



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

April 4, 2011

To: Parents/Guardians

From: Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Conflict of Interest Law
Revised Advisory Regarding Gifts to Employees

The Ethic's Reform Law, Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, imposed new mandatory education and training requirements for all public employees. All Wachusett Regional School District employees have completed Conflict of Interest training and will continue to be trained pursuant to the regulations.

The State Ethics Commission has approved amendments to these regulations, which changes some of the parameters previously allowed involving gifts to District employees. The following reflects the parameters of the law as it stands to date:

- Employees may receive either gifts, cash or gift cards/gift certificates in amounts less than \$50 (either from an individual or from a group) provided that the employee completes a **"DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST AS REQUIRED BY G. L.C.268A §23(b)(3)"** form . This form will then be forwarded to the Building Principal, who will forward all forms to the Superintendent at the end of the school year. A separate form needs to be completed for each gift.
- Teachers are allowed to accept a gift(s) with an aggregated value of up to a maximum of \$150 per year from current public school students and/or parents **as long as the gift is identified only as being from the class, and the identity of givers and the amounts given are not identified to the recipient.** A **DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST** is required.

The following is also allowed and no disclosure is needed:

- Gifts that are intended for the purposes of supplementing the classroom, school or District, may be accepted in any amount. The policies regarding gifts to the District must be followed in accepting these gifts.

We acknowledge and appreciate the continued support of our parents and friends. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please feel welcome to contact us with any questions or concerns.