

**ETHICS NOTIFICATION LETTER FY 23**

Dear Board Members, Administrators and Employees:

A.C.A. § 6-24-101 et seq. requires full open disclosure and approval before a school district board member, administrator or employee may enter into contracts or other transactions with the school district where he/she serves or is employed.

A.C.A. § 6-24-101 et seq. does not apply to reimbursements paid for proper work-related expenses. However, in the case of hiring family members of administrators and/or board members, the district must meet all requirements set forth in A.C.A. § 6-24-101 et seq.

A.C.A. § 6-24-101 et seq. applies when the board member, administrator or school employee is “financially interested” or “directly interested” in the transaction. “Financially interested” means ownership or more than 5% interest; holding a position of officer, director, trustee, partner, or top level management; and/or the employee’s compensation is based in whole or in part on transactions with the public education entity. For board members and administrators, restrictions may also apply to family members. “Directly interested” means receiving compensation or other benefits personally or to a business or other entity in which the individual has a financial interest or receives other benefits.

Therefore, board members, administrators and employees of this district have an affirmative obligation under A.C.A. § 6-24-101 et seq. to disclose relationships with vendors before the district enters into the contract or before services are performed. Disclosure is to be made to the superintendent of the district. Forms for this purpose will be provided by the district.

All transactions involving the purchase, lease, acquisition, or other use of computers, software, copiers, or other electronic devices from family members of an employee responsible for establishing specifications or approving purchases of such equipment shall be approved according to the requirements of Arkansas law regarding the purchase from an employee with a direct interest in the transaction.

A.C.A. § 6-24-101 et seq. requires proper disclosure and approval of the transaction at an open board meeting. In certain instances, approval by the Commissioner of the Department of Education is required.

Therefore, every district board member, administrator or employee will be required to disclose any potential vendor relationship by completing a disclosure form provided by the district. Failure to fully disclose could result in criminal charges being brought against the board member, administrator or employee. A copy of A.C.A. § 6-24-101 et seq. is available in the central office if you wish to review it. The law may also be viewed at [www.arkleg.state.ar.us](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

Sincerely,

Terrie Metz, Superintendent  
Gentry Public Schools

Please sign below to acknowledge receipt of this notification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member, Administrator or Employee

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Date