



# **SECTION I: BOARD OF EDUCATION      POLICY 1040**

## CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

This Code of Ethics and Conduct signifies the strong commitment on the part of the Broken Arrow School Board to base our decisions and actions on ethical standards. It defines the professional behavior required to fulfill our obligations of being effective and responsible Board Members.

**While serving as a member of the Broken Arrow School Board, I will accept the responsibility to improve education, and I will:**

1. Remember that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of all students attending Broken Arrow Public Schools.
2. Obey the laws of Oklahoma and the United States.
3. Work collaboratively with other Board Members to establish effective Board policies and to formulate legislative goals and strategic plans for the District. Recognizing that Board Members do not run the District on a day-to-day basis, I will delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the Superintendent and staff.
4. Recognize that the Board makes decisions as a team and that as an individual Board Member I have no authority to speak or act for the Board. I will not attempt to conduct unauthorized activity on the Board's behalf away from School Board meetings.
5. Respect the right of other Board Members to have and to express ideas that differ.
6. Recognize that decisions are made by a majority vote and should be supported by all Board Members.
7. Ensure that when responding to the media, or in communication with others, a clear distinction is made between personal opinion or belief and a decision made by the Board.
8. Commit to promoting a respectful, cooperative atmosphere in which all Board Members have access to the same information, in order for the Board to effectively serve the students. I will refrain from making disparaging remarks about other Board Members and will maintain professional decorum when discussing school matters.
9. Respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law.
10. Respect the right of the public to be informed about District decisions and school operations as allowed by law. Adhere to the principle that the public's business should be conducted in the public view by observing and following the letter and spirit of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Law.
11. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board Members and staff, seeking systematic communications between Board Members and the public inside and outside the school district.



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12. Make every effort to attend all Board meetings and come to Board meetings informed concerning the issues under consideration.
13. Render all of my decisions based on available facts, appropriate public input and my independent judgment.
14. Support the employment of staff members based on qualifications.
15. Give staff members the respect and consideration due skilled professional employees.
16. Maintain a cordial and professional relationship with the Superintendent, but acknowledge that a Board Member will be unable to objectively and impartially evaluate the Superintendent, as required by law, if a Board Member forms a close personal friendship with the Superintendent.
17. Recognize and reward excellence in student achievement, teacher performance, and administrative leadership.
18. Improve my ability to serve as a School Board Member by studying educational issues and participating in appropriate professional development.
19. Insist that all Board and District business be ethical and honest; report through appropriate means and channels: corruption, misconduct, or neglect of duty whenever discovered.
20. Avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof. I will refrain from using my Board position to benefit myself, family, or other business associates; I will not place the interests of individuals or groups ahead of the interests of the District and all students in the Broken Arrow Public Schools.
21. Review orally and in public session at the annual organizational meeting each of these principles and abide by them as a Board Member.

Source:            *Broken Arrow Board of Education policy adoption, January 29, 2009.*  
                      *Broken Arrow Board of Education policy reviewed and affirmed July 13, 2009.*  
                      *Broken Arrow Board of Education policy reviewed and affirmed February 27, 2012.*