

Bylaws of the Board**Code of Ethics**

This code of ethics is based upon the "Standards of Leadership for Members of the Boards of Education" recommended by CAFE Board of Directors.

1. I will be an advocate of high quality free public education for all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
2. I will, as an agent of the state, uphold and enforce all laws, rules, regulations and court orders pertaining to public schools. I will strive to bring any needed change only through legal and ethical procedures.
3. I will work to help my community understand the importance of proper support for public education, whether it be in providing adequate finance, optimum facilities, staffing and resources, or better educational programs for children.
4. I will join with my Board, staff, community and students in becoming fully informed about the nature, value and direction of contemporary education in our society. I will support needed changes in our schools.
5. I will strive to ensure that the community is fully and accurately informed about our schools, and will try to interpret community aspirations to the school staff.
6. I will attempt to confine my Board action to policy-making planning and appraisal, and will help to frame policies and plans only after my Board has consulted those who will be affected by its actions.
7. I will arrive at conclusions only after discussing all aspects of the issue at hand with my fellow Board members in meetings. I will respect the opinions of others, and abide by the principle of majority-rule.
8. I will recognize that authority rests only with the whole Board assembled in meeting, and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
9. I will acknowledge that the Board represents the entire community, and will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups. I will never use my position on the Board for personal gain.

Code of Ethics (continued)

10. I will hold confidential all matters discussed in executive session and all information which, if disclosed, might injure individuals or the schools.
11. I will insist that all school business transactions be open and ethical.
12. I will strive to appoint the best professional leader available when the vacancy exists in the chief administrative position.
13. I will strive to appoint the best-trained technical and professional personnel available, upon recommendation by the appropriate administrative officer.
14. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties. I will strive to ensure that all personnel have not only the requisite responsibilities, but also the necessary authority to perform effectively.
15. I will refer all complaints through the proper "chain of command" within the system; the Board will act on such complaints only when administrative solutions fail.

Reference: "Connecticut Code of Ethics for Boards of Education," printed in
Responsibilities of Board of Education Membership (Revised June 1989)