

NEO Policy 102

Adopted: May 16, 2012

Revised January 27, 2016

102: NEO Conflict of Interest and School Autonomy Policy

Persons with any actual or perceived conflict of interest shall disclose the same. Persons with a conflict of interest are excluded from deliberation and voting to ensure they have no influence over the corporation regarding the compensation for or business deals of themselves or of related persons. NEO employees, advisors, and board members will not be allowed to take part in decisions relating to authorizing any school with which they are currently affiliated.

NEO shall at all times endeavor to undertake all its actions exclusively in furtherance of its charitable and educational purposes without any of its actions resulting in any impermissible benefit.

At all times NEO shall comply with the conflict of interest laws laid out in Minnesota Statute.

As an authorizer, NEO does not run charter schools; it functions to carry out monitoring and oversight, to assure compliance with the law, and support the establishment and success of innovative and successful public charter schools. Therefore, NEO shall not enter into the following types of contracts with schools it authorizes:

- financial management,
- administration,
- accounting or auditing services, or
- lease of space.

Before NEO would offer any other services to schools, such as training, the board will first obtain clarification to confirm that provision of such services is allowed to single-purpose charter authorizers.

NEO's responsibilities as an authorizer require that it provide comprehensive oversight of its chartered schools. NEO is a legally authorized agency to help ensure public accountability for the schools that NEO authorizes. NEO will operate in a monitoring relationship providing feedback on compliance, sharing observations, asking questions, facilitating sharing of effective practices and evaluating school performance based on the NEO-School contract and law to help ensure the success of the schools that NEO authorizes.

In addition, NEO's contract language will provide that, except as otherwise provided in the contract itself or by Applicable Law, the Authorizer has no authority, control, power, administrative or financial responsibility over the School.

The sole purpose of NEO is to authorize public charter schools in accordance with all Minnesota Statutes that govern the duties and responsibilities of charter school authorizers. Contracts with authorized schools will provide that the schools have the full extent of autonomy allowed to Minnesota charter schools under the law, and that except as otherwise

provided by the authorizer contract or Applicable Law, the authorizer has no authority, control, power, administrative or financial responsibility over the School.

To ensure all NEO board members, employees, and Advisors understand and abide by the NEO Conflict of Interest and School Autonomy Policy, all board members, employees, and Advisors are required to sign an assurance after reading the NEO Conflict of Interest and School Autonomy Policy, which affirms that they have read, understand and will abide by the policy.

Statement of Assurance

I have read, understand and will abide by the NEO Conflict of Interest and School Autonomy Policy.

Signed

Date

Print Name _____