

Code of Ethics of the Education Profession

Members of the teaching profession (as defined in AS 14.20.370) are obligated to abide by the code of ethics and professional teaching standards adopted by the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

Authority: AS 14.20.480

**The Commission's office is located at:
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20 AAC 10.020. CODE OF ETHICS AND TEACHING STANDARDS.

(a) The following code of ethical standards governs all members of the teaching profession. A violation of this section is grounds for discipline as provided in AS 14.20.030.

(b) In fulfilling obligations to students, an educator

- (1) repealed 10/25/2000;
- (2) may not deliberately distort, suppress, or deny access to curricular materials or educational information in order to promote the personal view, interest, or goal of the educator;
- (3) shall make reasonable effort to protect students from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety;
- (4) may not engage in physical abuse of a student or sexual conduct with a student and shall report to the commission knowledge of such an act by an educator;
- (5) may not expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement;
- (6) may not harass, discriminate against, or grant a discriminatory advantage to a student on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, physical or mental conditions, family, social, or cultural background, or sexual orientation; shall make reasonable effort to assure that a student is protected from harassment or discrimination on these grounds; and may not engage in a course of conduct that would encourage a reasonable student to develop a prejudice on these grounds;
- (7) may not use professional relationships with students for private advantage or gain;
- (8) shall keep in confidence information that has been obtained in the course of providing professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law;
- (9) shall accord just and equitable treatment to all students as they exercise their educational rights and responsibilities.

(c) In fulfilling obligations to the public, an educator

- (1) repealed 10/25/2000;
- (2) shall take reasonable precautions to distinguish between the educator's personal views and those of any educational institution or organization with which the educator is affiliated;
- (3) shall cooperate in the statewide student assessment system established under 4 AAC 06.710 – 4 AAC 06.790 by safeguarding and maintaining the confidentiality of test materials and information;
- (4) repealed 10/25/00;
- (5) may not use institutional privileges for private gain, to promote political candidates, or for partisan political activities;
- (6) may not accept a gratuity, gift, or favor that might influence or appear to influence professional judgment, and may not offer a gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantage;
- (7) may not knowingly withhold or misrepresent material information in communicating with the school board regarding a matter before the board for its decision; and
- (8) may not use or allow the use of district resources for private purposes not related to the district programs and operation.

(d) In fulfilling obligations to the profession, an educator

- (1) may not, on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, physical condition, family, social or cultural background, or sexual orientation, deny to a colleague a professional benefit, advantage, or participation in any professional organization, and may not discriminate in employment practice, assignment, or personnel evaluation;
- (2) shall accord just and equitable treatment of all members of the profession in the exercise of their professional rights and responsibilities;
- (3) may not use coercive means or promise special treatment in order to influence professional decisions of colleagues;
- (4) may not sexually harass a fellow employee;

(5) shall withhold and safeguard information acquired about colleagues in the course of employment, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose;

(6) shall provide, upon the request of the affected party, a written statement of specific reasons for recommendations that led to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment;

(7) may not deliberately misrepresent the educator's or another's professional qualifications;

(8) repealed 10/25/2000;

(9) may not falsify a document, or make a misrepresentation on a matter related to licensure, employment evaluation, test results, or professional duties;

(10) may not intentionally make a false or malicious statement about a colleague's professional performance or conduct;

(11) may not intentionally file a false or malicious complaint with the commission;

(12) may not seek reprisal against any individual who has filed a complaint, provided testimony, or given other assistance in support of a complaint filed with the commission;

(13) shall cooperate fully and honestly in investigations and hearings of the commission;

(14) repealed 10/25/2000;

(15) may not unlawfully breach a professional employment contract;

(16) shall conduct professional business through appropriate channels;

(17) may not assign tasks to unqualified personnel;

(18) may not continue in or seek professional employment while unfit due to

(A) use of drugs or alcohol that impairs the educator's competence or the safety of students or colleagues;

(B) physical or mental disability that impairs the educator's competence or the safety of students or colleagues;

(19) may not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or citizenship rights and responsibilities. (Eff. 1/30/75, Register 53; am 8/10/80, Register 75; am 6/16/84, Register 90; am 8/5/90, Register 115; am 7/21/91, Register 119; am 7/28/94, Register 131; am 4/8/99, Register 150; am 10/25/2000, Register 156)

Authority:

AS 14.20.030

AS 14.20.370

AS 14.20.450

AS 14.20.460

AS 14.20.480

20 AAC 10.035. MORAL TURPITUDE.

For the purposes of AS 14.20.030(a)(2),

(1) "moral turpitude" means conduct that is wrong in itself even if no statute were to prohibit the conduct; and

