

20 AAC 10.020
CODE OF ETHICS AND TEACHING STANDARDS

- (a) The following code of ethics and professional teaching standards of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission governs all members of the teaching profession. A violation of this section constitutes grounds for revocation or suspension of certification as provided in AS 14.20.030.

- (b) In fulfilling obligations to students, an educator
 - (1) may not restrain a student from independent action in the student's pursuit of learning or deny the student access to varying points of view without reasonable cause;

 - (2) may not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's progress;

 - (3) shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety;

 - (4) may not engage in physical abuse of a student or sexual conduct with a student and shall report to the commission knowledge of such an act by an educator;

 - (5) may not expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement;

 - (6) may not harass, discriminate against, or grant a discriminatory advantage to a student on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, physical or mental conditions, family, social, or cultural background, or sexual orientation; shall make reasonable effort to assure that a student is protected from harassment or discrimination on these grounds; and may not engage in a course of conduct that would encourage a reasonable student to develop a prejudice on these grounds;

 - (7) may not use professional relationships with students for private advantage or gain;

 - (8) shall keep in confidence information that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law;

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- (9) shall accord just and equitable treatment to all students as they exercise their educational rights and responsibilities.

- (c) In fulfilling obligations to the public, an educator
 - (1) may not misrepresent an institution or organization with which the educator is affiliated;

- (2) shall take reasonable precautions to distinguish between the educator's personal views and those of any educational institutional or organization with which the educator is affiliated;
 - (3) may not knowingly distort or misrepresent facts concerning educational matters in direct and indirect public expressions;
 - (4) may not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or citizenship rights and responsibilities;
 - (5) may not use institutional privileges for private gain, to promote political candidates, or for partisan political activities;
 - (6) may not accept a gratuity, gift or favor that might influence or appear to influence professional judgment, nor offer a gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantage.
- (d) In fulfilling obligations to the profession, an educator
- (1) may not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, or national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, physical condition, family, social or cultural background, or sexual orientation, deny to a colleague a professional benefit, advantage, or participation in any professional organization, nor discriminate in employment practice, assignment, or personnel evaluation;
 - (2) shall accord just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession in the exercise of their professional rights and responsibilities;

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- (3) may not use coercive means or promise special treatment in order to influence professional decisions of colleagues;
- (4) may not sexually harass a fellow employee;
- (5) shall withhold and safeguard information acquired about colleagues in the course of employment, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose;
- (6) shall provide upon the request of the affected party, a written statement of specific reasons for recommendations that led to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment;
- (7) may not deliberately misrepresent the educator's or another's professional qualifications;
- (8) may not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities;
- (9) may not knowingly distort an evaluation of the educator's or another's professional performance;
- (10) may not intentionally make a false or malicious statement about a colleague's professional performance or conduct;
- (11) may not intentionally file a false or malicious complaint with the commission;
- (12) may not seek reprisal against any individual who has filed a complaint, provided testimony, or given other assistance in support of a complaint filed with the commission;
- (13) shall cooperate fully and honestly in investigations and hearings of the commission;
- (14) may not knowingly withhold or distort information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment;

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- (15) may not unlawfully breach a professional employment contract;

- (16) shall conduct professional business through appropriate channels;
- (17) may not assign tasks to unqualified personnel;
- (18) may not continue in or seek professional employment while unfit due to:
 - A. use of drugs or alcohol that impairs the educator's competence or the safety of students or colleagues;
 - B. physical or mental disability that impairs the educator's competence or the safety of students or colleagues.