

Adopted: July 22, 2014 Revised: March 16, 2023 Reviewed: January 9, 2025

Policy 210.1 – Conflict of Interest – Charter School Board Members

## 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 of Directors (BOD) 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 BOD of a charter school if the individual, an immediate family member, or the individual's partner is a full or part owner or principal with a for-profit or nonprofit entity or independent contractor with whom the charter school contracts, directly or indirectly, for professional services, goods, or facilities. An individual is prohibited from serving as a BOD member if an immediate family member is an employee of the school. A violation of this prohibition renders a contract voidable at the option of the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) or the charter school BOD. A member of a charter school BOD 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 BOD if no conflict of interest under this paragraph exists.
- B. No member of the BOD, 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 employees, 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 BOD 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 as a teacher by the charter school or a teacher who provides instructional services to the charter school through a cooperative formed under Minn. Stat. Ch. 308A when the teacher also serves on the charter school BOD.
- E. A charter school board member, employee, or officer is a local official with regard to the receipt of gifts. A board member, employee, or officer must not receive compensation from a group health insurance provider.