

**Lewis Center for Educational Research  
Board of Directors Code of Ethics**

As a member of the LCER Board of Directors, I shall promote the best interests of the organization and its schools and programs and, to that end, shall adhere to the following ethical standards:

**LCER Board Policy**

I understand that my status is that of an individual acting in a governance capacity. I have the right to exert my influence with the LCER Board for approval of actions and policies, but my authority does not go beyond my vote. I have no authority as an individual to commit the LCER Board to any action or policy.

**Ethics in My Governing Role**

I understand that the difference between governing and managing can be found primarily in the area of decision-making. While the Board and Executive staff have shared responsibility in decision-making, their decision-making roles are quite different. The Board, as the governing body, will make a decision and will take complete responsibility for the action it took. Executive staff, as the management arm of the organization, has the right to decide the best way to implement the decision, and will take responsibility for the implementation. As a result, I will support decisions made by a majority of the Board, and I will not interfere with the implementation process. If I have concerns, I will bring them to the Board Chairperson so the Board and staff can be made aware of my concerns.

**Ethics in My Role with Staff**

My role with staff is limited to that of advisor. The CEO is responsible for hiring, firing and management functions of all staff members. I may ask questions or ask for assistance, but I may not give direction to staff. The Board as a whole gives direction to the CEO who then directs staff.

**Ethics in My Role in Planning**

I must understand the relationship between the LCER Board and the organization's Strategic Plan. The Board's Strategic Plan charts the future of the organization by establishing broad goals and specific objectives. Action plans for accomplishing the objectives are established by the Executive staff with progress on implementation reported to the Board on a regular basis. Board members are expected to be fully engaged in the annual update of the Strategic Plan.

**Ethics in My Public Role**

I am an unofficial representative of the entire community, but I am an *official* representative of the LCER Board. I will never speak negatively to the public or our chartering agencies about the internal operations of the LCER, its schools or programs as such pronouncements could be detrimental to future charter renewals. I will defend the LCER Board against unjustified criticism and, working with my fellow Board members and staff, take steps to remedy conditions that cause justified criticism.

**Ethics in Personal and Financial Interests**

I am a co-partner in the important work of the LCER Board to improve the quality of life of the community through the organization. I have assumed a position of public trust, and will disassociate my personal interests from the LCER Board activities.

I have received, either digitally or in printed form, and reviewed copies of the following:

- Mission Statements
- Strategic Plan
- Board Meeting Schedule
- LCER Board Member Job Description
- LCER Board Member Code of Ethics
- LCER Bylaws
- AAE Charter
- NSLA Charter
- Brown Act Requirements
- Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement and Acknowledgement form

If I don't fulfill these commitments to the organization, I will expect the LCER Board Chairperson to discuss my responsibilities with me. I acknowledge that if I continue to violate this Code of Ethics, I may be removed from the LCER Board of Directors.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_