INDIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
CODE OF ETHICS

A School Board member should honor the high responsibility that membership demands:

• BY thinking always in terms of children first.

• BY understanding that the basic function of the school board member is policy-making and not administrative, and by accepting the responsibility of learning to distinguish between these two functions.

• BY accepting the responsibility, along with fellow board members, to assure that adequate facilities and resources are provided for the proper functioning of schools.

• BY refusing to play politics in either the traditional partisan, or in any petty sense.

• BY representing the entire school community at all times.

• BY accepting the responsibility of becoming well-informed concerning the duties of board members, and the proper function of public schools.

• BY recognizing responsibility as a State official to seek the improvement of education throughout the State.

A School Board member should demonstrate respectful relationships with other members of the Board.

• BY recognizing that authority rests only with the board in official meetings and that the individual member has no legal status to bind the board outside of such meetings.

• BY recognizing the integrity of previous board members and the merit of their work.

• BY refusing to make statements or promises as to how he or she will vote on any matter which should properly come before the board as a whole.

• BY making decisions only after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.

• BY respecting the opinion of others and by graciously conforming to the principle of majority rule.

• BY refusing to participate in irregular meetings which are not official and when all members do not have the opportunity to attend.

• BY working with fellow board members and the administration to fairly determine the present and future educational needs of the community.

A School Board member should maintain desirable relations with the superintendent of schools and other employees.

• BY striving to procure the best professional leader available for the head administrative position.

• BY giving the superintendent full administrative authority for properly discharging the professional duties of the position and the responsibility to achieve acceptable results.

• BY acting only after consideration of the superintendent’s recommendations on matters of school governance.

• BY having the superintendent present at all meetings of the Board except when his or her contract and salary considerations are under review.

• BY respecting proper communication channels, referring all complaints to the proper administrative office and considering them only after failure of an administrative solution.

• BY providing adequate safeguards around the superintendent and other employees so that they can perform their responsibilities.

• BY presenting criticisms of an employee directly to the superintendent.

A School Board member should maintain a commitment to the community:

• BY developing and adopting a mission and a vision statement for the school corporation.

• BY conducting all school business transactions openly.

• BY vigorously seeking adequate financial support for the schools.

• BY refusing to use the school board position for personal gain.

• BY refusing to discuss confidential board business anywhere other than when attending a properly advertised board meeting.

• BY earning the community’s confidence that all is being done in the best interests of school children.