

Teachers Code of Ethics

PREAMBLE:

We, the members of the teaching profession of the State of Colorado, subscribe to the ethical and professional behaviors essential to the education of the citizens of this State.

Colorado teachers commit themselves to the observance of the responsibilities herein defined which they believe are essential to the establishment of a learning climate conducive to student growth and development.

Such commitment presupposes that the teacher will be provided an environment in which to work, assuring:

1. Mental and cultural growth through his own continuing education;
2. Professional tools and learning environment necessary to support a professional level of service;
3. Academic freedom;
4. Compensation commensurate to the teacher's professional preparation, training experience and service;
5. Choice of membership in professional organizations;
6. The welfare of students under the teacher's control.

The delineation of these rights is not to be considered definitive. Teachers are to enjoy all of the rights accorded by law or other public policy.

The standards of ethical conduct set forth in this code can be achieved only if teachers are accorded the professional rights and privileges necessary to the responsibilities imposed by the code. In any case involving an alleged violation of these standards, the Professional Practices Commission shall consider the extent to which a teacher's ability to adhere to the standard has been circumscribed by the absence of the necessary correlative rights and privileges.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The following shall be considered to be unethical behavior on the part of the teacher:

1. Failure in the performance of professional duties to accord fair, and equal treatment to all students, colleagues, and subordinates.
2. Failure to exercise reasonable care to protect mental and physical safety of students, colleagues and subordinates for whom the teacher is responsible.
3. Acceptance of anything of substantial value from any person when the teacher knows, or a reasonable person could construe, that the offer is for the purpose of influencing his professional judgment or his performance of professional duties.

4. Material misrepresentation of professional qualifications.
5. Knowing and substantial distortion or suppression of subject matter for the purpose of misleading students.
6. Deterrence of the student, without just cause, from individual action in his pursuit of learning or denying without cause, access to varying points of view.
7. Use by a teacher or intentionally permitting another person to use a teacher's professional position for purposes of advancing private, economic interests. Private economic interest is not to be construed as including fair remuneration for professional services.
8. Failure to keep in confidence information that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
9. Directing a person to carry out professional responsibilities knowing that such person is not qualified for the responsibilities given, except for assignments of short duration in emergency situations.

In order to warrant a recommendation by the Commission to the State Board of Education that the teacher's certificate be suspended or revoked, a violation of these standards must be of such a severe nature as to render the person found by the Commission to have engaged in such violation, unfit to continue teaching or to perform educational duties.

This code is not and cannot be legally binding upon the profession, nor can it be used as the sole basis for revocation or issuance of license.

Delta County School District 50J

Adopted: