

CODE OF ETHICS

7(2)(i) The impact which the teaching profession has on our society is immeasurable and the quality and character of the individual members of the profession are prominent factors in the economic and moral levels of that society. Therefore, the profession must establish rules of conduct for all who are engaged therein to ensure the highest possible performance standards.

To that end, it is agreed that the following Code be carried out, in both letter and spirit, as a basis of conduct in the teaching profession.

7(2)(i)I. GENERAL DUTIES OF MEMBERS

A teacher shall strive at all times to achieve and maintain the highest degree of professional competence and to uphold the honour, dignity, and ethical standards of the teaching profession.

7(2)(i)II. DUTIES OF A MEMBER TO HIS/HER PUPILS

A. A member shall:

1. regard as his/her first duty the effective education of his/her pupils and the maintenance of a high degree of professional competence in his/her teaching;
2. endeavour to develop in his/her pupils an appreciation of standards of excellence;
3. endeavour to inculcate in his/her pupils an appreciation of the principles of democracy;
4. show consistent justice and consideration in all his/her relations with pupils;
5. refuse to divulge beyond his/her proper duty confidential information about a pupil; and
6. concern himself /herself with the welfare of his/her pupils while they are under his/her care.

B. A member shall regard the dignity, liberty and integrity of each student under his/her supervision and endeavour to convey to a student some understanding of his/her own worth.

C. A member shall not accept remuneration for tutoring his/her own pupils in subjects or programs taught to the pupil by the member.

7(2)(i)III. DUTIES OF A MEMBER TO HIS/HER PROFESSION

- A. A member should:
 - 1. promote and advance the cause of education;
 - 2. promote a positive image of the teaching profession;
 - 3. promote and advance the interests of members and to secure conditions that will make possible the best professional service;
 - 4. arouse and increase public interest in educational affairs; and
 - 5. cooperate with other teachers' organizations throughout the world.
- B. A member should not engage in any outside employment which will impair the effectiveness of his/her professional service.
- C. A member should not criticize the professional competence or professional reputation of a colleague except to proper officials and then only in confidence and after the colleague has been informed of the criticism.
- D. Every member should strive to be supportive of other members as well as positive in his/her criticism of fellow members.
- E. All members should cooperate in the interest of students.
- F. The member does not undermine the confidence of pupils in other members.
- G. The member observes a reasonable respect for the authority of school administrators and recognizes the duty to protest through proper channels, administrative policies and practices which he/she cannot in conscience accept; and further recognizes that if administration by consent fails, the administrator must adopt a position of authority.
- H. The member, as an administrator, respects staff members as individuals and provides continuous opportunities for staff members to express their opinions and bring forth suggestions regarding the administration of the school.

7.(2)(i)IV. DUTIES OF A MEMBER TO EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES

A. A member shall:

1. comply with the Acts and Regulations administered by the Minister;
2. cooperate with his educational authorities to improve public education;
3. respect the legal authority of the board of trustees in the management of the school and in the employment of members;
4. make, in the proper manner, such reports concerning members under his/her authority as may be required by the board of trustees; and
5. present in the proper manner to the proper authorities the consequences to be expected from policies or practices which in his/her professional opinion are seriously detrimental to the interest of pupils.

B. A member shall not:

1. break a contract of employment with a board of trustees; or
2. violate a written or oral agreement to enter into a contract of employment with a board of trustees; or
3. while holding a contract of employment with a board of trustees indicate acceptance of which would necessitate his/her seeking the termination of his/her contract by mutual consent of the member and the board, unless and until he/she has arranged with his/her board for such termination of contract if he/she obtains the other position.

C. A principal, vice-principal, department head or subject coordinator shall not subscribe to the dismissal of a member for reason of unsatisfactory service without first attempting to help and counsel that member by means of continuous evaluation.

D. A member shall report through proper channels all matters harmful to the welfare of the school. He/she does not by-pass immediate authority to reach higher authority without first exhausting the proper channels of communication.

7.(2)(i)V. DUTIES OF A MEMBER TO THE PUBLIC

- A. A member should show respect for law, authority and codes of conduct acceptable both within the profession and within society as a whole.
- B. A member should recognize a responsibility to promote a respect for human rights.

7.(2)(i)VI. DUTIES OF A MEMBER TO THE TEACHERS' FEDERATION

- A. A member should participate in the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation.
- B. A member shall cooperate with the Federation to promote the welfare of the profession.
- C. The member, or group of members, should not take any individual action in matters which should be dealt with by the Federation.
- D. The member should adhere to Federation policy and seek to change such policy only through the proper channels of the Federation.

7.(2)(i)VII. Any charge of breach of this Code of Ethics shall be considered in accordance with 'Procedure for Considering Charges of Unethical Conduct' contained in the By-Laws of the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation.