

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 10-16.5 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-16.5)

7 Sec. 10-16.5. Oath of office. Each school board member,  
8 before taking his or her seat on the board, shall take an oath  
9 of office, administered as determined by the board, in  
10 substantially the following form:

11 I, (name of member or successful candidate), do  
12 solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge  
13 the duties of the office of member of the Board of  
14 Education (or Board of School Directors, as the case may  
15 be) of (name of school district), in accordance with the  
16 Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the  
17 State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois,  
18 to the best of my ability.

19 I further swear (or affirm) that:

20 I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a  
21 faithful protector of the school district's assets;

22 I shall encourage and respect the free expression of  
23 opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a

1 hearing before the board, while respecting the privacy of  
2 students and employees;

3 I shall recognize that a board member has no legal  
4 authority as an individual and that decisions can be made  
5 only by a majority vote at a public board meeting; ~~and~~

6 I shall abide by majority decisions of the board, while  
7 retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions  
8 through ethical and constructive channels; -

9 I shall accept the responsibility that I am both  
10 morally and legally responsible for the equitable and  
11 quality education of every student in the school district;

12 I shall, with extensive participation of the  
13 community, formulate the goals, define the outcomes, and  
14 set the course for (name of school district);

15 I shall assist in establishing a structure and an  
16 environment designed to ensure all students have the  
17 opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a  
18 sound organizational framework;

19 I shall ensure a continuous assessment of student  
20 achievement and all conditions affecting the education of  
21 our children;

22 I shall serve as education's key advocate on behalf of  
23 students and our community's school (or schools) to advance  
24 the vision for (name of school district); and

25 I shall strive to work together with the district  
26 superintendent and school personnel to lead the school

1       district toward fulfilling the vision we have created,  
2       fostering excellence for every student in the areas of  
3       academic skills, knowledge, citizenship, and personal  
4       development.

5       (Source: P.A. 96-998, eff. 7-2-10.)