division employees.

7. Confidentiality

Confidential information about Prairie South School Division, its students or employees shall not be divulged to anyone other than persons who are authorized to receive such information. When the employee is in doubt as to whether certain information is confidential, no disclosure should be made without first asking appropriate management personnel. This basic rule of caution and discretion in handling of confidential information extends to both external and internal disclosure.

Confidential information obtained as a result of employment with Prairie South School Division is not to be used by an employee for the purpose of furthering any private interest, or as a means of making personal gains. Use or disclosure of such information can result in civil or criminal penalties.

In the course of any job, an employee may become aware of personal and confidential information. Prairie South School Division depends on the maturity and loyalty of each employee to keep private any such information.

8. Disciplinary Action

Breach of any of the provisions of this regulation shall, following an investigation of the facts, make employees liable to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, as is deemed to be appropriate by the Director of Education.

Reference: Section 85, 87, 174, 175, 231 Education Act
Section 45 School Division Administration Regulations
Local Authorities Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

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