

Independent School District #728 School Board Member Code of Ethics

As Board Members, we recognize that our decisions and other conduct need to be grounded in a collective set of ethics, which at a minimum include the following:

1. As School Board members we consider ourselves to be trustees of public education and individually and collectively pledge to do our best to protect, conserve and advance the public education of all students within ISD 728.
2. We must be prepared to participate fully and actively in Board and Committee meetings by engaging in focused discussions on the agenda topics, and by attentively and respectfully listening to each other, Administrators and/or other Stakeholders.
3. We will respect the right of others to have and express opinions, and we further agree to make decisions in Board meetings only after all sides of debatable questions have been presented.
4. We will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of Board meetings, about other members of the Board and/or their opinions.
5. We will extend courtesy and respect to any and all bringing matters before the full Board.
6. We recognize that some matters coming to our attention are covered by Data Privacy and other “rules of confidentiality” and will therefore require our utmost in discretion in how/if these matters will be discussed in public.
7. We will strive to be publicly supportive of final Board recommendations and decisions. If I cannot support a specific decision or recommendation, I will take no personal action that undercuts the Board’s position.
8. We will follow the Chain of Command Administrative Procedure in all instances, and furthermore, concerning issues raised by other stakeholders will strongly encourage any and all to follow the Chain of Command as well.
9. We will in all instances be guided in our discussions by what is in the best interests of the students of ISD #728.

We agree that only when we **work together as a team** to find common ground and make shared commitments do we begin to **fulfill our leadership responsibility** and move the School District in a **positive and productive direction**.

OATH OF OFFICE

The current oath of office will have the following language added to it: **I have read the ISD #728 School Board Member Code of Ethics and pledge to follow this code during my tenure in office.**

In addition, the Code will be read aloud in unison by the entire Board during the first meeting of each year in order to collectively affirm the values it reflects.