ILLINOIS EDUCATOR CODE OF ETHICS

Introduction

The Illinois Educator Code of Ethics was developed by members of the Illinois Educator Code of Ethics Advisory Group. The advisory group was comprised of esteemed educators from across the state of Illinois whose charge included drafting a set of recommendations for the Illinois State Board of Education to be used as the basis for developing the Code of Ethics for Educators in Illinois. In preparing these recommendations, the advisory group:

- Researched, reviewed, and discussed the content in the Code of Ethics for Educators from other states, education agencies and associations;
- Researched, reviewed, and discussed various formats/frameworks to use in documenting the recommendations for the Illinois Educator Code of Ethics;
- Developed a matrix comparing the Code of Ethics from 10 education associations;
- Developed definitions for "Educator" and the "Illinois Educator Code of Ethics";
- Established a framework and descriptions for professional behavior and responsibilities, and promoted high standards of practice; and
- Considered existing state regulations in the development of the Illinois Educator Code of Ethics recommendations.

Part 22, Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators, was written in response to a need identified in the process of developing the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, which are contained in Part 24 of agency rules. After researching and evaluating the content, format, and frameworks from codes of ethics for educators in numerous states, education agencies, and associations, the Illinois Educator Code of Ethics Advisory Group chose the Rhode Island Educator Code of Professional Responsibility as a model for developing the Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators. This code, which is founded on the premise that Illinois educators must meet the educational needs of each student, defines five core principles: (1) Responsibility to Students; (2) Responsibility to Self; (3) Responsibility to Colleagues and the Profession; (4) Responsibility to Parents, Families and Communities; and (5) Responsibility to the Illinois State Board of Education.

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Preamble

Educators fundamentally believe that meeting the educational needs of each student is critical to the profession. The Illinois Educators' Code of Ethics is a set of core principles, values, and responsibilities that sets expectations to guide practice and inspire professional excellence in relation to federal, state, and local policies, rules, regulations, and collective bargaining agreements. Illinois educators encourage the application of these core principles throughout the education community.

Definition of Educator

An educator is a person who holds or is applying for a certificate or approval, or is enrolled in an Illinois pre-service education preparation program.

Principles

The Illinois Educator Code of Ethics contains five core principles which provide a foundation for the responsibilities and commitments of Illinois Educators.

1. Responsibility to Students
2. Responsibility to Self
3. Responsibility to Colleagues and the Profession
4. Responsibility to Parents, Families and Communities
5. Responsibility to the Illinois State Board of Education

Illinois Educator Code of Ethics

PRINCIPLE 1: RESPONSIBILITY TO STUDENTS

The Illinois educator is committed to creating, promoting, and implementing a learning environment that is accessible to each student, enables students to achieve the highest academic potential, and maximizes their ability to succeed in academic and employment settings as a responsible member of society. Illinois educators:

▪ Embody the Standards for the School Service Personnel Certificate (23 Ill. Adm. Code 23), the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards (23 Ill. Adm. Code 24), and Standards for Administrative Certification (23 Ill. Adm. Code 29), as applicable to the educator, in the learning environment;

▪ Respect the inherent dignity and worth of each student by assuring that the learning environment is characterized by respect and equal opportunity for each student, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion, language or socio-economic status;

▪ Maintain a professional relationship with students at all times;

▪ Provide a curriculum based on high expectations for each student that addresses individual differences through the design, implementation, and adaptation of effective instruction; and

▪ Foster in each student the development of attributes that will enhance skills and knowledge necessary to be a contributing member of society.

PRINCIPLE 2: RESPONSIBILITY TO SELF

The Illinois Educator is committed to establishing high professional standards for their practice and striving to meet these standards through their performance. Illinois Educators:

▪Assume responsibility and accountability for their performance and continually strive to demonstrate proficiency and currency in both content knowledge and professional practice;

▪Develop and implement personal and professional goals with attention to professional standards through a process of self assessment and professional development;

▪Represent their professional credentials and qualifications accurately; and

▪Demonstrate a high level of professional judgment.

PRINCIPLE 3: RESPONSIBILITY TO COLLEAGUES AND THE PROFESSION

The Illinois Educator is committed to collaborating with school and district colleagues and other professionals in the interest of student learning. Illinois Educators:

▪Collaborate with colleagues in the local school and district to meet local and state educational standards;

▪Work together to create a respectful, professional and supportive school climate that allows all educators to maintain their individual professional integrity;

▪Seek out and engage in activities that contribute to the ongoing development of the profession;

▪Promote participation in educational decision making processes;

▪Encourage promising candidates to enter the education profession; and

▪Support the preparation, induction, mentoring and professional development of educators.

