NEW ENGLAND STATES
GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

SUBJECT:	**CODE OF ETHICS POLICY**
ADOPTED:	November 19, 2010 (accepted for Board members)
AMENDED DATE:	June 10, 2011; June 20, 2016, June 7, 2019
REVIEW DATE:	April 16. 2025 No Change

I. **PURPOSE** – The New England States GFOA is a professional organization of public officials and other persons interested in the principles of governmental finance united to enhance and promote the professional management of governmental financial resources by identifying, developing and advancing fiscal strategies, policies, and practices for the public benefit.

To further these objectives, all active and associate members are enjoined to adhere to legal, moral, and professional standards of conduct in the fulfillment of their professional responsibilities. Standards of professional conduct as set forth in this code are promulgated in order to enhance the performance of all persons engaged in public finance.

II. **PROCEDURE**

a. Personal Standards – Association members shall:
1. Demonstrate and be dedicated to the highest ideals of honor and integrity in all public and personal relationships to merit the respect, trust, and confidence of governing officials, other public officials, employees, and of the public.
2. Devote their time, skills, and energies to their office both independently and in cooperation with other professionals.
3. Abide by approved professional practices and recommended standards.

b. Responsibility as Public Officials – Association members shall:
1. Recognize and be accountable for their responsibilities as officials in the public sector.
2. Be sensitive and responsive to the rights of the public and its changing needs.
3. Strive to provide the highest quality of performance and counsel.
4. Exercise prudence and integrity in the management of funds in their custody and in all financial transactions.
5. Uphold both the letter and the spirit of the constitution, legislation, and regulations governing their actions and report violations of the law to the appropriate authorities.

c. Professional Development – Association members shall be responsible for:
1. Maintaining their own competence.
2. Enhancing the competence of their colleagues.
3. Providing encouragement to those seeking to enter the field of government finance.
4. Promoting excellence in public service.

d. Professional Integrity/Information – Government finance officers shall:
1. Demonstrate professional integrity in the issuance and management of information.
2. Not knowingly sign, subscribe to, or permit the issuance of any statement or report which contains any misstatement or which omits any material fact.
3. Prepare and present statements and financial information pursuant to applicable law and generally accepted practices and guidelines.

4. Respect and protect privileged information to which they have access by virtue of their office.
5. Be sensitive and responsive to inquiries from the public and the media, within the framework of state or local government policy.

e. Professional Integrity/Relationships – Association members shall:
1. Act with honor, integrity, and virtue in all professional relationships.
2. Exhibit loyalty and trust in the affairs and interests of the government they serve, within the confines of this Code of Ethics.
3. Not knowingly be a party to or condone any illegal or improper activity.
4. Respect the rights, responsibilities, and integrity of their colleagues and other public officials with whom they work and associate.
5. Manage all matters of personnel within the scope of their authority so that fairness and impartiality govern their decisions.
6. Promote equal employment opportunities, and in doing so, oppose any discrimination, harassment, or other unfair practices.

f. Conflict of Interest – Active members shall:
1. Actively avoid the appearance of or the fact of conflicting interests.
2. Discharge their duties without favor and shall refrain from engaging in any outside matters of financial or personal interest incompatible with the impartial and objective performance of their duties.
3. Not, directly or indirectly, seek or accept personal gain which would influence, or appear to influence, the conduct of their official duties.
4. Not use public property or resources for personal or political gain.

III. ANNUAL REVIEW

It is the intent of the NESGFOA Board of Directors to review this policy annually and update as necessary.