

Dyer County Board of Education

Descriptor Term:

Ethics

Descriptor Code:

GBU

Board Approved:

1/7/2020

Rescinds:

GBU

Board Approved:

8/20/96

1 An effective education program requires the services of men and women of integrity, high ideals and
2 human understanding. To maintain and promote these essentials, all employees are expected to maintain
3 high standards in their school relationships. These standards include the following:

- 4
5 1. The maintenance of just and courteous professional relationships with student, parent(s), staff
6 members and others;
- 7
8 2. The maintenance of their own efficiency and knowledge of the developments in their fields of
9 work;
- 10
11 3. The transaction of all official business with the properly designated authorities of the school
12 system;
- 13
14 4. The establishment of friendly and intelligent cooperation between the community and the
15 school system;
- 16
17 5. The representation of the school system on all occasions that the contributions of the school
18 system to the community are recognized;
- 19
20 6. The placement of the welfare of children as the first concern of the school system, thus
21 appointments to positions and transfers must be based solely on merit. The use of pressure on
22 school officials for appointments or transfers is unethical;
- 23
24 7. Restraint from using school contacts and privileges to promote partisan politics, sectarian
25 religious views or selfish propaganda of any kind;
- 26
27 8. The responsibility to make any criticism of other staff members or of the school system
28 directly to the particular school administrator who has the administrative responsibility for
29 improving the situation and then to the director of schools, if necessary; and
- 30
31 9. The proper use and protection of all school properties, equipment and materials.

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33 Professional personnel shall observe the code of ethics exhibited with this policy.¹

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38 Legal References:

- 39 1. TCA 49-5-501(3)(D)
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Code of Ethics

Preamble

The educator, believing in the worth and dignity of each human being, recognizes the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence and the nurture of democratic principles. Essential to these goals is the protection of freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator accepts the responsibility to adhere to the highest ethical standards.

The educator recognizes the magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the teaching process. The desire for the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents and of the members of the community provides the incentive to attain and maintain the highest possible degree of ethical conduct.

The Code of Ethics of the Education Profession indicates the aspiration of all educators and provides standards by which to judge conduct.

Principle I

Commitment to the Student

The educator strives to help each student realize his or her potential as a worthy and effective member of society. The educator therefore works to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator -

1. Shall abide by all applicable federal and state laws;
2. Shall not unreasonably restrain the student from independent action in the pursuit of learning;
3. Shall provide the student with professional education services in a nondiscriminatory manner and in consonance with accepted best practices known to the educator;
4. Shall respect the constitutional rights of the student;
5. Shall not unreasonably deny the student access to varying points of view;
6. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter relevant to the student's progress;
7. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety;
8. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the emotional well-being of the student;
9. Shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement;
10. Shall not on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social or cultural background or sexual orientation, unfairly;
 - A. Exclude any student from participation in any program;
 - B. Deny benefits to any student; or
 - C. Grant any advantage to any student;
11. Shall not use the educator's professional relationship with the student for private advantage;
12. Shall not disclose information about the student obtained in the course of the educator's professional service, unless disclosure of the information is permitted, serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.
13. Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about students or colleagues;
14. Shall ensure interactions with the student take place in transparent and appropriate settings;
15. Shall not engage in any sexually related behavior with the student, whether verbal, written, physical, or electronic, with or without the student's consent. Sexually related behaviors includes, but is not limited to, behaviors such as making sexual jokes or sexual remarks, engaging in sexual kidding, sexual teasing, or sexual innuendo, pressuring the student for dates or sexual favors; engaging in inappropriate physical touching, groping, or grabbing, kissing, rape, threatening physical harm, and committing sexual assault;
16. Shall not furnish alcohol or illegal or unauthorized drugs to the student.
17. Shall strive to prevent the use of alcohol or illegal or unauthorized drugs by the student when the student is under the educator's supervision on school or LEA premises, during school activities, or in any private setting;
18. Shall refrain from the use of alcohol while on school or LEA premises or during a school activity at which students are present; and
19. Shall maintain a professional approach with the student at all times.

Principle II

Commitment to the Profession

The educational profession is vested by the public with a trust and responsibility requiring the highest ideals of professional service.

In the belief that the quality of the services of the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards, to promote a climate that encourages the exercise of professional judgment, to achieve conditions which attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education, and to assist in preventing the practice of the profession by unqualified persons.

In fulfillment of this obligation to the profession, an educator shall not:

1. Deliberately make a false statement or fail to disclose a material fact related to competency and qualifications in an application for a professional position;
2. Misrepresent the educator's professional qualifications;
3. Assist entry into the profession of a person known to be unqualified in respect to character, education, or other relevant attribute;
4. Knowingly make a false statement concerning the qualifications of a candidate for a professional position;
5. Assist a noneducator in the unauthorized practice of teaching;
6. Disclose information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless the disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or it's required by law;
7. Knowingly make false or malicious statements about a colleague;
8. Accept any gratuity, gift, or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or actions; and
9. Use illegal or unauthorized drugs

In fulfillment of this obligation to the profession, educators shall:

1. Administer state-mandated assessments fairly and ethically; and
2. Conduct themselves in a manner that preserves the dignity and integrity of the education profession.