

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

ETHICS REVIEW PANEL

ADVISORY OPINION 00-08

Advisory Opinion 00-08 is a request by [REDACTED] teacher at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has been contacted by The Princeton Review (TPR) and requested to give a presentation at [REDACTED] High School. He would be compensated for his time as a representative of The Princeton Review. Due to ethical concerns, [REDACTED] has chosen not to participate in this event, but requested an Advisory Opinion for future reference.

The relevant section of the Ethics Code is as follows:

Section 8363

Board members, employees, and volunteers shall not participate on behalf of the school system in any manner which would, to their knowledge, have a direct financial impact, as distinguished from the public generally, on them, their spouse, dependent child, ward, parent, or other who shares the Board member's, employee's, or volunteer's legal residence or a business entity with which they are affiliated.

1. Outside Employment
 - (a) Board members, employees, and volunteers may not participate in outside employment if the work:
 - is incompatible with the proper performance of official duties
 - impairs the impartiality or independence of judgment or actions of the employee
 - affects the performance of the employee.
 - (b) A person engaged in outside employment may not:
 - benefit from business with the school system or from relationships with students
 - represent any party before the school system
 - use confidential information acquired in his or her official school system position for personal benefit or that of another.

- (c) Any employee with instructional responsibility shall not tutor, for compensation, any student whom he or she is currently teaching.

According to the Baltimore County Public Schools' Ethics Code, this type of representation of another party before the school system is in violation of the Ethics Code. In addition, The Princeton Review is involved with S.A.T. preparation, which may have involvement with schools within the system. This could present another area of conflict if the petitioner continues his employment with TPR.

In reference to Advisory Opinion 00-08, it is the opinion of the Panel that participation in the presentation would be unethical. [REDACTED] is commended in his foresight to decline the invitation due to ethical concerns.

This Advisory Opinion has been signed by the Ethics Panel members and adopted on November 16, 2000.

Recused

Joy Shillman, Chair

Karen W. Strand, R.N., Vice Chair

Donald A. Gabriel, Panel Member

James G. Klair, Esq., Panel Member

Roland L. Unger, C.P.A., Panel Member