

# DRAFT UPDATE

Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative

5:120

## General Personnel

### Employee Ethics; and 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. 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. Building Principal;
3. Head of any department;
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. Hearing officer;
6. Any employee having supervisory authority for 20 or more employees; and
7. Any employee in a position that requires an administrative or a chief school business official endorsement.

#### Ethics and Gift Ban

Advisory Board 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; and Outside Employment

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 Advisory Board. An employee having an interest in instructional materials must file an annual statement with the 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. §200.318(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.

#### **Commented [APowell1]:**

This policy is renamed and updated in response to the federal regulations requiring written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of school district employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts in compliance with 2 C.F.R. §200.318.

New subheadings are added for clarity.

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#### **Commented [APowell2]:**

The federal rule underlying this text provides flexibility for school districts to "set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value," along with "disciplinary actions to be applied for violations." Referring to sample policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban* for these standards provides clarity and consistency. Policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban* refers to Limitations on Receiving Gifts in the Ethics Act at 5 ILCS 430/10-10 - 10-20, along with discussion of the specific penalties available under the Ethics Act at 5 ILCS 430/50-5 in its Enforcement subhead.

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## Standards of Conduct

Please also refer to the following current Agreements:

Professional Agreement between Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative and Mid-Valley Special Education Association (MSVEA).

Professional Agreement between Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative and Therapy Association for Special Children (TASC).

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), 5:125 (Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct)

ADOPTED: ~~November 4, 2015~~