Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct

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Educators

- Obligated to adhere to a set of principles which defines professional conduct
- Code of Ethics sets forth these standards of conduct
- Adopted as State Policy by State Board of Education
- Code of Ethics is part of every licensed employees’ contract
- Required of all non-licensed employees by local mandate
Standard 1: Professional Conduct

• Encouraging and supporting colleagues in developing and maintaining high standards
• Respecting fellow educators and participating in the development of a professional teaching environment
• Maintaining a professional relationship with parents of students and establishing appropriate communication regarding their children
Standard 1: Professional Conduct

• Unethical conduct:
  – Harassment of colleagues, students
  – Inappropriate language, conduct
  – Conduct that impairs employee’s ability to be an effective employee of the school district
  – Conduct that does not promote the mission of the school district to demonstrate to the public that the public school is the best option for educating children
Standard 2: Trustworthiness

• Demonstrating honesty, integrity, diplomacy, tact, fairness

• Unethical conduct includes failure to be honest and forthright in every aspect of duties and responsibilities as an employee of the district
Standard 3: Unlawful Acts

• Abide by all federal, state and local laws and school board policies
Standard 4: Educator/Student Relationships

• Maintaining a professional relationship with all students, both in and outside the classroom

• Unethical conduct
  – Inappropriate written, verbal, electronic communication with students
  – Friendships that are not indicative of a professional educator/student relationship
  – Social networking/texting with students
Standard 5: Educator Collegial Relationships

• Maintaining professional relationships with colleagues, both in and outside the classroom
• Example of unethical conduct is making false statements about a colleague or the school system
Standard 6: Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Use or Possession

- Refrain from use of alcohol and/or tobacco during course of school duties
- Never use illegal or unauthorized drugs
Standard 7: Public Funds and Property

• Never misappropriate, divert, or use public funds, personnel, property or equipment for personal gain or advantage

• Examples of unethical conduct include failing to account for funds collected from students, parents or school-related functions

• Co-mingling school funds with personal funds
Standard 8: Remunerative Conduct

• An educator should maintain integrity with students, colleagues, parents or businesses when accepting gifts, gratuities, favors and additional compensation

• Educators cannot accept or offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or obtain special advantage
Standard 9: Maintenance of Confidentiality

• An educator shall comply with state and federal laws and local school board policies relating to confidentiality of student and personnel records, standardized test material and other information covered by confidentiality agreements.
Standard 10: Breach of Contract or Abandonment of Employment

• An educator shall fulfill all the terms and obligations in the contract with the local school board for the duration of the contract