

Staff Conduct

(And Responsibilities)

All staff members have a responsibility to make themselves familiar with and abide by federal and state laws as these affect their work, and the policies and regulations of the East Central BOCES.

As representatives of the EC BOCES and role models for students, all staff must demonstrate and uphold high professional, ethical, and moral standards. Staff members must conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the mission of the EC BOCES and must maintain professional boundaries with students at all times in accordance with this policy's accompanying regulation. Interactions between staff members must be based on mutual respect and any disputes will be resolved in a professional manner.

Rules of conduct

Each staff member must observe the following rules of conduct established in state law. Accordingly, a EC BOCES employee must not:

1. Disclose or use confidential information acquired in the course of employment to further substantially the employee'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 staff member's duties, or which the staff member 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 staff member 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 staff member has a substantial financial interest or is engaged as counsel, consultant, representative or agent.

All staff members are expected to carry out their assigned responsibilities with conscientious concern.

It is not considered a breach of conduct for a staff member to:

1. Use EC BOCES 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 EC BOCES business.

Essential to the success of ongoing EC BOCES operations are the following specific responsibilities which are required of all personnel:

1. Faithfulness and promptness in attendance at work.
2. Support and enforcement of policies of the Board and regulations of the

E C BOCES administration.

3. Diligence in submitting required reports promptly at the times specified.
4. Care and protection of EC BOCES property.
5. Concern and attention toward the safety and welfare of students.

Child abuse

All EC BOCES employees who have reasonable cause to know or suspect that any child is subjected to abuse or to conditions that might result in abuse or neglect must immediately upon receiving such information report such fact in accordance with Board policy and state law.

The Executive Director is authorized to conduct an internal investigation or to take any other necessary steps if information is received from a county department of social services or a law enforcement agency that a suspected child abuse perpetrator is an EC BOCES employee. Such information must remain confidential except that the Executive Director must notify the Colorado Department of Education of the child abuse investigation.

Possession of deadly weapons

The Board's policy regarding public possession of deadly weapons on E C BOCES property or in EC BOCES buildings applies to EC BOCES employees. However, the restrictions do not apply to employees who are required to carry or use deadly weapons in order to perform their necessary duties and functions.

Felony/misdemeanor convictions

If, subsequent to beginning employment with the EC BOCES, the EC BOCES has good cause to believe that any staff member has been convicted of, pled nolo contendere to, or received a deferred or suspended sentence for any felony or misdemeanor other than a misdemeanor traffic offense or infraction, the EC BOCES must make inquiries to the Department of Education for purposes of screening the employee.

In addition, the EC BOCES must require the employee to submit a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency, an authorized district or EC BOCES employee, or any third party approved by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. Fingerprints must be submitted within 20 days after receipt of written notification. The fingerprints must be forwarded to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of conducting a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history record check utilizing the records of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When the results of the fingerprint-based criminal history record check reveal a record of arrest without a disposition, the EC BOCES must require the employee to submit to a name-based criminal history record check. Criminal history record information must be used solely for the purpose requested and cannot be disseminated outside the receiving departments, related agencies, or other authorized entities.

Disciplinary action, which could include dismissal from employment, may be taken

against personnel if the results of fingerprint processing and/or name-based criminal history record check provide relevant information. Non-licensed employees must be terminated if the results of the fingerprint-based or name-based criminal history record check disclose a conviction for certain felonies, as provided in law.

Employees must not be charged fees for processing fingerprints under these circumstances.

Unlawful behavior involving children

The Board may make an inquiry with the Department of Education concerning whether any current employee of the EC BOCES has been convicted of, pled nolo contendere to, or received a deferred or suspended sentence or deferred prosecution for a felony or misdemeanor crime involving unlawful sexual behavior, an allegation of a sexual act involving a student who is eighteen years of age or older, regardless of whether the student consented to the sexual act, or unlawful behavior involving children. Disciplinary action, including termination, may be taken if the inquiry discloses information relevant to the employee's fitness for employment.

Notification concerning arrests

EC BOCES employees must notify the EC BOCES when they are arrested for specific criminal offenses, in accordance with this policy's accompanying regulation.

The EC BOCES must notify students' parents/guardians when EC BOCES employees are charged with specific criminal offenses, as required by state law and in accordance with applicable Board policy.

Personnel addressing health care treatment for behavior issues

EC BOCES personnel are prohibited from recommending or requiring the use of psychotropic drugs for students. They are also prohibited from testing or requiring testing for a student's behavior without giving notice to the parent/guardian describing the recommended testing and how any test results will be used and obtaining prior written permission from the student or from the student's parent/guardian. See the Board's policy concerning survey, assessment, analysis or evaluation of students. EC BOCES personnel are encouraged to discuss concerns about a student's behavior with the student's parent/guardian and such discussions may include a suggestion that the parent/guardian speak with an appropriate health care professional regarding any behavior concerns EC BOCES personnel may have.

EAST CENTRAL BOCES BOARD POLICY

Adopted: June 17, 2015

Revised: November 29, 2017

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Revised: January 27, 2021

Revised: January 26, 2022

LEGAL REFS.: 28 C.F.R. 50.12 (b) (notification requirements regarding fingerprints)
C.R.S. 18-12-105.5 (unlawful carrying/possession of weapons on school grounds)
C.R.S. 18-12-214 (3)(b) (school security officers may carry concealed handgun pursuant to valid permit)
C.R.S. 19-3-308 (5.7) (child abuse reporting)
C.R.S. 22-1-130 (parent notification of employee criminal charges)
C.R.S. 22-2-119.3 (6)(d) (name-based criminal history record check – definition)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(ee) (school personnel prohibited from recommending certain drugs for students or ordering behavior tests without parent permission)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(pp) (annual employee notification requirement regarding federal student loan repayment programs and student loan forgiveness programs)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (8) (inquiries upon good cause to department of education for purpose of ongoing screening of employees)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.7 (inquiries prior to hiring)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.8 (non-licensed personnel – submittal of fingerprints and name-based criminal history record check)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.8 (6)(a) (requirement to terminate non-licensed employees for certain felony offenses)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.9 (licensed personnel – submittal of fingerprints and name-based criminal history record check)
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)
C.R.S. 24-18-110 (voluntary disclosure)

CROSS REFS.: JLC, Student Health Services and Records
JLDAC, Screening/Testing of Students
JLF, Reporting Child Abuse/Child Protection
KDBA*, Parent Notification of Employee Criminal Charges
FA, Public Conduct on BOCES Property

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 BOCES employee's personal benefit offered by a person who is at the same time providing goods or services to the BOCES under a contract or other means by which the person receives payment or other compensation from the BOCES. C.R.S. 24-18-104 (2). However, state law permits a BOCES 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 BOCES 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 is 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 2023. Colo. Const. Art. XXIX, Section 3 (6).

NOTE 4: Federal law requires BOCES to notify employees fingerprinted pursuant to this policy that the fingerprints will be used to check the criminal history records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). BOCES must also notify fingerprinted employees about the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the information contained in the FBI identification record and the procedure to obtain a change, correction, or update of an FBI identification record. 28 C.F.R. 50.12 (b). BOCES must retain documentation that this notification was provided.

NOTE 5: State law requires school Boards to annually distribute to employees “informational materials related to federal student loan repayment and student loan forgiveness programs, including updated materials received from the department of education.” C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(pp). In addition to annual distribution, school Boards must “distribute the informational materials to newly hired district employees as part of its employee orientation process.” Id. Distribution to employees may be made via email “or as part of a mailing or regular communication to employees” Id.