

*Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries with Students***Authority**

This Policy applies to all District employees (including District-paid coaches), coaches of sports and recognized club sports, volunteers, student teachers and independent contractors and their employees who interact with District students or are present on school grounds. Such individuals are referred to collectively as **Adults**. The term **Adults** does not include District students who perform services on a volunteer or compensated basis.

Adults are expected to maintain professional, moral and ethical relationships with District students that are conducive to an effective, safe learning environment. This Policy addresses a range of behaviors that include unlawful or improper interactions with students, precursor misconduct and other boundary-blurring behaviors that can lead to both more egregious misconduct as well as discomfort and unease for students even if the Adult's motives are benign.

Adults shall be informed of conduct that is prohibited by this Policy and the disciplinary actions that may be applied in the event of any violations.

This Policy applies not only to conduct that place on school property, but also to conduct that takes place away from school property to the fullest extent permitted by law. This Policy is not intended, however, and will not be enforced in a way that interferes with appropriate personal relationships between Adults and students and their families that exist independently of the District or to interfere with participation in civic, religious or other outside organizations that include District students.

Definition

Electronic communication shall mean a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular telephone, computer, computer network, personal data assistant or pager. Electronic communications include, but are not limited to, emails, instant messages and communications made by means of an Internet website, including social media and other networking websites.

Legitimate educational reasons include matters or communications related to teaching, counseling, athletics, extracurricular activities, treatment of a student's physical injury or other medical needs, school administration or other purposes within the scope of the Adult's assigned duties.

Student means a student enrolled in or attending Tredyffrin/Eastown School District schools.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop Administrative Regulations implementing this Policy in accordance with applicable law.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform Students, parents/guardians and Adults regarding the contents of this Policy through handbooks, posting on the District’s website and by other appropriate methods as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

The building principal or designee shall be available to answer questions about behaviors or activities that may violate professional boundaries as defined in this Policy.

Independent contractors doing business with the District shall ensure that their employees who have interaction with Students or are present on school grounds are informed of the provisions of this Policy.

References:

Board Policy and Administrative Regulation No. 5436 “Reporting Suspected Child Abuse”

School Code — 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1302.1-A, 1303-A

State Board of Education Regulations — 22 PA Code Sec. 10.2, 10.21, 10.22 Educator Discipline Act — 24 P.S. Sec. 2070.1a et seq.

Pennsylvania's Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators — 22 PA Code Sec. 235.1 et seq.

Child Protective Services Law — 23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6301 et seq.

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