(2) "a crime involving moral turpitude" includes

- (A) homicide;
- (B) manslaughter;
- (C) assault;
- (D) stalking;
- (E) kidnapping;
- (F) sexual assault;
- (G) sexual abuse of a minor;
- (H) unlawful exploitation of a minor;
- (I) robbery;
- (J) extortion;
- (K) coercion;
- (L) theft;
- (M) burglary;
- (N) arson;
- (O) criminal mischief;
- (P) forgery;
- (Q) criminal impersonation;
- (R) bribery;
- (S) perjury;
- (T) unsworn falsification;
- (U) interference with official proceedings;
- (V) witness tampering;
- (W) jury tampering;

- (X) terroristic threatening;
- (Y) possession or distribution of child pornography;
- (Z) unlawful distribution or possession for distribution of a controlled substance;
- (AA) unlawfully furnishing alcohol to a minor;
- (BB) felony possession of a controlled substance. (Eff. 4/8/99, Register 150; am 12/25/2005, Register 176)

Authority:

AS 14.20.030

AS 14.20.450

AS 14.20.460

20 AAC 10.900. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter,

(1) "sexual conduct" includes solicitations for sex; explicit sexual jokes and stories; discussion of the educator's sexual feelings or activities; discussion, outside of a professional teaching or counseling context, of a student's sexual feelings or activities; and "sexual penetration" and "sexual contact" as those terms are defined in AS 11.81.900(j).

(2) "physical abuse" is an action beyond reasonable discipline that results in an adverse physical effect upon a student.

(3) "director" means the person appointed to fill the position of "executive secretary" as described in AS 14.20.470 (a)(7). (Eff. 8/5/90, Register 115; am 7/28/94, Register 131; am 4/8/99, Register 150)

Authority:

AS 14.20.030

AS 14.20.450

AS 14.20.460

AS 14.20.470

AS 14.20.480

This brochure is provided by the Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

Revised December 2005

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHING
PRACTICES COMMISSION STATEWIDE
TESTING STATEMENT**

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES
COMMISSION STATEMENT REGARDING
ETHICAL CONDUCT OF EDUCATORS
WITH REGARD TO TESTING.

Statewide testing programs must be administered equitably and ethically, including security, preparation, and administration. It is the responsibility of certificated individuals who handle the tests, who administer tests, and/or who use the results of the test to follow test security regulations and procedures. Certificated individuals are required to comply with:

20 AAC 10.020 (CODE OF ETHICS OF THE EDUCATION PROFESSION)

(c) In fulfilling obligations to the public, an educator

(3) shall cooperate in the statewide student assessment system established under 4 AAC 06.710 – 4 AAC 06.790 by safeguarding and maintaining the confidentiality of test materials and information;

4 AAC 06.765

(f) School and district personnel responsible for test administration shall annually execute an agreement, on a form provided by the department, affirming that they will follow the test procedures required under this section.

Revised May 6, 2008

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHING
PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATEMENT ON
HIGHLY QUALIFIED**

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING
PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATEMENT REGARDING ETHICAL
CONDUCT OF EDUCATORS WITH
REGARD TO HIGHLY QUALIFIED

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) has determined that the highly qualified teachers' requirement under 4 AAC 04.210 establishes a relationship between certified teachers, public school districts and the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED). Non-compliance with 4 AAC 04.210 does not constitute misconduct for which PTPC has oversight.

DEED is the compliance agency and is responsible for determining appropriate corrective action or remedy for non-compliance with its regulation.

Revised May 6, 2008

**THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHING
PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATEMENT ON
CONTRACTUAL ISSUES**

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission has statutory authority to investigate allegations of contract violations. The PTPC issued this statement of procedures with regard to contract violations at its general meeting March 4, 2010. All educators should be aware of possible sanctions against their certificate as described in this statement.

**I. PROCEDURES OF PTPC ON BREACH OF
CONTRACT DUE TO UNILATERAL
TERMINATION BY AN EMPLOYEE**

A. An educator under contract with a school district who fails to give written notice of intent to terminate the contract, or who leaves the position following such notice without having the written assent of the employer, shall be deemed to have breached the contract and may be subject to disciplinary action including possible revocation of certificates by the PTPC.

B. If the unilateral termination by the educator occurs after June 30th, without persuasive mitigating circumstances, such a violation will result in a minimum one-year suspension of the educator's certificate.

**II. PTPC RECOMMENDATIONS TO
SCHOOL BOARDS**

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission recommends that each school district develop a policy, which addresses:

A. What the school district will do in the event an educator requests to resign from contract or leaves a position with notice, and;

B. What procedures the school district will follow when recruiting an educator currently under contract with another school district, including an educator who has not obtained a written release from that employer.

Revised March 4, 2010