

Preamble

School Counselor Associations are professional organizations that champion the advancement and support of school counselors and the profession of school counseling at the local, state, and national levels. These organizations acknowledge the school counselors' pivotal role as education leaders who implement school counseling programs that inspire, assist and advocate for pre-K-12 students to reach their highest potential.

School counselor professional associations support pre-K-12 school counselors, school counseling students/interns, school counseling program directors/supervisors and school counselor educators/faculty. They serve as advocates and elevate public awareness of the profound and essential role school counselors play in fostering student academic success, career development and social/emotional well-being as well as dismantling systemic barriers to equity and access in education.

Upholding the highest professional standards, school counselor associations navigate organizational management and governance with integrity, sensitivity and dedication. These standards are the ethical obligation of all school counselor associations.

Purpose

In this document, ASCA specifies the obligation to the principles of ethical behavior necessary to maintain the highest standards of integrity, leadership and profession-

When association leaders perceive that the association's direction conflicts with the professional and ethical standards of school counseling, leaders must follow a predefined conflict resolution process. Should the conflict become irreconcilable, leaders are responsible for maintaining the interests of the organization.

B.3.

A.5.

Association leaders are responsible for making the best possible management decisions in the interest of the association. Leaders may only accept personal compensation with the governing board's explicit consent. Leaders are obliged to prioritize the association's welfare in all decisions, avoiding conflicts of interest to ensure actions align with the association's best interests.

A.6.

As elected individuals, association leaders and staff are responsible for conducting meetings with decorum and with respect for all contributions of expertise and knowledge from those in attendance.

B. Fair and Equal Treatment of Members and other Professionals


Elected and appointed leaders of local, state and national school counselor associations:

B.1.

Association leaders refrain from granting special favors or giving undue advantage to members, vendors or other parties without explicit governing board approval. Leaders are obligated to represent all members fairly and must avoid commitments to specific individuals or groups unless they align with the best interests of the association as sanctioned by the governing board.


B.2.

Association leaders do not discriminate against individual members or other constituents, and do not allow their association to engage in discrimination.

C.4.  . Association leaders are responsible for holding each other accountable by addressing inappropriate, illegal or unethical behaviors exhibited by other association leaders.

C.5. . Association leaders foster the organization's growth and sustainability through judicious leader selection and recruitment. Leaders should not knowingly promote or support ineffective leaders for a higher position within the organization or affiliated organizations. This standard implicitly underscores the importance of meritocracy and integrity within the leadership

recruitment process, advocating for decisions made in the best interest of the organization's future rather than personal advantage or nepotism.

C.6.  . Leaders within the association are committed to upholding ethical standards that strictly prohibit the use of association resources, including membership lists, intellectual property or organizational materials, for personal gain or the establishment of competing associations. This commitment extends beyond