

Series 1000 – Community Relations

3. Public Activities Involving Staff, Students or Use of School Facilities

A. Relations Between Public and School Personnel

(3) Gifts to School Personnel

Employees of the school system shall not directly or indirectly solicit, accept, or receive personal gifts from vendors, contractors, or parents whose children are directly served by the employee. The acceptance of entertainment and hospitality is prohibited when the employee is the sole or major recipient as opposed to a large group gathering as may be the case at seasonal parties, receptions or conventions sponsored by vendors.

This prohibition shall not be construed to prevent vendors from providing opportunities for school employees to see or hear about new ideas, equipment and/or materials; nor shall it be construed to prevent employees from accepting minor items valued less than \$50 which are generally provided by vendors through their regular business practices.

Staff members of the Suffield Public Schools are vested by the public with a trust and responsibility that requires the highest standards of professionalism. Connecticut General Statutes codify standards for teachers and administrators (Connecticut Code of Professional Responsibility for Teachers) to guide conduct and judicious appraisal of conduct in situations that have professional and ethical implications. The Code requires teachers to “decline any gratuity, gift or favor that may appear to impair or influence professional decisions or actions.” This requirement is applied to all employees of the Suffield Public Schools and includes all certified and non-certified staff, full and part time employees and coaches.

Staff members may accept token and inexpensive gifts from students. Gifts of appreciation given by an individual student, parents, booster clubs or other support organization to any employee of the Suffield Public Schools shall not exceed \$50.00 in value. The employee shall file a disclosure statement with the Superintendent of Schools if in receipt of a gift over \$50.00 from one individual or group. The exception would be a collaborative class gift where families have contributed less than \$50.00 each.

Legal Reference:

C.G.S. 10-145d-400a, Code of professional responsibility for teachers

C.G.S. 10-145d-400b, Code of professional responsibility for school administrators

Policy adopted: January 15, 2008

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut