

**FLORIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
July 23-24, 2001**

**SUBJECT:** Legal Guidelines for Board Members

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For information purposes only: discuss state policies regarding open meetings, public records, ethics and gifts in light of their role as members of the Florida Board of Education.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Ch. 286.011, F.S. requires all meetings of any board, commission or any state agency (except as otherwise stated in the Constitution) at which official action is to be taken to be considered public meetings that must be open to the public. No resolution, rule or formal action will be considered binding unless it is completed in compliance with this provision. Reasonable notice of all meetings must be provided. The minutes of all board and commission meetings must be recorded and made available to the public. Meetings may not be held at any facility or location that discriminates on the basis of sex, age, race, creed, color, origin or economic status. The facility must be reasonably accessible to the public.

Exemptions to this provision are provided in 119.15, F.S. An exemption will be given only if:

1. the exempted record or meeting is of a sensitive, personal nature concerning individuals,
2. the exemption is necessary for the effective and efficient administration of a governmental program, or
3. the exemption affects confidential information concerning an entity.

Other topics for discussion:

State Ethics laws regarding gifts, financial disclosures, and conflicts of interest

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Government in the Sunshine *guidebooks*, *state ethics laws brochure*

**Presenter:** Pat Gleason, General Counsel, Florida Attorney General's Office