

Gifts and Solicitations

Students and their parents shall be discouraged from giving gifts to district employees. The Board welcomes as appropriate the writing of letters by students to staff members expressing gratitude and appreciation.

Individual employees will refrain from giving gifts¹ to staff members who exercise any direct or indirect administrative or supervisory jurisdiction over them. Collecting money for group gifts is discouraged except in special circumstances such as bereavement, serious illness or for retirement gifts. Staff-initiated “sunshine funds” are exempt from this policy.

Individual employees need to be accountable for maintaining integrity and avoid accepting anything of value offered by another for the purpose of influencing his/her professional judgment.

All employees are prohibited from accepting items of material value from companies or organizations doing business with the district. [Material value is defined as \$50 from a single source in a single year.]

No organization may solicit funds from staff members within the schools, nor may anyone distribute flyers or other materials related to fund drives through the schools without the superintendent’s approval. Staff members may not be made responsible or assume responsibility for collecting money or distributing any fund-drive literature within the schools without the superintendent’s approval.

The soliciting of staff by sales people, other staff or agents during on-duty hours is prohibited. Any solicitation should be reported at once to the principal or supervisor. Advertising is not allowed in the building without the superintendent’s approval.

¹“Gift” means something of economic value given to a public official or the public official’s relative or household member without valuable consideration of equivalent value, including the full or partial forgiveness of indebtedness, which is not extended to others who are not public officials or the relatives or household members of public officials on the same terms and conditions; and something of economic value given to a public official or the public official’s relative for valuable consideration less than that required from others who are not public officials. See ORS Chapter 244 for gift definition exceptions. However, “gift” does not mean:

- a. Campaign contributions, as described in ORS chapter 260;
- b. Gifts from family members;
- c. The giving or receiving of food, lodging and travel when participating in an event which bears a relationship to the public office and when appearing in an official capacity, subject to the reporting requirement of ORS 244.060(6);
- d. The giving or receiving of food or beverage if the food or beverage is consumed by the public official or the public official’s relatives in the presence of the purchaser or provider thereof;
- e. The giving or receiving of entertainment if the entertainment is experienced by the public official or in the presence of the purchaser or provider thereof and the value of the entertainment does not exceed \$100 per person on a single occasion and is not greater than \$250 in any one calendar year.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 244.040](#)10-244.400

[ORS 339.880](#)

[OAR 584-020-0000](#) to -0045

[OAR 199-005-0005](#) to 199-020-0020