

WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE & ACCOUNTING MANUAL

ETHICS

LAST UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 2016

According to Utah Code Section 63G-6a-2304-4a an employee of a tax supported entity may legally accept gifts from vendors so long as the gift is valued less than \$10 amount, and total gifts for the year do not exceed \$50.

Any person acting as a procurement officer for the district, or who in any official capacity participates in the procurement of any supplies, services, construction, real property, or insurance for the district shall not ask, receive, or offer to receive any emolument, gratuity, contribution, loan, or reward, or any promise thereof, either for the person's own use or the use or benefit of any other person or organization, from any person interested in the sale of such supplies, and must comply with UCA 63G -6a-2304.

Per Utah Administrative Code R277-515-3,

A professional educator may not accept a bonus or incentive from a vendor or potential vendor or a gift from a parent of a student, or a student where there may be the appearance of a conflict of interest or impropriety..."

A professional educator may accept, but not solicit, a nominal appropriate personal gift for a birthday, holiday, or teacher appreciation occasion, consistent with LEA policy and Title 67, Chapter 16, Utah Public Officers' and Employees' Ethics Act.

Utah State Code Title 67, Chapter 16 - Utah Public Officers' and Employees' Ethics Act helps clarify what qualifies as a "nominal" gift.

It is an offense for a public officer or public employee to knowingly receive, accept, take, seek or solicit, directly or indirectly for himself or another a gift of substantial value or a substantial economic benefit tantamount to a gift.

These rules do not apply to:

- (a) an occasional nonpecuniary* gift, having value of not in excess of \$50;
- (b) an award publicly presented in recognition of public services;
- (c) any bona fide loan made in the ordinary course of business; or
- (d) a political campaign contribution.

* "Pecuniary" means the gift consists of money.