

# SOUTH DAKOTA School Law Notes



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*Nationally Recognized Legal Solutions*



## Governor Declares “Vern DeGeest Day” in South Dakota

It takes a special person to be a school superintendent. And for 37 years, that person in Corsica has been Vern DeGeest.

Swier Law Firm would like to thank Superintendent DeGeest for over 50 years of dedication to education in South Dakota. It has been an honor for our law firm to work with him and the Corsica School District!

Read more at <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/news/local/3737512-dedication-thanked-degeest-day>

**Q:** Are uncertified school administrators subject to the South Dakota Professional Administrators Code of Ethics?

**A:** Yes. In South Dakota, anyone employed in an administrative capacity, but who does not hold a valid South Dakota certificate, is subject to the code of professional ethics as established under SDCL 13-43-45.



**Q:** When does a South Dakota school board member have a potential conflict of interest?

**A:** Under South Dakota law, no school official may participate in discussing or vote on any issue in which the official has a conflict of interest. Each official shall decide if any potential conflict of interest requires that official to be disqualified from participating in discussion or voting. However, no official may participate in discussing or vote on an issue if the following circumstances apply:

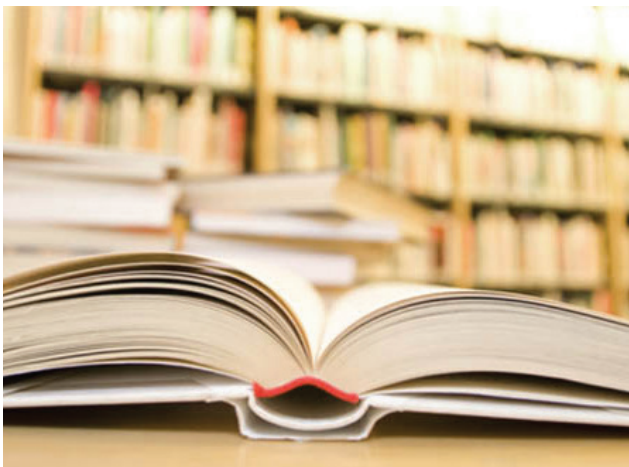
- (1) The official has a direct pecuniary interest in the matter before the governing body; or
- (2) At least two-thirds of the governing body votes that an official has an identifiable conflict of interest that should prohibit that official from voting on a specific item.

If an official with a direct pecuniary interest participates in discussion or votes on a matter before the governing body, the legal sole remedy is to invalidate that official's vote.



**Q:** When does a South Dakota school district's fiscal year begin and end?

**A:** In South Dakota, a school fiscal year begins July 1st and ends June 13th.



**Q:** What are the minimum number of hours a South Dakota school board may set for grades six through twelve?

**A:** The number of hours in the school term for grades six through twelve may not be less than nine hundred sixty-two and one-half hours, exclusive of intermissions. An intermission is the time when pupils are at recess or lunch.



# South Dakota Schools In Need of Music Teachers

Schools are seeing a shortage of music teachers in South Dakota. Groton, Ipswich, Warner and Faulkton are four schools in need of new teachers. More than 50 music teaching positions are available across the state.

Read more at <http://www.ksfy.com/home/headlines/Schools-in-need-of-music-teachers-302078541.html>



Scott Swier



Brooke Schloss



Robert Burns



Jake Fischer



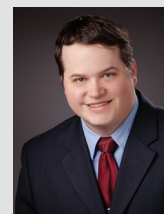
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