

Superintendent's Conduct

The superintendent shall observe rules of conduct established in law which specify that a school district employee shall not:

1. Disclose or use confidential information acquired in the course of employment to further substantially the superintendent's personal financial interests.
2. Accept a gift of substantial value or substantial economic benefit tantamount to a gift of substantial value which would tend to improperly influence a reasonable person in the position to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of the superintendent's duties or which the superintendent knows or should know is primarily for the purpose of a reward for action taken.
3. Engage in a substantial financial transaction for private business purposes with a person whom the superintendent supervises.
4. Perform an action which directly and substantially confers an economic benefit tantamount to a gift of substantial value on a business or other undertaking in which the superintendent has a substantial financial interest or is engaged as counsel, consultant, representative or agent.

It shall not be considered a breach of conduct for the superintendent to:

1. Use school facilities and equipment to communicate or correspond with constituents, family members or business associates on an occasional basis.
2. Accept or receive a benefit as an indirect consequence of transacting school district business.

Adopted: 12/08/88

Revised: 08/25/94, 09/12/13

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 18-8-308 (*disclosure of pecuniary conflicts of interest*)
C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(k) (*power to adopt conduct rules*)
C.R.S. 24-18-104 (*government employee rules of conduct*)
C.R.S. 24-18-109 (*local government employee rules of conduct*)

NOTE 1: State law defines "economic benefit tantamount to a gift of substantial value" to include: 1. A loan at a rate of interest substantially lower than the prevailing commercial rate; 2. Compensation received for private services rendered at a rate substantially exceeding the fair market value; and 3. Goods or services for the district employee's personal benefit offered by a person who is at the same time providing goods or services to the district under a contract or other means by which the person receives payment or other compensation from the district. C.R.S. 24-18-104 (2). However, state law permits a district employee to receive such goods or services if the "totality of the circumstances" indicates the transaction is legitimate, the terms are fair to both parties, the transaction is supported by full and adequate consideration, and the employee does not receive any substantial benefit resulting from the employee's status that is unavailable to members of the public generally. C.R.S. 24-18-104 (2)(b).

NOTE 2: State law lists the type of items that are not considered “gifts of substantial value or substantial economic benefit tantamount to a gift of substantial value” and are therefore permissible for a district employee to receive. See, C.R.S. 24-18-104 (3). Such items include campaign contributions or contributions in kind that are reported in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act; an unsolicited item of trivial value (i.e. currently less than \$65), “such as a pen, calendar, plant, book, notepad or similar item;” and an unsolicited token or award of appreciation in the form of a plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento or similar item. Id.; see also, Colo. Const. Art. XXIX, Section 3.

NOTE 3: The amount of the gift limit (\$65) is identical to the gift limit under section 3 of article XXIX of the state constitution. This amount shall be adjusted for inflation contemporaneously with any adjustment to the constitutional gift limit. C.R.S. 24-6-203 (8). The state constitution requires an adjustment for inflation every four years. The next adjustment must occur in the first quarter of 2019. Colo. Const. Art. XXIX, Section 3 (6).