

OVERVIEW

Transportation Advisory Services (TAS) is committed to providing the highest quality student transportation consulting services. Integral to our approach and history is our overriding focus and commitment on ethical consulting behavior.

WHAT ETHICS MEANS TO TAS!

Since our founding in 1987, we have been driven by our belief that our clients should *never* be concerned about the integrity of our work product, or our motivations for our recommendations.

What does this mean? For example:

- ★ We only work with our public sector clients. TAS works with school districts, universities, agencies, and associations. We do not work for, or sell products or services to, contractors, vendors or suppliers.
- ★ We do not own or manage buses.
- ★ We do not sell any products or software.
- ★ We do not accept commissions from any vendors for any services that we may recommend.
- ★ We do not work on a contingent fee basis, or a percentage of savings, which could lead to a concern about the motivation for certain recommendations.
- ★ We do not provide services in areas where we do not offer proven expertise.
- ★ We do not provide copies of the work product that we have developed for clients to any other sources. If a prospective client asks for a sample report, we refer them to our clients.

Over the years we have experienced very difficult situations where consultants have plagiarized our materials, used our research, or repackaged our work products. TAS materials supplied to our clients have been developed by TAS, or sourced in writing.

CODE OF ETHICS

TAS subscribes to the Code of Ethics adopted by the Institute of Management Consultants, USA, Inc. A copy of this code is attached.

SELECTING CONSULTANTS

We recognize the challenge that is faced by our clients in selecting the proper consultant. We believe that references are an integral part of any selection process, and TAS provides our prospective clients with a complete list of *all* TAS customers since our founding in 1987. We do not provide just a screened list of “good” references.

We also encourage our clients to review the document “How to Hire a Management Consultant... And Get the Results That You Expect” issued by the Institute of Management Consultants. Please feel free to contact TAS for a copy, or download a copy from the IMC website at www.imcusa.org.

CODE OF ETHICS

My Commitment to My Clients

- 1.0 I will serve my clients with integrity, competence, independence, objectivity, and professionalism.
- 2.0 I will mutually establish with my clients realistic expectations of the benefits and results of my services.
- 3.0 I will only accept assignments for which I possess the requisite experience and competence to perform and will only assign staff or engage colleagues with the knowledge and expertise needed to serve my clients effectively.
- 4.0 Before accepting any engagement, I will ensure that I have worked with my clients to establish a mutual understanding of the objectives, scope, work plan, and fee arrangements.
- 5.0 I will treat appropriately all confidential client information that is not public knowledge, take reasonable steps to prevent it from access by unauthorized people, and will not take advantage of proprietary or privileged information, either for use by myself, the client's firm, or another client, without the client's permission.
- 6.0 I will avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of such and will immediately disclose to the client circumstances or interests that I believe may influence my judgment or objectivity.
- 7.0 I will offer to withdraw from a consulting assignment when I believe my objectivity or integrity may be impaired.
- 8.0 I will refrain from inviting an employee of an active or inactive client to consider alternative employment without prior discussion with the client.

My Commitment to Fiscal Integrity

- 9.0 I will agree in advance with a client on the basis for fees and expenses and will charge fees that are reasonable and commensurate with the services delivered and the responsibility accepted.
- 10.0 I will not accept commissions, remuneration, or other benefits from a third party in connection with the recommendations to a client without that client's prior knowledge and consent, and I will disclose in advance any financial interests in goods or services that form part of such recommendations.

My Commitment to the Public and the Profession

- 11.0 If within the scope of my engagement, I will report to appropriate authorities within or external to the client organization any occurrences of malfeasance, dangerous behavior, or illegal activities.
- 12.0 I will respect the rights of consulting colleagues and consulting firms and will not use their proprietary information or methodologies without permission.
- 13.0 I will represent the profession with integrity and professionalism in my relations with my clients, colleagues, and the general public.
- 14.0 I will not advertise my services in a deceptive manner nor misrepresent or denigrate individual consulting practitioners, consulting firms, or the consulting profession.
- 15.0 If I perceive a violation of the Code, I will report it to the Institute of Management Consultants USA and will promote adherence to the Code by other member consultants working on my behalf.