

School Board Member Oath of Office

Board Chairman: Do you solemnly swear that you will uphold the Constitution and statutes of the United States and of the State of Tennessee and that as a school board member of _____ that you will faithfully execute the office to which you have been elected.

School Board Member: I will.

Board Chairman: By the authority vested in me from the citizens of _____, I declare this board member to be duly elected. Please join me in a round of applause and congratulation.

(Once the school board member has been sworn in, the member should read and sign the below oath of office.)

As an elected member of the _____ Board of Education, I accept the high honor and trust that has been placed in me to ensure that the children of this district receive the best education available anywhere in the United States of America. In accepting this position, I hold the pursuit of that goal as my sacred duty. To that end, I hereby swear that I will:

- Place the interests of children above all others in every decision that I make;
- Uphold all applicable federal and state laws and regulations;
- Abide by the policies of the Board, and work with my fellow Board members to change those policies as needed to improve student learning;
- Maintain board focus on the achievement of all students regardless of race, class, ethnicity, or gender;
- Not use my position for personal or partisan gain;
- Model continuous learning in my role as a member of the governance team;
- Maintain a strategic plan for the district that clearly defines success and accountability for the board, the staff, and our students;
- Focus on the policy work of the Board and monitor progress on the indicators of success in our strategic plan, leaving the day to day operation of the district to the superintendent and staff;
- Base my decisions upon available facts, vote my convictions, avoid bias, and uphold and support the decisions of the majority of the board once a decision is made;
- Work to build trust between and among board members and the superintendent by treating everyone with dignity and respect, even in times of disagreement;
- Maintain the confidentiality of privileged information including that shared in executive sessions of the board;
- Recognize that authority rests only with majority decisions of the board and will make no independent commitments or take any independent actions that may compromise the board as a whole;
- Refer constituent complaints and concerns to the appropriate person within the district chain of command; and
- Respect the leadership roles of the board chairman and superintendent.

I will maintain fidelity to these commitments and will be held accountable by my fellow board members should I fail to live up to this oath. So help me, God.

This oath of office has been sworn to on this, the ___ day of _____, 20__.

School Board Member

Witness