

CODE OF ETHICS

Consistent with applicable law, the Code of Professional Responsibility for Teachers, the Code of Professional Responsibility for School Administrators, and LEARN policy, these principles are intended to guide the conduct of professional educators in situations that have professional and ethical implications.

Professional educators are vested by the public with a trust and responsibility requiring the highest ideals of professionalism and ethical conduct; and commitment to the students, the profession, and the community.

Responsibility to Students

In fulfillment of their obligations to students, educators shall:

- A. Recognize, respect and uphold the dignity and worth of students as individual human beings, and deal justly and considerately with them;
- B. Engage students in the pursuit of truth, knowledge, and wisdom and provide access to all points of view without deliberate distortion of subject matter;
- C. Nurture in students a lifelong respect and compassion for themselves and other human beings regardless of race, ethnic origin, gender, social class, disability, religion, age, or sexual orientation;
- D. Foster in students the full understanding, application, and preservation of democratic principles and processes; and guide them in understanding participatory citizenship and realizing their obligation to be worthy and contributing members of society;
- E. Assist students in formulating value systems and worthy, positive goals;
- F. Promote the right and freedom of students to independently pursue learning, explore ideas, develop fundamental critical thinking skills and problem-solving techniques, and acquire the necessary knowledge to achieve their full potential;
- G. Remain steadfast in guaranteeing equal opportunity for quality education for all students, free from unlawful discrimination or exclusion, embarrassment or disparagement, favoritism, sexual harassment or abuse, and exploitation;
- H. Maintain the confidentiality of all information concerning students obtained in the proper course of the educational process, and dispense such information only when prescribed or directed by federal or state law, LEARN policy, or professional practice;
- I. Maintain professional boundaries with students; and
- J. Promote ongoing development and evaluation of curriculum.

Responsibility to the Profession

In fulfillment of their obligation to the profession, educators shall:

- A. Exert every effort to raise professional standards; promote a climate that encourages the exercise of professional judgment to achieve conditions which attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education; and assist in preventing the practice of the profession by unqualified persons;
- B. Conduct themselves as professionals, realizing that their actions reflect directly upon the status and substance of the profession;
- C. Uphold the principle of academic freedom and the teacher's right to teach effectively;
- D. Strive to exercise the highest level of professional judgment; and maintain the standards and seek to improve the effectiveness of the profession through research and continuing professional development;
- E. Decline any gratuity, gift or favor that would impair or influence their professional decisions or actions; and
- F. Maintain the confidentiality of all information concerning colleagues obtained in the proper course of the educational process, and dispense such information only when prescribed or directed by federal or state law, LEARN policy, or professional practice.

Responsibility to the Community

In fulfillment of their obligation to the community, educators shall:

- A. Be cognizant of their influence upon the community-at-large, and not knowingly misrepresent facts, make false statements, or exploit the educational institution for personal gain;
- B. Encourage the community to exercise its responsibility to be involved in the formulation of educational policy;
- C. Promote the principles and ideals of democratic citizenship;
- D. Endeavor to secure equal educational opportunities for all children;
- E. Obey all local, state, and national laws and LEARN policies and regulations; and
- F. Pursue appropriate measures to address any laws, policies or regulations that are inconsistent with sound educational goals.

Responsibility to the Student's Family

In fulfillment of their obligation to the student's family, educators shall:

- A. Respect the dignity of each family, and its culture, customs, and beliefs;
- B. Promote and maintain appropriate, ongoing, and timely written and oral communications with the family;
- C. Respond in a timely fashion to families' concerns;
- D. Consider the family's perspective on issues involving its children; and
- E. Encourage participation of the family in the educational process.

Legal Reference: Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Sections 10-145d
400a and 10-145d-400b

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