

**STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR THE  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS, the State Board of Education is obligated to supervise and administer the Public School System to the end that all children have the opportunity to receive the best education that can be provided within available resources; and**

**WHEREAS, to achieve this goal the members of the State Board must exercise their discretion and judgment based upon their assessment of the educational needs of children without regard for extraneous considerations or personal interest; and**

**WHEREAS, these same considerations apply to the Department of Public Instruction and to various committees and commissions that provide advice and recommendations to the State Board.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, the State Board of Education resolves that the members of the State Board of Education, officers and employees of the Department of Public Instruction, members of the Textbook Commission, members of the Testing Commission, members of the Professional Practices Commission, members of the Personnel Administration Commission, members of the Basic Education Advisory Committee, and members of other commissions or committees created to advise or make recommendations to the State Board of Education shall conduct themselves in performing their duties in the following manner:**

- 1. Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty and fortitude in order to inspire public confidence and trust in North Carolina's Public School System.**
- 2. Avoid any action or activity that is in conflict, or may appear to be in conflict, with the responsibility always to act for the best educational interests of children.**
- 3. Not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, meals, travel, lodging, any other items of value, any favor or reward, or any promise of favor or reward from any person, group, association, organization or corporation that:**
  - (a) provides, or may reasonably be expected to provide, any service or any equipment, books, supplies, materials or other products to the Department of Public Education or local school boards;**
  - (b) has, or reasonably may be expected to seek, any contract, business or financial relationship with the Department of Public Instruction or local school boards; or**

(c) is subject to regulation or control by the Department of Public Instruction.

The State Board of Education further resolves that the following guidelines shall be applied in determining the scope of the Standards to the end that officers and employees may have access to information and relationships that will assist them in serving children and to the end that officers and employees not be denied opportunities appropriately and reasonably available to other public officers and employees:

1. These Standards shall not be interpreted to prohibit the acceptance of meals, travel, lodging or gifts provided solely as a consequence of a family relationship or relationship among families.
2. These Standards shall not be interpreted to prohibit the acceptance of awards or honors from another public agency, an association of public agencies or public employees, an organization existing primarily to improve education, or, if approved by the State Board of Education, from any other organization.
3. These Standards shall not be interpreted to prohibit employees from accepting reasonable compensation for their services when approved in accordance with the secondary or dual employment rules of the State Personnel Commission.
4. These Standards shall not prohibit the acceptance of reasonable meals, travel and lodging in connection with scheduled meetings or seminars sponsored by other public agencies, associations of public agencies, associations of public employees, or groups or organizations existing primarily for the purpose of improving education if the meeting or seminar is consistent with the purposes of these Standards. In determining whether attendance at a meeting or seminar is consistent with the purpose of these Standards, primary consideration shall be given to the purpose of the meeting or seminar and extent to which the meeting or seminar will aid the person in performing his duties.

The State Board of Education requests its Secretary to provide a copy of this resolution to all local boards of education and encourages those boards to consider the adoption of similar resolutions.

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Eff. 04/27/2010

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT  
CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

**I certify that I understand the Department of Public Instruction's policy on Standards of Conduct and that I will abide by the terms of that policy during my employment with the agency.**

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**EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**