

CERTIFIED STAFF ETHICS

The quality and character of the individual professional educator are prominent factors in the educational development of our community. Therefore, the educational profession must establish rules of conduct to ensure the highest possible ethical practices. These ethical practices will be embraced, in both letter and spirit, as a basis of conduct for certificated staff.

Professional Standards - The educator:

- shall not in an application for a professional position deliberately make a false statement or misrepresent or fail to disclose a material fact related to competency and qualifications.
- shall not assist any entry into the profession of a person known to be unqualified in respect to character, education or other relevant attribute.
- shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about a colleague.
- shall not accept any gratuity, gift or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or actions.
- shall not use professional relationships with students for private advantage.
- shall direct persons to carry out only professional functions for which they are qualified.
- shall honor a contract to teach, whether written or verbal.

Students - The educator:

- shall recognize the basic dignity of all individuals and shall not on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social or cultural background, sexual orientation, physical, mental or: emotional handicap exclude any student from participation in any program, deny benefits, or grant advantage to any student.
- shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or safety.
- shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement.

Instruction - The educator:

- shall present subject matter in a comprehensive and accurate manner drawing upon current scientific knowledge and educational research.
- shall not unreasonably restrain the student from independent action in the pursuit of learning.
- shall not unreasonably deny the student access to varying points of view.
- shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter relevant to the student's progress.
- shall encourage students to reach their educational potential.

Parents and Community - The educator:

- shall seek to establish friendly and cooperative relationships with the home.
- shall provide parents with information that will serve the best interests of their children.
- shall perform the duties of citizenship.
- shall recognize that the schools belong to the people of the community and encourage lay participation in shaping the purposes of the school.
- shall strive to keep the public informed of the educational program: and work to improve education in the community.

Confidentiality - The educator:

- shall not disclose information about students, colleagues or parents obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law or district policies. Such confidentiality shall include conversations, correspondence, and records.

District Assets and Resources - The educator:

- shall follow established district procedures for obtaining necessary educational materials and funds.
- shall accurately maintain any records which are required to document disbursement of district monies, supplies or equipment.

- shall not establish or maintain unrecorded district funds or assets for any purpose.
- shall not enter into any contract for procurement of services, supplies or equipment to the district unless authorized to do so by the Chief Financial Officer.
- shall exercise integrity and economy to assure the most efficient use of district funds and resources.

Adopted: November 27, 1984

Revised: January 23, 2001

References: NSBA - Staff Ethics GBC & GBC-E
NEA - Code of Ethics of the Education Profession (1975)