

**SCHOOL BOARD PLEDGE OF ETHICS**

School Board members should be:

1. Champions of the public schools.
2. Committed to high quality education for every student
3. Honest and sincere, having the courage of their convictions.
4. Willing and capable of assuming board responsibilities.
5. Able to work cooperatively with others.
6. Non-partisan in dealing with all school matters because the Board does not wish in any way to subordinate the education of children and youth to any partisan principle, group interest, or personal ambition.
7. Willing to maintain confidentiality of privileged information.
8. Aware that the strength of the School Board is as a Board, not as individuals. Individual board members have no authority or power to act on behalf of the Board; therefore, a board member should never make "out-of-meeting" commitments.
9. Informed concerning state and federal laws and regulations concerning education.
10. Faithful in attendance at Board meetings and diligent in preparation and study to become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
11. Willing to conduct school business in open meeting when required to do so by law, even when the subject is controversial or personal.
12. Cognizant that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be left to the administration.
13. Eager to learn from association with other school board members from around the state and nation, and open to personal development through reading publications of the National School Boards Association and the North Dakota School Boards Association and attending seminars and conventions of these and similar organizations.

14. Aware that it is as important for the Board to understand and support administration of the educational program of the schools as it is to plan for the business of school operation.
15. Vigilant against even the appearance of conflict of interest. The board member should become familiar with the laws governing contracts and purchases as they relate to board members and avoid any violation.

Legal Reference: NDCC 15.1-07-17 School district contracts – Conflict of interest Penalty  
NDCC 15.1-07-19 Reward for purchase of school supplies – Penalty  
NDCC 15.1-09-33 School Board – Powers  
NDCC 15.1-09-34 Contracts by school boards – Bids – Penalty  
NDCC 15.1-30-06 Transportation – Bids, contracts, bonds  
NDCC 44-04-22 Conflict of interest law  
NDCC 48-02-12 Officers must not be interested in contract Tarpo v Bowman Pub. Sch. Dist. No. 1, 232 N.W.2d 67 (N.D. 1975) ND Attorney General’s Opinion, Spaeth, December 1985

End of Apple Creek Policy BA

**POLICY ADOPTED: Jan 20, 2018**