

**CODE OF ETHICS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION**

PREAMBLE. The educator believes in the worth and dignity of human beings. The educator recognizes the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. The educator regards as essential to these goals the protection of freedom to learn and to teach, and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator accepts the responsibility to practice the profession according to the highest ethical standards.

The educator recognizes the magnitude of the responsibility being accepted in choosing a career in education, and engages individually and collectively with other educators to judge colleagues, and to be judged by them, in accordance with the provisions of this code.

PRINCIPLE I. COMMITMENT TO THE STUDENT. The educator measures success by the progress of each student toward realization of potential as a worthy and effective citizen. The educator therefore works to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals. In fulfilling these goals, the educator:

- (a) Encourages the student to independent action in the pursuit of learning and provides access to varying points of view.
- (b) Prepares the subject carefully, presents it to the students without distortion, and within the limits of time and curriculum, gives all points of view a fair hearing.
- (c) Protects the health and safety of students.
- (d) Honors the integrity of students and influences them through constructive criticism rather than by ridicule and harassment.
- (e) Provides for participation in educational programs without regard to race, color, creed, national origin or sex – both in what is taught and how it is taught.
- (f) Neither solicits nor involves them or their parents in schemes for commercial gain thereby insuring that professional relationships with students shall not be used for private advantage.
- (g) Shall keep in confidence information that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.

PRINCIPLE II. COMMITMENT TO THE PUBLIC. The educator believes that democratic citizenship in its highest form requires dedication to the principles of our democratic heritage. The educator shares with all other citizens the responsibility for the development of sound public policy and assumes full political and citizenship responsibilities. The educator bears particular responsibility for the development of

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policy relating to the extension of educational opportunities for all, and for interpretation of educational programs and policies to the public. In fulfilling these goals, the educator:

- (a) Has the obligation to support his profession and institution and not to misrepresent them in public discussion. When being critical in public, the educator has an obligation not to distort the facts. When speaking or writing about policies, the educator must take adequate precautions to distinguish the educator's private views from the official position of the institution.
- (b) Does not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities.
- (c) Ensures that institutional privileges shall not be used for private gain. Does not exploit pupils, their parents, colleagues, nor the school system itself for private advantage. Does not accept gifts or favors that might impair or appear to impair professional judgment nor offer any favor, service, or thing of value to obtain special advantage.

PRINCIPLE III. COMMITMENT TO THE PROFESSION. The educator believes that the quality of the services of the education profession directly influences the Nation and its citizens. The educator therefore exerts every effort to raise professional standards, to improve service, to promote a climate in which the exercise of professional judgment is encouraged, and to achieve conditions which attract persons worthy of trust to careers in education. In fulfilling these goals, the educator:

- (a) Accords just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession in the exercise of their professional rights and responsibilities.
- (b) Does not use coercive means or promise special treatment in order to influence professional decisions of colleagues.
- (c) Does not misrepresent personal professional qualifications.
- (d) Does not misrepresent the professional qualifications of his colleagues, and will discuss these qualifications fairly and accurately when discussion serves professional purposes.
- (e) Applies for, accepts, offers, and assigns positions or responsibility on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications.
- (f) Uses honest and effective methods of administering educational responsibilities. Conducts professional business through proper channels. Does not assign unauthorized persons to educational tasks. Uses time granted for its intended purposes. Does not misrepresent conditions of employment. Lives up to the letter and spirit of contracts.

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT. This code is a set of ideals which the teaching profession expects its members to honor and follow.

Any violation is unprofessional. However, to constitute unprofessional conduct and cause for suspension, revocation, or denial of a certification document, or renewal thereof, such violations shall be only those which either involve jeopardy to student welfare; evidence malice, serious incompetency, or bad judgment; or show a consistent pattern of misconduct.

This Code of Ethics is not an exhaustive enumeration of acts or conduct which constitutes unprofessional conduct.

Reference: California Administrative Code, Title 5, Sections 80130-30131

Policy adopted: October 5, 1970; September 18, 1978