

3.1 – Ethical Standards For Teachers

As a Professional Educator:

- I strive to make my foremost responsibility the education and welfare of all students in my care, and I respect the uniqueness and dignity of each student.
- I strive to build relationships with students' families, as appropriate, that contribute to students' welfare and education.
- I strive to promote mutual respect and trust in my relationships with colleagues, I assist newcomers to the profession, and I behave in a way which enhances the status of the profession.
- I do my best to fulfill my responsibilities to my employer, my community and society.

RESPONSIBILITY TO STUDENTS

As a professional educator, I strive to make my foremost responsibility the education and welfare of all students in my care, and I respect the uniqueness and dignity of each student. This means that I:

Regard the lifelong learning of students as the main goal of teaching

- provide students with opportunities to learn equally
- recognize each student's unique potential and educational needs
- assess students constructively
- entrust professional responsibilities only to those professionally qualified or endorsed
- encourage students to strive for high standards and to value learning

Base teaching on best theoretical and practical knowledge and knowledge of each student's development

- participate in professional development
- teach according to each student's educational ability and potential
- accept personal responsibility for providing quality teaching
- seek available support and resources to improve teaching practice

Recognize, respect, and promote the understanding of diversity

- encourage students to respect all persons
- encourage students to understand the diversity in human values, beliefs, practices, and actions
- accept the expression of different opinions and perspectives and help students to assess the worth of these
- provide students with access to different opinions and views
- consider fairly all viewpoints in debates of contentious issues
- ensure that any discriminatory treatment of specific students is justifiable.

Provide an environment which promotes the physical, emotional, social and intellectual well-being of all students

- protect and support the physical development and well-being of all students
- provide a safe and supportive physical environment
- recognize and develop each student's strengths, competencies and talents to the highest possible level
- protect students from intimidation, embarrassment, degradation or harm

- enhance student autonomy and sense of self-worth
- encourage students to develop and evaluate their own values
- support the relationship between student and family
- provide an environment in which students can express and understand a range of emotions

Create and maintain appropriate professional relationships with students

- develop and maintain a professional relationship with students which serves their best interests
- show consistent justice and consideration in relation to students
- be honest and open in communications
- ensure students understand the rules, regulations, and procedures that affect them in their interactions with their peers and with the teaching profession
- always consider the student's best interest over personal interest or benefit
- foster within students a respect for the profession and colleagues

Protect students' rights to privacy and confidentiality

- respect the student's privacy
- maintain the confidentiality of information unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law, or unless the personal safety of the student is at risk
- handle information with honesty and integrity

RESPONSIBILITIES TO STUDENTS' PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND FAMILIES

As a professional educator, I strive to build relationships with students' families, as appropriate, that contribute to students' welfare and education. This means that I strive to:

Establish relationships with parents based on courtesy, mutual trust and open Communication

- negotiate constructively to achieve the best possible outcome for students
- engage parents in decision making through developing partnerships
- consider parents' perspectives in making decisions regarding the education of their children
- ensure parents understand relevant rules, regulations, and procedures that affect their children

Respect family privacy and treat information with an appropriate level of confidentiality

- maintain the confidentiality of information unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law, or unless the personal safety of a student is at risk

Respect parents' and guardians' rights of inquiry, consultation and information with regard to their children

- use professional honesty and discretion in presenting facts regarding the educational development of their children
- share general knowledge of child development
- be sensitive to legal implications of differing family structures

Respect the uniqueness and characteristics of family backgrounds

- respect cultural diversity
- consider the family perspective
- respect family values and opinions whilst enabling students to examine a variety of viewpoints

COMMITMENT TO COLLEAGUES AND TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION GENERALLY

As a professional educator, I strive to promote mutual respect and trust in my relationships with colleagues (both teachers and others), I assist newcomers to the profession, and I behave in a way which enhances the status of the profession. This means that I strive to:

Build an atmosphere of trust, mutual respect and openness

- recognize and respect the individual potential and talents of colleagues irrespective of race, gender, age, religion, etc
- encourage openness and tolerance among colleagues
- use constructive methods of resolving any conflict which may arise
- observe the principles of justice in dealing with any complaints against colleagues
- protect the professional reputation and career prospects of colleagues from malicious damage

Act within the educational and wider community in a way which enhances the status of the Profession

- foster unity, harmony and cooperation in working relationships
- respect the ethical professional practice of colleagues in other settings
- foster wider community understanding of the profession
- support educational ideals and achievements, in order both to engender public respect and understanding and to attract high quality recruits

Commit myself to ongoing professional learning and continually improve my teaching and learning strategies

- participate in professional development
- support and cooperate in research to strengthen and expand the knowledge base of teaching
- network professionally with colleagues

Assist, support and encourage newcomers to the profession

- be committed to the preparation of the next generation of teachers
- be willing to work with pre-service teachers in order to help them learn to become teachers
- be prepared to develop supervisory or mentoring skills in order to assist pre-service teachers and beginning teachers
- be responsive to initiating beginning teachers into the profession
- support beginning teachers in their professional development
- encourage a professional culture of service through personal example
- share expertise and knowledge with other members of the profession

RESPONSIBILITIES TO TEACHER EMPLOYERS AND TO THE COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY

As a professional educator, I do my best to fulfill my responsibilities to my employer, my community and society. This means that I strive to:

Be truthful when making statements about qualifications and competencies

- disclose all relevant information and materials when making an application to an employer
- encourage and assist to enter the profession only those with suitable attributes and qualifications

Observe contractual commitments

- respect the proper administrative authority of the employer
- abide by the rules and by-laws of the school or institution
- ensure criticism or complaints are made through the correct grievance mechanisms

Promote actively the improvement of school/institutional policies

- contribute to or support amendments to rules and policies in the best interests of the students and in response to changing social needs
- where possible, contribute constructively to decision making regarding school policy

Provide a high standard of professional service

- participate in professional development
- access available support and resources to improve teaching practice
- use resources efficiently to avoid waste or extravagance

Develop in students the values of a democratic society: respect for others, freedom, equality, integrity, participation and the pursuit of truth

- provide students with a positive model
- support and promote active and informed citizenship
- integrate values education into the curriculum
- provide opportunities for students to participate in democratic processes

Promote cooperation among all agencies and professionals working in the best interests of students and families

- foster links between school and community
- cooperate with other professionals in the best interests of students
- participate in inter-agency forums beyond school

Provide a professional service which is responsive to the needs of the community

- encourage community participation within the school
- be aware of current concerns or social issues within the community
- promote an interest in community and environmental issues
- provide leadership in identifying the educational needs of the community

Develop, by precept and example, a respect for laws and policies which protect and promote the well-being of students, families and the community

- set a positive example in the performance of civic obligations
- work to change laws or policies that interfere with the well-being of students
- obey laws and policies that relate to the work of teachers

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