

Before collecting data, boards would do well to determine their values on its use. Following is a sample policy to amend, customize and adopt:

Board Policy: Code of Conduct on Data Use

As a member of my local board of education, I shall do my utmost to represent the public's interest in education by:

- Requesting information and data gathered by district staff that helps me make a better informed decision about policies affecting student achievement district-wide;
- Requesting data as a board, not as an individual, unless the information is readily available and will not redirect staff time;
- Using data to represent all of my constituents honestly and equally and refusing to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups;
- Avoiding using my board position — and the information and data supplied to me in good faith — for personal gain;
- Recognizing that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a board meeting after everyone on the board has had adequate time to review all the data and information;
- Respecting the confidentiality of privileged information; and,
- Abiding by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes through ethical and constructive channels.