

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY
APPLICABLE TO CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
November 2013**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to observe state statutes regarding conflicts of interest for charter school board members and to engage in charter school business activities in a fashion designed to avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the charter school board is to conform with statutory conflict of interest laws and act in a manner that will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance thereof.

III. CONFLICTING BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

- A. An individual is prohibited from serving as a member of the board of directors of a charter school if the individual, an immediate family member, or the individual's partner is an owner, employee, or agent of or a contractor with a for-profit or nonprofit entity with whom the charter school contracts, directly or indirectly, for professional services, goods, or facilities. A violation of this prohibition renders a contract voidable at the option of the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) or the charter school board of directors. A member of a charter school board of directors who violates this prohibition is individually liable to the charter school for any damage caused by the violation. An individual may serve as a member of the board of directors if no conflict of interest under this paragraph exists.
- B. No member of the board of directors, employee, officer, or agent of a charter school shall participate in selecting, awarding, or administering a contract if a conflict of interest exists. A conflict exists when: (1) the board member, employee, officer, or agent; (2) the immediate family of the board member, employee, officer, or agent; (3) the partner of the board member, employee, officer, or agent; or (4) an organization that employs, or is about to employ, any individual in clauses (1) to (3), has a financial or other interest in the entity with which the charter school is contracting. A violation of this provision renders the contract void.
- C. Any employee, agent, or board member of the authorizer of a charter school who participates in the initial review, approval, ongoing oversight, evaluation, or the charter renewal or nonrenewal process or decision is ineligible to serve on the board of directors of a school chartered by that authorizer.
- D. The charter school board member conflict of interest provisions do not apply to compensation paid to a teacher employed by the charter school who also serves as a member of the board of directors.
- E. The charter school board member conflict of interest provisions do not apply to a teacher who provides services to a charter school through a cooperative formed under Minn. Stat. Ch. 308A when the teacher also serves on the charter school board of directors.