



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 12, 2024

To: Indiana State Ethics Commission

From: Indiana State Board of Education

RE: SBOE filing of travel ethics waiver

FILED

MAR 25 2024

INDIANA STATE  
ETHICS COMMISSION

- A. SBOE employees: Scott Bess – Board of Education Member
- B. Nature and value of the gift: All travel costs for Scott Bess, including travel to and from the airport, airfare, hotel accommodation for one night, and meals during travel days. Travel will occur April 2-3, 2024. Reason for travel: attendance at the Carnegie Foundation Skills for the Future State Convening. Approximate cumulative value of the travel: \$1,500.
- C. The donor of the gift: The Carnegie Foundation and Educational Testing Service. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching was established in 1905 and chartered in 1906 by an act of Congress as an independent policy and research center called to “do and perform all things necessary to encourage, uphold, and dignify the profession of the teacher and the cause of higher education.” Today the mission of the Foundation is to catalyze transformational change in education so that every student has the opportunity to live a healthy, dignified, and fulfilling life. Educational Testing Service is the world’s largest private educational testing and assessment organization. IDOE currently has a contractual relationship with Educational Testing Service, as it provides IDOE with educational testing assessment services. The relationship between the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) and Educational Testing Services, is by and through the Indiana Department of Education. There is no direct contractual relationship between the SBOE and Educational Testing Services. There is also no direct contractual relationship between SBOE and the Carnegie Foundation.
- D. Statement on public interest: The Carnegie Foundation is a leader in allowing educational partners to come together and forge intentional connections across geographic and educational boundaries. Convenings allow educational entities to meeting and practice scholarship, policy, design, and innovation exercises that will have lasting effects on education on a broad scale. Educational Testing Services is a world leader in assessment testing. IDOE has a contractual partnership with only Educational Testing Service for assessment needs. SBOE’s work in leadership is critical to the mission that the Carnegie Foundation aspires to, and the State Convening meeting provides the opportunity for Scott Bess to discuss and connect with other national leaders on all policy areas that support K-12 education. These leadership events provide Scott Bess with the opportunity to meet with other state leaders to discuss the challenges to build



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a pipeline for future education executives, as well as to explore education policies that are currently pressing across the country such as those surrounding curriculum, assessment, graduation, and school accountability. To ensure maximum participation in the review and decision-making processes, and to facilitate in-person discussions among state academic directors, Educational Testing Service is covering travel costs. Allowing Educational Testing Service to pay for certain travel expenses related to an SBOE member, allows SBOE's state funds to be expended on the development, administration, and resources associated with hands on implementation in Indiana schools, rather than travel.

Philip Gordon p.p. by Nicola Szarenski  
Philip Gordon-SBOE Ethics Officer

3/12/2024

Date