

**004. JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE
CODE OF ETHICS**

As a member of the Joint Operating Committee, representing my school district, I recognize:

- a. That I shall not be engaged in a business transaction with the CTC, be employed by the CTC, or receive pay for services from the CTC, except as provided by law.
- b. That I shall not have been removed from any office of trust under federal, state or local laws for any malfeasance in such office.
- c. That my fellow citizens have entrusted me with the educational development of the youth of this community.
- d. That the public expects my first and greatest concern to be in the best interest of each and every one of these young people without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
- e. That the future welfare of this community, of this state and of the nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education we provide in the public schools to fit the needs of every learner.
- f. That my fellow Joint Operating Committee members and I must take the initiative in helping all the people of this community to have all the facts, all the time, about their schools, to the end that they will readily provide the finest possible school program, school staff and school facilities.
- g. That legally, the authority of the Joint Operating Committee is derived from the General Assembly which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the school district and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the Joint Operating Committee and the people of this community for the exercise of local autonomy.
- h. That I must never neglect my personal obligation to the community and my legal obligation to the state, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group, or organization; but that, beyond these, I have a moral and civic obligation to the nation which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in the United States of America are kept free and strong.

In view of the foregoing consideration, it shall be my constant endeavor:

- a. To devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a Joint Operating Committee member so that I may render effective and creditable service.

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- b. To work with my fellow Joint Operating Committee members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points at issue.
- c. To base my personal decision upon all available facts in each situation; to vote my honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; thereafter, to abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Joint Operating Committee.
- d. To remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Joint Operating Committee and to conduct my relationships with the school staff, the local citizenry and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.
- e. To resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a Joint Operating Committee member to benefit either myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school district.
- f. To recognize that it is as important for the Joint Operating Committee to understand and evaluate the educational program of the schools as it is to plan for the business of school operation.
- g. To bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the Joint Operating Committee is to establish the policies by which the CTC is to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be left to the employed Director and the professional and non-professional staff.
- h. To welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations and the media of communication in the county with respect to establishing policy on current CTC operation and proposed future developments.
- i. To support my state and national School Board associations.
- j. Finally, to strive step by step toward ideal conditions for most effective CTC service to my community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and perpetuation of our respective democracy.

