



# Michigan Online School

## Board Member Conflict of Interest Policy

The objectives of this bylaw are to maintain an impartial administration of the business of the Michigan Online School and to maintain public confidence in the Michigan Online School Board of Education. No member of the Michigan Online School Board of Education shall engage in, or be a party to, any of the following activities:

1. Representing his or her opinion as that of the Michigan Online School Board or making commitments on behalf of the school or the Board unless that person has been specifically designated to do so by official Board action. The Board shall make the staff and citizens aware that only the Board, not individual members, has the right to take official action for the school. The individual Board member does not and cannot, speak for the Board or the Superintendent.
2. Placing himself or herself in situations where prejudice, bias, favoritism or personal gain is a motivating force in his or her conduct.
3. Benefiting financially from confidential information obtained due to the member's position on the Michigan Online School Board.
4. Presuming to have a conflict of interest if the member or his or her family member has a financial interest, or a competing financial interest or is an employee of Michigan Online School.
5. Using personnel resources, property, or funds of the Michigan Online School, except by constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures, and in accordance with good business procedures and not for personal gain or benefit.
6. Soliciting or accepting a gift or loan of money, goods, services or other things of value, that could influence the manner in which the Board member performs his or her official duties.
7. Becoming employed by Michigan Online School or receiving any payment for services.

8. Endorsing any organizations, institutions, instructional materials, political candidates, etc., on behalf of Michigan Online School or the Board without the approval of the full Board. Board members may individually express their personal views regarding a ballot item or political candidate. The Board member should emphasize that the viewpoint is his or her personal opinion and does not represent the opinion of the Michigan Online School Board, unless the Board has adopted a resolution embracing the same viewpoint.

When a member of the Board determines that the possibility of a personal interest conflict exists, he or she should, prior to the matter being considered, disclose his or her interest and abstain from participation in both the discussion of the matter and the vote. The potential conflict of interest must be added to the meeting minutes.

Board members shall not solicit or accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts involved with federal grant funds. A Board member may, however, accept a gift of unsolicited items of "nominal value" from a contractor or party to subcontracts that do not involve federal grants funds.

Board members must disclose any potential conflict of interest which may lead to a violation of this policy to the full Board.