

ETHICS

I. Purpose

For the purpose of guarding against improper influence, the Board of Education endorses and adopts this policy and the following administrative regulation (BBFE-R). This policy and Administrative Regulation BBFE-R will collectively be referred to as the Board of Education's "Ethics Policy."

II. Background

Confidence and trust are eroded when the conduct of public business is subject to improper influence. The Board of Education, recognizing that the system of representative government is dependent upon the people maintaining the highest trust in their public officials and employees, finds and declares that the people have a right to be assured that the impartiality and independent judgment of public officials and employees will be maintained.

III. Definitions

Within the context of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- a. Board or Board of Education: The seven (7) members of the Board of Education of Washington County.
- b. Employee: An employee of the Board of Education or Washington County Public Schools.
- c. Member of the Board: One of seven (7) members of the Board of Education of Washington County.
- d. Official: A member of the Board of Education, an employee of the school system or Board of Education, and the Superintendent.

IV. Policy Statement/Procedures

The Board of Education's Ethics Policy requires certain school officials to disclose their financial affairs and to meet minimum standards for their conduct of school system business, according to the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Title 5 and the Code of Maryland Administrative Regulations ("COMAR") Subtitle 19A.05.

Members of the Board of Education, candidates to be members of the Board, school officials, and employees of Washington County Public Schools must adhere to the requirements of the Ethics Policy.

The accompanying administrative regulation will be used for this purpose. It is important to follow the literal definitions used in the accompanying administrative regulation when considering an ethics issue.

Legal Reference:

Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Title 5
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Sections 4-201 and 6-202
COMAR Subtitle 19A.05

Policy adopted: March 26, 1997. Amended: October 7, 1997. Amended: April 7, 2009. Amended: February 7, 2012. Amended: April 17, 2018. Amended: June 21, 2022.
Board of Education of Washington County