

Adopted: 01-18-2016

Revised: _____

ROCHESTER BEACON ACADEMY- RBA
POLICY No. 412
GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES AND BOARD MEMBERS

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to define RBA's prohibitions on gifts of more than nominal value and the permissible acceptance of nominal tokens of appreciation.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

From time to time students, parents, and community groups may desire to show their appreciation to RBA employees and Board members. However, the Board recognizes the need to avoid the appearance of impropriety or the appearance of a conflict of interest with respect to gifts given to school employees or Board members. Therefore, it is the policy of RBA to discourage gift giving to employees and Board members.

III. DEFINITIONS

"Gift" means money, real or personal property, a service, a loan, a forbearance or forgiveness of indebtedness, or a promise of future employment, that is given without something of equal or greater value being received in return.

IV. PROHIBITION ON GIFTS

It is a violation of this policy for an employee or Board member to accept a gift from a student, parent, community member or community group if the gift has greater than nominal value.

V. ACCEPTABLE TOKENS OF APPRECIATION

A. It is not a violation of this policy for an employee or Board member to accept from a student, parent, community member, or community group the following:

1. Thank you notes or letters expressing appreciation; or
2. Small tokens of appreciation such as plaques if such token has only nominal value.

B. Unless otherwise indicated by applicable law, nominal value shall be \$5 or less.

VI. SOLICITATION OF GIFTS

It is a violation of this policy for an employee or Board member to solicit or receive anything of value from any person or entity doing business with or seeking to do business with RBA.

VII. EXCEPTIONS

This policy does not prohibit teachers and educational staff from accepting free samples of textbooks or teaching materials. This policy also does not prohibit employees or Board members from accepting promotional items of nominal value (water bottles, binder clips, golf balls, etc.) provided by vendors at educational fairs or conferences.

VIII. NON-APPLICABILITY

This policy does not apply to gifts given to employees or Board members by personal friends, family members, or others where the reason for the gift does not arise out of the employee or Board member's employment with RBA or service on the Board.

Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 124E.14 (Charter Schools – Conflicts of Interest)