

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
CODE OF ETHICS OF THE EDUCATION PROFESSION

Preamble

The educator, believing in the worth and dignity of each human being, recognizes the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, and the nurturing of democratic principles. Essential to these goals is the protection of freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator accepts the responsibility to adhere to the highest ethical standards.

The educator recognizes the magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the teaching process. The desire for the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents, and of the members of the community provides the incentive to attain and maintain the highest possible degree of ethical conduct. The Code of Ethics of the Education Profession indicates the aspiration of all educators and provides standards by which to judge conduct.

Principle I. Commitment to the Student

The educator strives to help each student realize his/her potential as a worthy and effective member of society. The educator therefore works to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator:

1. Shall not unreasonably restrain the student from independent action in the pursuit of learning
2. Shall not unreasonably deny the student access to varying points of view
3. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter relevant to the student's progress
4. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety
5. Shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement

6. Shall not on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social, or cultural background, or sexual orientation, unfairly:
 - a. Exclude any student from participation in any program
 - b. Deny benefits to any student
 - c. Grant any advantage to any student
7. Shall not use professional relationships with students for private advantage
8. Shall not disclose information in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law

Principle II. Commitment to the Profession

The education profession is vested by the public with a trust and responsibility requiring the highest ideals of professional service.

In the belief that the quality of the services of the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards, to promote a climate that encourages the exercise of professional judgment, to achieve conditions that attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education, and to assist in preventing the practice of the profession by unqualified persons.

In fulfillment of the obligation of the profession, the educator:

1. Shall not in any application for a professional position deliberately make a false statement or fail to disclose a material fact related to competency and qualifications
2. Shall not misrepresent his/her professional qualifications
3. Shall not assist any entry into the profession of a person known to be unqualified in respect to character, education, or other relevant attribute
4. Shall not knowingly make a false statement concerning the qualifications of a candidate for a professional position

5. Shall not assist a noneducator in the unauthorized practice of teaching
6. Shall not disclose information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law
7. Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about a colleague
8. Shall not accept any gratuity, gift, or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or action

Further, all teachers, in fulfillment of the obligation of the profession, shall incorporate the California Standards for the Teaching Profession, as follows:

1. Engaging and Supporting All Students in Learning
 - a. Connecting students' prior knowledge, experience, and interests with learning goals.
 - b. Using a variety of instructional strategies and resources to respond to students' diverse needs.
 - c. Facilitating learning experiences that promote autonomy, interaction, and choice.
 - d. Engaging students in problem solving, critical thinking, and other activities that make subject matter meaningful.
 - e. Promoting self-directed, reflective learning for all students.
2. Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for Student Learning
 - a. Creating a physical environment that engages all students.
 - b. Establishing a climate that promotes fairness and respect.
 - c. Promoting social development and group responsibility.
 - d. Establishing and maintaining standards for student behavior.

- e. Planning and implementing classroom procedures and routines that support student learning.
 - f. Using instructional time effectively.
3. Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning
- a. Demonstrating knowledge of subject matter content and student development.
 - b. Organizing curriculum to support student understanding of subject matter.
 - c. Interrelating ideas and information within and across subject matter areas.
 - d. Developing student understanding through instructional strategies that are appropriate to the subject matter.
 - e. Using materials, resources, and technologies to make subject matter accessible to students.
4. Planning Instruction and Designing Learning Experiences for All Students
- a. Drawing on and valuing students' backgrounds, interests, and developmental learning needs.
 - b. Establishing and articulating goals for student learning.
 - c. Developing and sequencing instructional activities and materials for student learning.
 - d. Designing short-term and long-term plans to foster student learning.
 - e. Modifying instructional plans to adjust for student needs.
5. Assessing Student Learning
- a. Establishing and communicating learning goals for all students.
 - b. Collecting and using multiple sources of information to assess student learning.

- c. Involving and guiding all students in assessing their own learning.
 - d. Using the results of assessments to guide instruction.
 - e. Communicating with students, families, and other audiences about student progress.
6. Developing as a Professional Educator
- a. Reflecting on teaching practice and planning professional development.
 - b. Establishing professional goals and pursuing opportunities to grow professionally.
 - c. Working with communities to improve professional practice.
 - d. Working with families to improve professional practice.