

Public Activities Involving Staff or Student**GIFTS TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

Many school patrons, in their sincere effort to express appreciation to school employees at various times, participate in money-raising campaigns among parents in order to purchase gifts for school employees. These activities are often misunderstood and frequently cause embarrassment to our personnel.

The School Board expresses itself as opposed to expensive gifts to school employees on the part of individuals or to solicitation of funds from a group for this purpose and directs that Board employees shall not accept gifts of more than nominal value from patrons or from anyone doing business with the schools.

Specifically, the Board directs its employees not to:

1. Accept gifts and gratuities from any vendor, potential vendor, or patron in excess of \$25.00 in value. This includes, but is not limited to, meal functions invitations, complimentary admissions to entertainment or sporting events or programs, tangible gifts of appreciation, monetary contributions, donations of stocks and bonds.

However, gifts and awards made by vendors, potential vendors, and patrons to teachers and other staff for participation in valid educational programs sponsored by the vendors, potential vendors, or patrons and approved by the Superintendent or designee are not prohibited.

2. Participate in trips paid by a vendor or potential vendor for the purpose of inspecting products or programs useful to the school district. Such trips if deemed necessary by the school system shall always be made at school district expense following procedures approved by the Superintendent of Schools or the Superintendent of Schools' designee.
3. Solicit any vendor to make contribution or contributions to any person or organization other than The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.
4. Solicit personal discounts on merchandise or services from School Board vendors, potential vendors and patrons.

Florida Statute 233.115(2) establishes that "No school official or member of a district or state instructional materials council shall accept any emolument money, or other valuable thing, or any inducement, to directly or indirectly introduce, recommend, vote for, or otherwise influence the adoption or purchase of any instructional material."

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.22(1); 233.115(2) F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Repromulgated: 12-11-74

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