

## STAFF ETHICS

An effective educational program requires the services of men and women of integrity, high ideals, and human understanding. To maintain and promote these essentials, all employees of the district are expected to maintain high standards in their school relationships. These standards include the following:

1. The maintenance of just and courteous professional relationships with students, parents, staff members, and others.
2. The maintenance of their own efficiency and knowledge of the developments in their fields of work.
3. The establishment of friendly and intelligent cooperation between the community and the school district.
4. Favorable representation of the school district at local events that are in recognition of the schools' contributions to the community.
5. The placement of the welfare of children as the first concern of the school district, thus appointments to positions and promotion must be based solely on merit. The use of pressure on school officials for appointment or promotion is unethical.
6. Restraint from using school contacts and privileges to promote partisan politics, sectarian religious views, or selfish propaganda of any kind.
7. Directing any criticism of other staff members or of any department of the school district toward the improvement of the school district. Such constructive criticism is to be made directly to the particular school administrator who has the administrative responsibility for improving the situation and then to the Superintendent if necessary.

Teachers should also abide by the code of ethics for the teaching profession, developed by the state Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission (PTPSC).

Adopted 06/13/16

### Legal References:

ARSD 24:08:03 – Code of Professional Ethics  
ARSD 24:11:03:01 – Professional Administrator Ethics  
SDCL 13-43-25 – Rules of Commission

### Cross Reference:

GBCA – Staff Conflict of Interest  
GBCB – Staff Conduct