



APBS STATEMENT ON CORPORATE RELATIONSHIPS

The Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) appreciates that appropriate relationships with corporations offer essential benefits for the field and the public APBS serves. Collaborations with corporate partners permit APBS to expand its programs significantly in the service of its mission of growing positive behavior support.

These collaborations also facilitate fruitful communications between APBS and corporate research, research outside the field, and positive behavior support strategies and interventions. However, APBS maintains complete independence from corporate support of any of its programs and from the content development of such programs by corporations

APBS actively seeks outside financial or in-kind support for specific programs that further its goal of providing positive behavior support professionals with the highest quality education and professional development. APBS will accept monetary or in-kind support for activities from companies that adhere strictly to the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst[®] (BCBA) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) guidelines and regulations. APBS reserves the right to decline any funding it deems inappropriate or outside of the scope of its mission. Recognizing the inherent risk of bias that accompanies the seeking and acceptance of outside funding, APBS has developed policies and procedures to ensure that its objectivity and credibility are not compromised.

In the interest of transparency, APBS has developed principles to document its relationship to corporations. The following overarching principles govern all aspects of APBS functioning:

1. Seeking support from outside commercial entities is entirely separate from the development of the content of the supported activities.
2. Commercial entities that provide support are not involved in the content of or decision-making regarding supported activities.
3. APBS seeks funding from multiple commercial sources for supporting activities.
4. APBS discloses all sources of commercial support for its educational activities to participants.
5. To avoid conflicts of interest, no commercial sources of support are sought for selected highly sensitive activities, such as the development of research to practice guidelines.
6. APBS provides no endorsement of the services or products of commercial supporters.

Commented [MAS1]: Is it clear to all which industries are referenced or is a definition required?

Commented [ch2R1]: I actually think "corporate" would be better than industry used more in medical. Let's change to Corporate.

Commented [MS3R1]: Cheretta, just to be clear, you'd like to change "industry" to "corporate" throughout this document? I see that "commercial entities" appears in the principles and seems to work well. Would something like this work (starting with the title): APBS Statement on Relationships with Commercial Entities"?

Commented [MAS4]: No quote marks necessary—mission is established and doesn't need to be quoted.

Commented [MAS5]: This is not clear to me. Should "supported activities" be defined first?

Commented [ch6R5]: Meaning, they do not get to influence the content that we provide just because they are a sponsor. We develop the content without there influence or product placement etc.

Commented [MS7R5]: Aha--got it. If this is clear to the audience, then it is fine! If you need a re-write, I'd suggest this: "Any support provided by commercial entities does not entitle the entity to access or influence APBS content development."



7. Sources of commercial support do not influence the educational or public policy decisions of APBS.

8. APBS Board of Directors, Committee Members, Committee Expectations state: No Conflicts of Interest and Disclose any that Arise.

- This is also part of the Duty of Loyalty. It is restated here because, similar to breaches of confidentiality, undisclosed conflicts destroy trust and, therefore, governance. Board members Committee Chairs, and Committee Members are required annually to complete a 'Conflict of Interest' form. Whether a conflict exists will be determined by the Executive Committee together with legal counsel based on the policy standards adopted by APBS. All Board and Committee members will make full disclosures of conflicts of interest, dual interests and avoid even the appearance of conflict. Trustees are permitted and expected to recuse themselves from Board discussions and votes on transactions or policy matters when there is reasonable evidence of conflicts and must act in the best interests of the organization.

9. Reviewers of annual call for proposals submissions must keep all proposal information confidential before the annual conference.

10. APBS statement addressing conflicts of interest from outside relationships is read at the beginning of all committee meetings.

11. All volunteers involved in APBS activities, and the staff must disclose any relationships with outside entities relevant to their APBS roles and responsibilities.

12. Disclosures are requested annually and reviewed and made publicly known as a matter of course. Problems are resolved promptly, as necessary.

13. All conflicts of interest must be resolved before an activity or event for which the conflict may be relevant takes place.

14. All APBS activities are conducted in conformance with the APBS Code of Ethics and the Ethical Aspects of Conflicts of Interest policy document. These safeguards are longstanding, continually monitored and enhanced as needed, and consider the constantly evolving regulatory environment in which the APBS functions.