



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Special Update Sept. 2023 REVISED
Title	STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT
Code	*po0124 am 1-24, jdr 2-12-24
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Last Revised	February 23, 2021

0124 - **Standards of Ethical Conduct**

Members of the School Board recognize their individual duty to promote the best interests of the District. Public schools as a whole and each Board member shall adhere to the following educational and ethical standards.

Board members must have a sincere desire to serve the educational needs of the community. Decisions must be based on the best interests of students and not on political or personal interests.

Board members recognize their individual duty to promote the best interests of the District. In doing so, members of the Board shall be guided by the *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida*, F.A.C. 6A-10.081, which outlines the following ethical principles:

- A. Board members value the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
- B. Board members share the primary professional concern for the student and for the development of the student's potential. Members of the Board will, therefore, strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
- C. Board members strive to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct because they are aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of their colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community.

Members of the Board shall strive to fulfill the following obligations:

- A. Obligation to the student requires that members of the Board do what is necessary and appropriate so that:
 - 1. students are protected from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the students' mental and/or physical health and/or safety is protected as well.
 - 2. students are not unreasonably restrained from independent action in pursuit of learning.
 - 3. students are not unreasonably denied access to diverse points of view.
 - 4. subject matter relevant to a student's academic program is not intentionally suppressed or distorted.
 - 5. students are not intentionally exposed to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.

6. students are not intentionally provided classroom instruction in prekindergarten through grade 8 on sexual orientation or gender identity, except when required by F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3. and 1003.46.
7. students are not intentionally provided classroom instruction to students in grades 9 through 12 on sexual orientation or gender identity unless such instruction is required by State academic standards as adopted by F.A.C. 6A-1.09401, or is part of a reproductive health course or health lesson for which a student's parent has the option to have their student not attend.
8. student's legal rights are not intentionally violated.
9. parents are not discouraged or prohibited parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being unless the individual reasonably believes that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in F.S. 39.01.
10. students are not harassed or discriminated against on the basis of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin, sex (including sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, political beliefs, social and family background, military status, ancestry, or genetic information and each student is protected from harassment or discrimination.
11. District staff members, administrators, or officials do not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.
12. personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service is kept in confidence unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
13. the Board member shall not violate F.S. 553.865(9)(b), which relates to entering restrooms and changing facilities designated for the opposite sex on the premises of an educational institution.
14. the Board member shall not violate F.S. 1000.071, which relates to the use of personal titles and pronouns in educational institutions.

B. Obligation to the public requires that the members of the Board do what is necessary and appropriate so that:

1. District staff members, administrators, and officials distinguish between personal views and those of the District.
2. facts concerning an educational matter are not intentionally distorted or misrepresented in direct or indirect public expression.
3. institutional privileges are not used for personal gain or advantage. (see also Bylaw 0141.2, *Conflict of Interest*)
4. District staff members, administrators, and officials do not accept a gratuity, gift, or favor that might influence professional judgment. (see also Bylaw 0141.2, *Conflict of Interest*)
5. District staff members, administrators, and official do not offer a gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantages. (see also Bylaw 0141.2, *Conflict of Interest*)

C. Obligation to the profession of education requires that members of the Board do what is necessary and appropriate so that:

1. all District staff members, administrators, and official maintain honesty in all professional dealings.
2. a District staff member, administrator, or official is not denied professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization not on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex (including sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, political beliefs, social and family background, military status, ancestry, or genetic information.
3. District staff members, administrators, or officials do not interfere with a District staff member's, administrator's, or official's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.

4. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, so that each District staff member, administrator, or official is protected from such harassment or discrimination.
 5. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not make malicious or intentionally false statements about another District staff member, administrator, or official.
 6. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not use coercive means or promises of special treatment to influence professional judgments of a colleague.
 7. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications.
 8. District staff members, administrators, or officials do not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities.
 9. District staff members, administrators, or officials do not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact in one's own or another's application for a professional position.
 10. District staff members, administrators, or officials do not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
 11. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not assist with entry into or continuance in the profession of any person known to be unqualified in accordance with the *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida*, other applicable Florida statutes, State Board of Education rules, and Board policies.
 12. a District staff member, administrator, or official self-reports within forty-eight (48) hours to appropriate authorities (as determined by the District) any arrests/charges. Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, Board members shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment.
 13. a District staff member, administrator, or officials understand their duty to report to appropriate authorities any known allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1).
 14. a District staff member, administrator, or official does not seek reprisal against any individual who has reported any allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1).
- D. Members of the Board shall not have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; engage in any business transaction or professional activity; or incur any obligation of any nature that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest. (see also Bylaw 0141.2, *Conflict of Interest*)
- E. Each Board member must recognize that decisions must be made by the Board as a whole and that when made, these decisions must be supported by the entire Board.
- F. All Board members shall adhere to the principles enumerated above.

