
RELATIONS WITH VENDORS

The board of education wishes to maintain good working relations with vendors who supply materials and services to the school system. Constructive efforts by the administration to seek the advice and counsel of vendors about how to improve such relationships are encouraged.

In the schools, vendors shall be seen by appointment only. Vendors who call upon a school shall be governed by policy #1250 (Visitors). Teachers or supervisors of instruction who have invited vendors to call should notify the principal's office in advance so that proper courtesies may be extended.

No agents, canvassers, or vendors shall have access to teachers during their classes. No business concern which solicits or gains business through the school system shall use school facilities for this purpose.

Nondiscrimination

All vendors shall supply assurances that they do not practice discrimination as described in the administrative code. All vendors shall be informed that harassment of any kind of district pupils or employees by their representatives is prohibited.

Honest and Ethical Relations with Vendors

The district shall maintain honest and ethical relations with vendors and shall guard against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance and corruption in its contracting processes and practices. The school board will not vote upon or award a contract in the amount of \$17,500 or greater to any business entity which has made a reportable contribution to a member of the district board of education during the previous one-year period. Such contributions, to any member of the school board, from any entity doing business with the district are prohibited during the term of the contract, including contributions by a vendor's spouse or child, or contributions by any person having an interest in the business entity. Disclosure of contributions shall be made when contracts are required by law to be publicly bid. However, these limitations do not apply when a district emergency requires the immediate delivery of goods or services.

Disbarred Vendors Will Not Be Used

When acquiring goods and services under federally sponsored programs, the district /charter school will not contract with a vendor who is currently either debarred or suspended from doing business with the Federal government. Prior to contract award, and in accordance with Federal requirements, the district /charter school contracting specialist will check the Federal Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) to ensure that the prospective contractor is not found in the EPLS. Results from the EPLS search shall be made part of the purchase order/contract documentation. Should a prospective vendor be found to be debarred or suspended by the Federal government, the business administrator's office will notify the chief school administrator of this finding and will place a hold on the supplier's registration within the district/charter school financial system.

Strategies to Avoid Excessive Professional Services Expenditures

The board will seek to avoid excessive professional services expenditures, such as by:

- A. establishing a maximum dollar limit, for budgetary purposes,
- B. following state legal requirements and procedures to obtain the highest quality services at a fair and competitive price; and
- C. limiting professional services contracts to non-recurring or specialized work for which the district does not possess adequate in-house resources or expertise.
- D. So as to not duplicate contacts with professional service vendors, all contacts should be made through the

Business Office, Main Office, or Child Study Team Office with the full knowledge of the supervising administrator and with the approval of the Chief School Administrator (where prudent).

Prudent Use of Legal Services

To ensure the prudent and cost-effective use of legal services, the district will limit and designate the persons with the authority to request services or advice from contracted legal counsel. Legal counsel will not be used unnecessarily to make management decisions or to obtain readily available information such as district policies. Requests for legal advice shall be made in writing. Contact logs and records shall be kept and reviewed to determine that the requests for legal advice are necessary. Advance payments for legal services are prohibited.

Legal counsel will only be sought via the Chief School Administrator or designee (Business Administrator or Director of Special Services).

Services shall be described in detail and invoices for payment shall be itemized. Payment shall only be for services actually provided. The Oxford Township Board of Education will not expend more than \$25,000.00 per calendar year for legal services, unless the need arises for a change in this policy. This may only be done with a majority roll call vote of the Board.

If at any time the district's legal costs exceed 130 percent of the Statewide average per pupil amount, the procedures set forth in N.J.S.A. 6A:23A-5.2(a)3 will be implemented, unless evidence can be provided that such procedures would not result in a reduction of cost.

Date:

First Adoption: December 20, 1989

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Revision and Adoption: September 25, 2008

Revised and Adoption: March 16, 2009; February 25, 2010

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Review Date: October 3, 2011

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Revision and Adoption: April 25, 2013

Review Date: November 11, 2016 – No Changes

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.</u>	Law Against Discrimination
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.S.A. 10:5-31</u>	
through -35	
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8</u>	Interest of school officers, etc., in sale of textbooks or supplies, royalties
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1</u>	General mandatory powers and duties
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:12-2</u>	Inconsistent interests or office prohibited
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.</u>	School Ethics Act
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.</u>	Public Schools Contracts Law
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20</u>	Powers of board (county vocational schools)
<u>N.J.S.A. 52:32-44</u>	Business registration for providers of goods and services
<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.8</u>	Equality in employment and contract practices
<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3</u>	Accountability regulations
<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:28-1.1 et seq.</u>	School Ethics Commission
<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:32-14.1</u>	Review of mandated programs and services

Comprehensive Equity Plan, New Jersey State Department of Education

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	1250	Visitors
	1313	Gifts to district employees
	1330	Use of school facilities
	2224	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
	3320	Purchasing procedures
	4119.21	Conflict of interest
	4219.21	Conflict of interest
	9270	Conflict of interest

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