



**ETHICS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – DECISIONS AND VOTING**
State Form 55880 (R / 10-15)
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
IC 4-2-6-9

JUN 10 2020

FILED

In accordance with IC 4-2-6-9, you must file your disclosure with the State Ethics Commission no later than seven (7) days after the conduct that gives rise to the conflict. You must also include a copy of the notification provided to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer when filing this disclosure. This disclosure will be posted on the Inspector General's website.

Name (last) Watts	Name (first) Brian	Name (middle) J.	
Name of office or agency Indiana State Board of Education		Job title Board Member - Chair	
Address of office (number and street) 143 W. Market Street		City Indianapolis	ZIP code 46204
Office telephone number (317) 232-2000	Office e-mail address: (required) bj.watts@evsck12.com		
Describe the conflict of interest: Mr. Watts is currently employed as the Executive Director of Opportunities through Partnerships that Transform & Inspire ("OptIN"), which is affiliated with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation ("EVSC"). Under Indiana law, the Board must determine the amount of state tuition support and federal funds necessary to fund the options for school improvement implemented by the Board with respect to each of the state's thirteen (13) turnaround academies. The federal funds awarded to these schools is in addition to any tuition support provided via the state's school funding formula.			
Indiana Code 4-2-6-9 (Conflict of Economic Interest; Commission Advisory Opinions; Disclosure Statement; Written Determinations) states in relevant part: (a) A state officer, an employee, or a special state appointee may not participate in any decision or vote, or matter relating to that decision or vote, if the state officer, employee, or special state appointee has knowledge that any of the following has a financial interest in the outcome of the matter: *** (3) A business organization in which the state officer, employee, or special state appointee is serving as an officer, a director, a member, a trustee, a partner, or an employee.			
During the June 3, 2020 Board meeting, a consent agenda item labeled "I. Turnaround Academy Funding", which included federal funds for schools in EVSC's transformation zone, was presented to the Board. Due to Mr. Watts' affiliation with EVSC, which had a financial interest in the outcome of the matter, Mr. Watts recused himself from the Board's vote with respect to the Turnaround Academy Funding.			

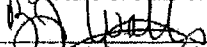
Describe the screen established by your ethics officer: *(Attach additional pages as needed.)*

The Board's ethics officer routinely reviews all materials before they are presented to the Board to identify potential conflicts of interest for Board members. Additionally, Board members are required to engage in ethics training on regular basis as required by state law. This training ensures Board members are able to identify potential ethics issues that may arise in their official capacity as special state appointees.

AFFIRMATION

Your signature below affirms that your disclosures on this form are true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. In addition to this form, you have attached a copy of your written disclosure to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer.

Signature of state officer, employee or special state appointee



Date signed (month, day, year)

6/9/2020

Printed full name of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Brian J. Watts

FOR ETHICS OFFICER USE ONLY

Your signature below affirms that you have reviewed this disclosure form and that it is true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. You also attest that your agency has implemented the screen described above.

Signature of ethics officer



Date signed (month, day, year)

6/9/2020

Printed full name of ethics officer

Chad E. Ranney

From: [Ranney, Chad E](#)
To: [BJ Watts](#)
Cc: [Murphy, Brian \(SBOE\)](#)
Subject: Ethics Disclosure - Turnaround Academy Funding
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 9:03:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Good evening, BJ.

I've reviewed the agenda and material for tomorrow's Board meeting, and I wanted to bring a potential conflict of interest to your attention. Due to your employment with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC), I recommend recusing yourself from the vote on "Consent Agenda Item I – Turnaround Academy Funding," as the vote could result in EVSC receiving additional funding for the 2020-20201 school year. Once I get your disclosure form finished up, I'll send it over for your review and signature.

Brian has also been CC'd on this email. Please acknowledge your receipt of this email, and let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Chad E. Ranney

General Counsel

Sr. Director – Policy & Legislative Affairs

Indiana State Board of Education

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INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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