

421 GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES AND BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to avoid the appearance of impropriety or the appearance of a conflict of interest with respect to gifts given to school district employees and Board of Education members.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. A violation of this policy occurs when any employee solicits, accepts, or receives a gift from a person or entity doing business with or seeking to do business with the school district. Employees may accept items of insignificant value of a promotional or public relations nature. The superintendent has discretion to determine what value is “insignificant.”

B. An elected or appointed member of a Board of Education, a school superintendent, a school principal, or a district school officer, including the school business official, may not accept a gift from an interested person.

C. Teachers may accept from publishers free samples of textbooks and related teaching materials.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. “Gift” means money, real or personal property, a service, a loan, a forbearance or forgiveness of indebtedness, or a promise of future employment that is given without something of equal or greater value being received in return.

B. “Interested person” means a person or a representative of a person or association that has a direct financial interest in a decision that a Board of Education member, a superintendent, a school principal, or a district school officer is authorized to make.

IV. PROCEDURES

Any employee considering the acceptance of a gift shall confer with the administration for guidance related to the interpretation and application of this policy.

V. VIOLATIONS

Employees who violate the provisions of this policy may be subject to discipline, which may include reprimand, suspension, and/or termination or discharge.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 10A.07 (Conflicts of Interest)
Minn. Stat. § 10A.071 (Prohibition of Gifts)
Minn. Stat. § 15.43 (Acceptance of Advantage by State Employee; Penalty)
Minn. Stat. § 471.895 (Certain Gifts by Interested Persons Prohibited)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 209 (Code of Ethics)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 210 (Conflict of Interest – Board of Education Members)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 306 (Administrator Code of Ethics)