PRINCIPLE 4: RESPONSIBILITY TO PARENTS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

The Illinois Educator will collaborate, build trust, and respect confidentiality with parents, families, and communities to create effective instruction and learning environments for each student. Illinois Educators:

▪Aspire to understand and respect the values and traditions of the diversity represented in the community and in their learning environments;

▪Encourage and advocate for fair and equal educational opportunities for each student;

▪Develop and maintain professional relationships with parents, families, and communities;

▪Promote collaboration and support student learning through regular and meaningful communication with parents, families, and communities; and

▪Cooperate with community agencies that provide resources and services to enhance the learning environment.

Principle 5: Responsibility to the Illinois State Board of Education

The Illinois Educator is committed to supporting the Administrative and School Codes, state and federal laws and regulations, and the Illinois State Board of Education's standards for highly qualified educators. Illinois Educators:

▪Provide accurate communication to the Illinois State Board of Education concerning all certification matters;

▪Maintain appropriate certification for employment; and

▪Comply with state and federal codes, laws, and regulations.

Resources

Code of Ethics Examples from States that are Based on Principles

California
http://www.cta.org/media/newsroom/code_ethics.htm

Colorado
http://mail.deltaschools.com/Policies/FOV2-00021017/GBEA-E%20-%20Teachers%20Code%20of%20Ethics.pdf?FCItemID=S00741FDA

Florida
http://www.fldoe.org/edstandards/pdfs/ethics.pdf

Kansas
http://www.knea.org/profession/codeofethics.html

Michigan
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Code_of_Ethics_Layout 12800 97.pdf

New York
http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/pdf/codeofethics.pdf

Rhode Island
http://www.ride.ri.gov

Code of Ethics Examples from States that are Based on Standards

Alabama
http://www.fcs.k12.al.us/System_Site/General_Information/Alabama_Educator_Code_of_Ethics.pdf

Arkansas
http://arkansased.org/rules/pdf/current/ade_291_ethics_060908current.pdf

Georgia
http://www.gapsc.com/Rules/Current/Ethics/505-6-.01.pdf

Iowa
www.**state.ia.us**/boee/doc/ethHndot.doc

Minnesota
http://www.brookcntr.k12.mn.us/files/teachcodeofethics.pdf

Texas
http://www.tcta.org/capital/sbec/codeapproved.htm

Code of Ethics from Associations

Association of American Educators
http://www.aaeteachers.org/code-ethics.shtml

Illinois Principals Association
http://www.ilprincipals.org/

National Association of Elementary School Principals
http://www.naesp.org/

National Education Association
http://www.nea.org/

Council for Exceptional Children
http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ProfessionalStandards/EthicsPracticeStandards/default.htm

Illinois Association of School Business Officials
http://www.iasbo.org/files/public/SA%20Code%20of%20Ethics_final.pdf

Illinois State Board of Education
http://isbe.net/board/pdf/mission_statement.pdf
See also the following document:

ISBE Mission Goals Strategies Blk Whi.pd

Code of Ethics Comparison Matrix of Education Associations

American Association of School Administrators
http://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=1390

Association of American Educators
http://www.aaeteachers.org/code-ethics.shtml

Chicago Public Schools
http://policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/503.1.pdf

Council for Exceptional Children
http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ProfessionalStandards/EthicsPracticeStandards/default.htm

Illinois Association of School Administrators
http://www.iasaedu.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=124:iasa-code-of-ethics&catid=52:the-project&Itemid=157

Illinois Association of School Boards
http://www.iasb.com/associates/SA_homepage_flyer.pdf

Illinois Principals Association
http://www.ilprincipals.org/

Illinois State Board of Education (Mission & Goals)
http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/mission_statement.pdf

National Education Association
http://www.nea.org/

National Association of Special Education Teachers
http://www.naset.org/2444.0.html

Related Web Sites

Illinois Professional Teaching Standards
http://www.isbe.net/esd/psag.htm

Illinois Educator Code of Ethics Advisory Group
http://www.isbe.net/esd/htmls/ethics.htm

Teacher Instructional Leader Advisory Group for Illinois
http://www.isbe.net/esd/htmls/leader.htm

Illinois Educator Misconduct Legislation
http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/96/PDF/096-0431.pdf