Mandatory Training

Members of the Board shall complete four (4) hours of ethics training each calendar year that addresses, at a minimum, the constitutional "Sunshine Law" provisions (Article II, Section 8), the statutory *Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees* (F.S. Chapter 112, Part III), and the public records and public meetings laws. This requirement may be satisfied by completion of a continuing legal education class or other continuing professional education class, seminar, or presentation if the required subjects are covered.

Members of the Board are also required to complete training annually on the standards of ethical conduct established in this bylaw.

Gifts

Members of the Board may not solicit any gift or knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, a gift or an honorarium from a person, vendor, potential vendor or other entity doing business with the Board, from a political committee, or from a lobbyist (and related individuals and entities) who lobbies the reporting individual's agency (see F.S. 1001.421). "Vendor" is defined by F.S. 112.3148 relating to gifts and F.S. 112.3149 relating to honoraria to mean a business entity doing business directly with an agency, such as renting, leasing, or selling realty, goods, or services. The term "gift" has the same meaning as in F.S. 112.312(12). This prohibition applies as well to relatives, as defined in F.S. 112.312(21).

In addition to the foregoing, members of the Board shall not solicit or accept anything of value including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the Board member would be influenced thereby.

Board members are further required to follow all Florida laws applicable to the solicitation or acceptance of gifts, including F.S. 112.313 and 112.3148. Board members must review these laws upon taking office and are encouraged to do so periodically during the course of their term in office.

Responsibilities Related to Allegations of Misconduct

Pursuant to F.S. 1001.42(7), a Board member may not knowingly sign and transmit to any State official a report of alleged misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student which the Board member knows to be false or incorrect, or knowingly fail to adopt policies that require instructional personnel and school administrators to report alleged misconduct by other instructional personnel or school administrators, or that require the investigation of all reports of alleged misconduct by instructional personnel and school administrators, if the misconduct affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. Violation of this provision will result in the forfeit of the Board member's salary for one (1) year.

Appointment or Employment of Relative

Pursuant to F.S. 1012.23(2), Board members may not appoint or employ a relative, as defined in F.S. 112.3135, to work under their direct supervision. This limitation does not apply to employees appointed or employed before the election or appointment of the Board member.

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Revised 2/23/21

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Legal	F.S. 112.312
	F.S. 112.313
	F.S. 112.3142
	F.S. 112.3148
	F.S. 112.3149
	F.S. 1001.42(6)
	F.S. 1001.421
	F.S. 1012.23
	F.A.C. 6A-10.081

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1210 - **STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the term "administrator" means those individuals identified in F.S. 1012.01(3). Administrative personnel typically perform management activities such as developing broad policies for the District and executing those policies through the direction of personnel at all levels within the District. Administrative personnel are generally high-level, responsible personnel who have been assigned the responsibilities of systemwide or schoolwide functions, including the following:

- A. the superintendent;
- B. District-based instructional administrators;
- C. District-based noninstructional administrators;
- D. school administrators;
- E. others who perform management activities, such as assistant Directors, Supervisors, Coordinators, Managers, and those with supervisory responsibilities.

Standards of Ethical Conduct

I. Administrators shall be guided by and adhere to the following ethical principles:

- A. The administrator values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
- B. The administrator's primary professional concern will always be for the student and for the development of the student's potential. The administrator will, therefore, strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
- C. The administrator strives to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct because s/he is aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community.

II. Administrators shall comply with the following disciplinary principles. Violation of any of these principles shall subject the individual to revocation or suspension of the individual administrator's certificate, or the other penalties as

deemed appropriate with the District's discipline policy up to and including termination.

A. Obligation to the student requires the administrator shall:

1. make a reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety;
2. not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning;
3. not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view;
4. not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program;
5. not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement;
6. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in ~~kindergarten~~prekindergarten through grade 38 on sexual orientation or gender identity, except when required by F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3. and 1003.46;
7. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in grades 9 through 12 on sexual orientation or gender identity unless such instruction is required by State academic standards as adopted in F.A.C. 6A-1.09401, as is part of a reproductive health course or health lesson for which a student's parent has the option to have their student not attend;
8. not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination;
9. not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being unless the individual reasonably believes that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in F.S. 39.01;
10. not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage;
11. keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law;
12. not violate F.S. 553.865(9)(b), which relates to entering restrooms and changing facilities designated for the opposite sex on the premises of an educational institution; and,
13. not violate F.S. 1000.071, which relates to the use of personal titles and pronouns in educational institutions.

