

LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL RELATIONS



DEFINITIONS

Local School Council (LSC) - An elected Local School Council, appointed Local School Council, or Board of Governors

LSC members are considered CPS officials under the Code of Ethics.

Relative - A person related by blood, marriage, domestic or civil union partnership, legal adoption, or parenting relationship, e.g. a child, step-child, parent, step-parent, sibling, half-sibling, in law, aunt/uncle, great aunt/uncle, niece/nephew, first cousin, grandchild, grandparent, etc.

Please refer to the Code of Ethics for a complete definition of “relative”.

Political Activity - Activity including the following: organizing or participating in any political event, soliciting contributions or votes for a candidate or organization, assisting at the polls, participating in any campaign activity (including wearing shirts or putting up posters), and conducting or answering public opinion polls, surveys, or candidate questionnaires

VENDOR RELATIONS

While an LSC member employed by CPS **may not** be a Board vendor, a parent or community LSC member may be a Board vendor if not doing business with the school where he or she serves. **Any** LSC member may work for a Board vendor, but may not be employed by the vendor at the school where he or she serves. For example, an LSC member may work for an SES or other afterschool program, but only at a different school.

Please refer to the Ethics Guidelines for Vendor Relations.

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NEPOTISM

An LSC member

- Recommend a relative or advocate for a relative for any position or contract
- Vote on a budget, School Improvement Plan, or transfer of funds that might affect a relative employed at the school

Please refer to the Ethics Guidelines for Nepotism.

GIFTS

An LSC member **may not** accept a gift that is understood as an attempt to influence official decisions, or in exchange for advice on matters concerning CPS. This restriction also applies to spouses/partners and other household members. However, when not meant to influence official actions, single gifts of \$50 or less, or multiple gifts totaling \$100 or less from one source in one calendar year, are acceptable.

Please refer to the Ethics Guidelines for Local School Council Relations.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

An LSC member **may not** act in his or her official CPS capacity while performing political activity, e.g. making endorsements or speeches as a CPS official.

Please refer to the Ethics Guidelines for Political Activity.

PRINCIPAL SELECTION

An LSC member **may not** apply to be principal after voting on a current principal's contract at the same school. Additionally, if an LSC member intends to apply for principalship, he or she must resign from the LSC before applying.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

An LSC member may not have an economic interest in contracts or business with the school where he or she serves, or receive monetary compensation for LSC duties, other than authorized reimbursement.

An LSC member may not vote or discuss proposals by not-for-profit organizations to donate funds or services to the school if that member or the member's spouse/partner sits on the board of the not-for-profit organization.

Please refer to the Code of Ethics for a complete definition of "economic interest".

POSTMEMBERSHIP

A former non-staff LSC member may not be employed at the school where he or she served, or have an economic interest in any contract with that school, for one year following termination of service.

Please refer to the Ethics Guidelines for Post-Membership & Post-Employment.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: I am a community representative on an LSC. I own a t-shirt company and would like to make t-shirts for the school at a discounted price. My company's profit margin would be much lower than normal and it would benefit the school as well. Is this permissible?

A: No, you may donate, but not sell, the shirts to the school.

Q: I am a principal and there is a parent worker position open at our school. I would like to hire one of the parent representatives currently sitting on our LSC. May I do this?

A: No, not at this time. However, you may hire the parent representative one year after he or she ends membership on the Local School Council.

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Q: My wife is on the board of directors of our school’s “Friends of” group, and I have just been elected to our LSC. Is she allowed to remain a director for the group while I sit on the LSC for the school?

A: Yes. However, you must refrain from discussing or voting on fundraising principals from the “Friends of” group to avoid a conflict of interest. This would also be true if she were on the board of a similar not-for-profit planning a fundraiser, e.g. a PTA, PTO, or booster club.

Q: My sister is a teacher at an elementary school, and my daughter attends school there. May I run for the school’s LSC as a parent representative?

A: Yes. However, you must refrain from discussing and voting on the entire budget, school improvement plan, and any transfer of funds that might affect your sister.

Q: My mother is the principal of a local school. May I run for community representative on that school’s LSC?

A: No. Because of the LSC’s role in principal selection and retention, no member of an LSC may be a relative of the principal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Violations of our Code of Ethics may result in disciplinary action up through discharge for employees, removal from office for officials, and debarment for vendors or contractors.

The above Guidelines are meant to explain and supplement, but not replace, the Code provisions regarding Local School Council Relations.

Please review the complete [CPS Code of Ethics](#).

For specific inquiries, contact Jennifer L. Chan, Ethics Advisor, at ethicsinquiries@cps.edu