



---

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**CODE OF ETHICS**

**As Trustees we honor the high responsibility of serving on the Board of Education by:**

- Always thinking of *children first*.
- Understanding that our basic function is *policy-making* and *not administrative*, and by accepting the responsibility of learning to distinguish between the two.
- Assuring that adequate facilities and resources are provided for the proper functioning of schools.
- Refusing to *play politics* either in the traditional partisan, or in any petty sense.
- Representing the *entire* school community at all times.
- Becoming well-informed concerning the duties of Board members and the proper function of public schools.
- Seeking the improvement of education in the District and the State.

**As Trustees we demonstrate respectful relationships with other members of the Board by:**

- Recognizing that the Board is empowered only at official meetings and an individual Trustee has no legal status to bind the Board outside of such meetings.
- Recognizing the integrity of previous Board members and the merits of their work.
- Refusing to make statements or promises about how he or she will vote on any matter which is coming before the Board as a whole.
- Making decisions only after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and an opportunity to deliberate has taken place.
- Respecting the opinions of others and graciously conforming to the principle of majority rule.
- Refusing to participate in irregular meetings which are not official and when all members do not have an opportunity to attend.
- Working with fellow Trustees and the administration to fairly determine the present and future educational needs of the community.

**As Trustees we maintain desirable relations with the Superintendent and staff by:**

- Striving to procure the best leader possible to serve as Superintendent.
- Granting the Superintendent full administrative authority for properly discharging the professional duties of the position and the responsibility to achieve acceptable results.
- Acting only after considering the Superintendent's recommendations on matters of school governance.
- Having the Superintendent at all meetings of the Board of Education.
- Respecting proper communication channels and following chain-of-command.
- Providing proper safeguards around the Superintendent and other employees so that they can perform their responsibilities.
- Presenting criticism of an employee directly to the Superintendent.

**As Trustees we demonstrate a commitment to the community by:**

- Developing and adopting a vision and mission statement for the District.
- Conducting all school business transactions openly.
- Vigorously seeking financial support for schools.
- Refusing to use the position of Board member for personal gain.
- Discussing confidential Board business *only* in a properly posted Closed Session.
- Earning the community's confidence that all is being done in the best interest of the District's children.

