

General Personnel

Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest

Professional and Appropriate Conduct

All Cooperative employees are expected to maintain high standards in their school relationships, to demonstrate integrity and honesty, to be considerate and cooperative, and to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents, staff members, and others. In addition, the *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education, is incorporated by reference into this policy. Any employee who sexually harasses a student or otherwise violates an employee conduct standard will be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal.

Statement of Economic Interests

The following employees must file a *Statement of Economic Interests* as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act:

1. Executive Director;
2. Director of any department;
3. Program and District Coordinators and School Principals
4. Any employee who, as the Cooperative's agent, is responsible for negotiating one or more contracts including collective bargaining agreement(s), in the amount of \$1,000 or greater;
5. Any employee having supervisory authority for 20 or more employees; and
6. Any employee in a position that requires an administrative or a chief school business official endorsement.

Ethics and Gift Ban

Cooperative policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, applies to all Cooperative employees. Students shall not be used in any manner for promoting a political candidate or issue.

Prohibited Interests; Conflict of Interest; and Limitation of Authority

In accordance with Section 22-5 of the School Code, "no school officer or teacher shall be interested in the sale, proceeds, or profits of any book, apparatus, or furniture used or to be used in any school with which such officer or teacher may be connected," except when the employee is the author or developer of instructional materials listed with the Illinois State Board of Education and adopted for use by the Board. An employee having an interest in instructional materials must file an annual statement with the Governing Board Secretary.

For the purpose of acquiring profit or personal gain, no employee shall act as an agent of the Cooperative nor shall an employee act as an agent of any business in any transaction with the Cooperative. This includes participation in the selection, award or administration of a contract supported by a federal award when the employee has a real or apparent conflict of interest as defined by 2 C.F.R. §200.31(c)(1). Employees shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential

contractors, or parties to agreements or contracts. Situations in which the interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value must comply with State law and Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*.

Outside Employment

Employees shall not engage in any other employment or in any private business during regular working hours or at such other times as are necessary to fulfill appropriate assigned duties.

Incorporated

by reference: 5:120-E (Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators)

LEGAL REF.: U.S. Constitution, First Amendment.
2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1)
5 ILCS 420/4A-101 and 430/.
50 ILCS 135/.
105 ILCS 5/10-22.39 and 5/22-5.
775 ILCS 5/5A-102.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 22, Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators.
Pickering v. Board of Township H.S. Dist. 205, 391 U.S. 563 (1968).
Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban); 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:100 (Staff Development Program)

Adopted: 5/8/2000

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