

Staff Conflicts of Interest

No district employee will use his/her district position to obtain personal financial benefit or avoidance of financial detriment or financial gain or avoidance of financial detriment for relatives, member of the household or for any business with which the employee, member of the household or relative is associated.

This prohibition does not apply to any part of an official compensation package, honorarium allowed by ORS 244.042, reimbursement of expenses, or unsolicited awards of professional achievement. Further, this prohibition does not apply to gifts from one without a legislative or administrative interest. Nor does it apply if the gift is under the \$50 gift limit for one who has a legislative or administrative interest in any matter subject to the decision or vote of the district employee.

District employees will not engage in, or have a financial interest in, any activity that raises a reasonable question of conflict of interest with their duties and responsibilities as staff members. This means that:

1. Employees will not use their position to obtain financial gain or avoidance of financial detriment from students, parents, or staff;.
2. Any device, publication, or any other item developed during the employee's paid time shall be district property.
3. Employees will not further personal gain through the use of confidential information gained in the course of or by reason of position or activities in any way.
4. No district employee may serve as a Board or budget committee member in the district.
5. An employee will not perform any duties related to an outside job during his/her regular working hours or during the additional time that he/she needs to fulfill the position's responsibilities; nor will an employee use any district facilities, equipment or materials in performing outside work.
6. If an employee authorizes a public contract, the employee may not have a direct beneficial financial interest in that public contract for two years after the date the contract was authorized.

If an employee has a potential or actual conflict of interest, the employee must notify his/her supervisor in writing of the nature of the conflict and request that the supervisor dispose of the matter giving rise to the conflict.

In order to avoid both potential and actual conflicts of interests, district employees must abide by the following rules when an employee's relative or member of the household is seeking and/or holds a position with the district:

1. A district employee may not appoint, employ, promote, discharge, fire, or demote or advocate for such an employment decision for a relative or a member of the household, unless he/she complies with the conflict of interest requirements of ORS Chapter 244. This rule does not apply to employment decisions regarding unpaid volunteer position, unless it is a Board-related position;
2. A district employee may not participate as a public official in any interview, discussion, or debate regarding the appointment, employment, promotion, discharge, firing, or demotion of a relative or a member of the household. An employee may still serve as a reference, provide a recommendation, or perform other acts that are part of the normal job functions of the employee;
3. More than one member of an employee's family may be hired as a regular district employee. In accordance with Oregon law, however, the district may refuse to hire individuals, or may transfer current employees, in situations where an appointment would place one family member in a position of exercising supervisory, appointment or grievance adjustment authority over another member of the same family. Employees who are members of the same family may not be assigned to work in the same building except by the superintendent's approval.

In the conflict of interest context:

“Member of household” means any person who resides with the employee.

“Relative” means the spouse¹, parent, step-parent, child, sibling, step-sibling, son-in-law or daughter-in-law of the employee; or the parent, step-parent, child, sibling, step-sibling, son-in-law or daughter-in-law of the spouse of the employee. Relative also includes any individual for whom the employee has a legal support obligation, whose employment provides benefits² to the employee or who receives any benefit from the employee's public employment.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 244.010](#) to -244.400
[ORS 332.016](#)

[ORS 659A.309](#)

[OAR 199-005-0001](#) to -199-020-0020
[OAR 584-020-0040](#)

OR. ETHICS COMM'N, OR. GOV'T ETHICS LAW, A GUIDE FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

Cross Reference(s):

GBI - Gifts and Solicitations

¹The term spouse includes domestic partner of either gender.

²Examples of benefits may include, but not be limited to, elements of an official compensation package including benefits such as insurance, tuition or retirement allotments.