B. Obligation to the public requires that the administrator shall:

1. take reasonable precautions to distinguish between personal views and those of any educational institution or organization with which the individual is affiliated;
2. not intentionally distort or misrepresent facts concerning an educational matter in direct or indirect public expression;
3. not use institutional privileges for personal gain or advantage; (see also Policy 1129, Conflict of Interest)
4. accept no gratuity, gift, or favor that might influence professional judgment; (see also Policy 1129, Conflict of Interest)

(NOTE: Pursuant to F.S. 112.313, no administrator shall solicit or accept anything of value including a gift (see F.S. 112.312), loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service based upon an understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the

administrator would be influenced thereby.)

5. offer no gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantages; (see also Policy 1129, Conflict of Interest)

C. Obligation to the profession of education requires that the administrator shall:

1. maintain honesty in all professional dealings;
2. not on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition if otherwise qualified, or social and family background deny to a colleague professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization;
3. not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities;
4. not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, shall make reasonable efforts to assure that each individual is protected from such harassment or discrimination;
5. not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague;
6. not use coercive means or promise special treatment to influence professional judgments of colleagues;
7. not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications;
8. not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities;
9. not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact in one's own or another's application for a professional position;
10. not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment;
11. provide upon the request of a certificated individual a written statement of the specific reason for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment;
12. not assist entry into or continuance in the profession of any person known to be unqualified in accordance with these *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida* and other applicable Florida statutes and State Board of Education rules;
13. self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to their supervisor who will alert the Professional Standards Office any arrests/charges;

Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory.

In addition, administrators shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this rule, school districts shall comply with the confidentiality provisions of F.S. 943.0585(4) (c) and F.S. 943.059(4)(c).

14. report to appropriate authorities any known allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1);
15. seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported any allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1);
16. comply with the conditions of an order of the Education Practices Commission imposing probation, imposing a fine, or restricting the authorized scope of practice; **and**

17. as the supervising administrator, cooperate with the Education Practices Commission in monitoring the probation of a subordinate.

D. No administrative staff member shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; engage in any business transaction or professional activity; or incur any obligation of any nature that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest. (see also Policy 1129, Conflict of Interest)

E. No administrator shall solicit or accept anything of value including a gift (See F.S. 112.312), loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon an understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the administrator would be influenced thereby.

F. All administrative staff members shall adhere to the ethical and disciplinary principles enumerated above.

Training

All administrators shall be required to complete training on the standards established herein upon employment and annually thereafter.

Responsibilities Related to Allegations of Misconduct

Pursuant to F.S. 1001.42(7), the superintendent may not knowingly sign and transmit to any State official a report of alleged misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student which the superintendent knows to be false or incorrect, or knowingly fail to adopt policies that require instructional personnel and school administrators to report alleged misconduct by other instructional personnel and school administrators, or that require the investigation of all reports of alleged misconduct by instructional personnel and school administrators, if the misconduct affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. Violation of these provisions will result in the forfeit of the superintendent's salary for one (1) year.

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Legal	F.S. 112.312
	F.S. 112.313
	F.S. 1001.42
	F.S. 1001.42(6)
	F.S. 1001.421
	F.S. 1006.32
	F.S. 1012.23
	F.A.C. 6A-10.081

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3210 - **STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

I. Instructional staff members shall be guided by and adhere to the following ethical principles:

- A. The instructional staff member values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
- B. The instructional staff member's primary professional concern will always be for the student and for the development of the student's potential. The instructional staff member will, therefore, strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
- C. The instructional staff member strives to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct because s/he is aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community.

II. District instructional staff members shall comply with the following disciplinary principles. Violation of any of these principles shall subject the individual to revocation or suspension of the individual instructional staff member's certificate, or the other penalties as deemed appropriate with the District discipline policy up to and including termination.

A. Obligation to the student requires that the instructional staff member shall:

1. make a reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety.
2. not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning.
3. not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view.
4. not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program.
5. not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
6. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in ~~kindergarten~~prekindergarten through grade ~~38~~ on sexual orientation or gender identity, **except when required by F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3. and 1003.46.**

7. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in grades 9 through 12 on sexual orientation or gender identity unless such instruction is required by state academic standards as adopted in F.A.C. 6A-1.09401, or is part of a reproductive health course or health lesson for which a student's parent has the option to have their student not attend.
 8. not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being unless the individual reasonably believes that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in F.S. 39.01.
 9. not intentionally violate or deny a student's legal rights.
 10. not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being unless the individual reasonably believes that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in F.S. 39.01.
 11. offer no gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantages. (see also Policy 3129, Conflict of Interest)
 12. not violate F.S. 553.865(9)(b), which relates to entering restrooms and changing facilities designated for the opposite sex on the premises of an educational institution.
 13. not violate F.S. 1000.071, which relates to the use of personal titles and pronouns in educational institutions.
- B. Obligation to the profession of education requires that the instructional staff member shall:
1. maintain honesty in all professional dealings.
 2. not on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition if otherwise qualified, or social and family background deny to a colleague professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization.
 3. not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.
 4. not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, shall make reasonable efforts to assure that each individual is protected from such harassment or discrimination.
 5. not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague.
 6. not use coercive means or promise special treatment to influence professional judgments of colleagues.
 7. not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications.
 8. not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities.
 9. not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact in one's own or another's application for a professional position.
 10. not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
 11. provide upon the request of a certificated individual a written statement of specific reason for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment.
 12. not assist entry into or continuance in the profession of any person known to be unqualified in accordance with these *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida* and other applicable Florida statutes and State Board of Education rules.
 13. self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to their supervisor who will alert the Professional Standards office any arrests/charges. Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such

notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, instructional staff members shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this rule, school districts shall comply with the confidentiality provisions of F.S. 943.0585(4) (c) and 943.059(4)(c).

14. report to appropriate authorities any known allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1).
 15. seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported any allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1).
 16. comply with the conditions of an order of the Education Practices Commission imposing probation, imposing a fine, or restricting the authorized scope of practice.
 17. as the supervising administrator, cooperate with the Education Practices Commission in monitoring the probation of a subordinate.
- C. No instructional staff member shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; engage in any business transaction or professional activity; or incur any obligation of any nature that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her/their duties in the public interest. (see also Policy 3129, Conflict of Interest)
- D. All instructional staff members shall adhere to the principles enumerated above.

All instructional staff members shall be required to complete training on the standards established herein upon employment and annually thereafter.

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Legal	F.S. 112.312
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	F.S. 1001.42(6)
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	F.S. 1006.32
	F.S. 1012.23
	F.A.C. 6A-10.081

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4210 - **STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

I. Support staff members shall be guided by and adhere to the following ethical principles:

- A. The support staff member values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
- B. The support staff member's primary professional concern will always be for the student and for the development of the student's potential. The support staff member will, therefore, strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
- C. The support staff member strives to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct because s/he is aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community.

II. All support staff members shall comply with the following disciplinary principles.

Individuals who violate any of these principles shall be subject to disciplinary action, as well as other penalties as may be provided by law.

A. Obligation to the student requires that the support staff member shall:

1. make a reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety;
2. not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning;
3. not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view;
4. not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program;
5. not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement;
6. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in kindergarten through grade 3 on sexual orientation or gender identity, except when required by F.S. 1003.42(2)(n)3. and 1003.46;

7. not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in grades 9 through 12 on sexual orientation or gender identity unless such instruction is required by state academic standards as adopted in F.A.C. Rule 6A-1.09401, or is part of a reproductive health course or health lesson for which a student's parent has the option to have their student not attend;
8. not intentionally violate or deny a student's legal rights;
9. not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being unless the individual reasonably believes that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in F.S. 39.01;
10. not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination;
11. not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.
12. keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law;
13. not violate F.S. 553.865(9)(b), which relates to entering restrooms and changing facilities designated for the opposite sex on the premises of an educational institution; and,
14. not violate F.S. 1000.071, which relates to the use of personal titles and pronouns in educational institutions.

B. Obligation to the public requires that the support staff member shall:

1. take reasonable precautions to distinguish between personal views and those of any educational institution or organization with which the individual is affiliated;
2. not intentionally distort or misrepresent facts concerning an educational matter in direct or indirect public expression;
3. not use institutional privileges for personal gain or advantage; (see also Policy 4129, Conflict of Interest)
4. not use coercive means or promise special treatment to influence professional judgments of colleagues;
5. not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications;
6. not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities;
7. not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact in one's own or another's application for a position;
8. not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment;
9. provide upon the request of a certificated individual a written statement of specific reason for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment;
10. not assist entry into or continuance in the profession of any person known to be unqualified in accordance with these *Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida* and other applicable Florida statutes and State Board of Education rules;
11. self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to their supervisor who will inform the Professional Standards any arrests/charges. Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, support staff members shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation

within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this rule, school districts shall comply with the confidentiality provisions of F.S. 943.0585(4) (c) and 943.059(4)(c).

12. report to appropriate authorities any known allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1);

13. seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported any allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education rules as defined in F.S. 1012.795(1)

C. No support staff member shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; engage in any business transaction or professional activity; or incur any obligation of any nature that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest. (see also Policy 4129, Conflict of Interest)

D. All support staff members shall adhere to the principles enumerated above.

All support staff members shall be required to complete training on the standards established herein upon employment and annually thereafter.

Revised 2/5/19

Technical Change 12/11/19

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Legal	F.S. 112.312
	F.S. 112.313
	F.S. 1001.42(6)
	F.S. 1001.421
	F.S. 1006.32
	F.S. 1012.23
	F.A.C. 6A-10.081

Last Modified by Matthew Goldrick on February 20, 2024