

Code: GCAA
Adopted: 12/9/99
Revised/Readopted: 3/31/04; 4/13/17; 7/27/23; 10/23/25
Orig. Code: GCAA

Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators

Application of Rules

1. Oregon Administrative Rules were adopted by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS).
2. Oregon Administrative Rules may be used as criteria by TSPC in matters pertaining to the revocation or suspension of licenses issued by TSPC under Oregon law or the discipline of any license holder or any person who has held a license at any time within five years prior to issuance of the notice of charges under ORS.
3. The TSPC determines whether an educator's performance is ethical or competent in light of all the facts and circumstances surrounding the educator's performance as a whole.
4. The TSPC will promptly investigate complaints:
 - a. The TSPC may at its discretion defer action to charge an educator against whom a complaint has been filed under law when the investigation report indicates that disciplinary action against the educator is pending at the local district level or when criminal charges are pending or are likely to be filed against the educator. In considering whether to defer action to charge an educator, the TSPC shall consider all relevant circumstances including the nature and seriousness of the allegations and whether the educator is currently employed as a teacher or school administrator;
 - b. The executive secretary shall regularly inform the TSPC of the status of any complaints on which the TSPC has deferred action.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to Oregon Administrative Rules unless otherwise indicated by context:

1. "Administrator": Any person who holds a valid Oregon administrative license or registration and who works in a position requiring an administrative license;
2. "Competent": Discharging required duties as set forth in these rules;
3. "Educator": Any licensed or registered or certified person who is authorized to be engaged in the instructional program including teaching, counseling, school psychology, administering and supervising;
4. "Ethical": Conforming to the professional standards of conduct set forth in these rules;

5. “Sexual conduct: means verbal or physical conduct or verbal, written or electronic communications by a school employee, a contractor, an agent or a volunteer that involve a student that are:
- a. Sexual advances or requests for sexual favors directed toward the student; or
 - b. Of a sexual nature that are directed toward the student or that have the effect of unreasonably interfering with the student’s educational performance, or of creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.
- “Sexual conduct” does not include:
- a. Touching or other physical contact:
 - (1) That is necessitated by the nature of the district employee’s job duties or by the services required to be provided by the contractor, agent, or volunteer; and
 - (2) For which there is no sexual intent.
 - b. Verbal, written or electronic communications that are provided as party of an education program that meets the state educational standards or a policy approved by the Board.
 - c. Conduct or communications described in above if the district employee, contractor, agent or volunteer is also a student and the conduct or communications:
 - (1) Arise out of a consensual relationship between students;
 - (2) Do not create an intimidating or hostile educational environment; and
 - (3) Are not prohibited by law, any policies of the district or any applicable employment agreements.
6. “Sexual harassment”: Any unwelcome **conduct with an individual which includes but is not limited to** sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:
- a. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment;
 - b. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
 - c. Such conduct unreasonably interferes with an individual’s work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.
7. “Teacher”: Any person who holds a teacher’s license as provided in ORS 342.125.
8. “Student”: means any person who is:
- a. In any grade from kindergarten through grade 12; or
 - b. Twenty-one years of age or younger and receiving educational or related services from an education provider that is not a post-secondary institute of education; or
 - c. Who is previously known as a student by the person engaging in sexual conduct and who left school or graduated from high school within **90 days one calendar year** prior to the sexual conduct.

The Competent Educator

The teacher or administrator demonstrates a commitment to:

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1. Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual;
2. Encourage scholarship;
3. Promote democratic and inclusive citizenship;
4. Raise educational standards;
5. Use professional judgment; and
6. Promote equitable learning opportunities.

Curriculum and Instruction

The competent educator measures success by the progress of each student toward realization of personal potential as a worthy and effective citizen. The competent educator stimulates the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding and the thoughtful formulation of goals as they are appropriate for each individual.

The competent teacher demonstrates:

1. Use of state- and district-adopted curriculum and goals;
2. Skill in setting instructional goals and objectives expressed as learning outcomes;
3. Use of current subject matter appropriate to the individual needs of students;
4. Use of students' growth and development patterns to adjust instruction to individual needs consistent with number of students and amount of time available; and
5. Skill in the selection and use of teaching techniques conducive to student learning.

The competent administrator demonstrates:

1. Skill in assisting individual staff members to become more competent educator by complying with federal, state and local law, rules and lawful and reasonable district policy and contracts;
2. Knowledge of curriculum and instruction appropriate to assignment;
3. Skill in implementing instructional programs through adequate communication with staff; and
4. Skill in identifying and initiating any needed change which helps each student toward realization of personal learning potential.

Supervision and Evaluation

The competent educator is a student of human behavior and uses this knowledge to provide a climate that is conducive to learning and that respects the rights of all persons without discrimination. The competent educator assumes responsibility for the activities planned and conducted through the district's program and assists colleagues to do the same. The competent educator gathers relevant information and uses it in the planning and evaluation of instructional activities.

The competent teacher demonstrates:

1. Multiple ways to assess the academic progress of individual students;
2. Skill in the application use of assessment data to assist individual student growth;
3. Procedures for evaluating curriculum and instructional goals and practices;
4. Skill in the supervision of students; and
5. Skill in differentiating instruction.

The competent administrator demonstrates:

1. Skill in the use of assessment data to provide effective instructional programs;
2. Skill in the implementation of the district's student evaluation program;
3. Skill in providing equal opportunity for all students and staff;
4. Skill in the use of employee and leadership techniques appropriate to the assignment and according to well-established standards which ensure due process for the staff for which the administrator is responsible for evaluating.

Management Skills

The competent educator is a person who understands students and is able to relate to them in constructive and culturally competent ways. The competent educator establishes and maintains good rapport. The competent educator maintains and uses records as required and as needed to assist the growth of students.

The competent teacher demonstrates skills in:

1. Establishing and maintaining classroom management that is conducive to learning;
2. Using and maintaining district property, equipment and materials appropriately;
3. Using and maintaining student records as required by federal and state law and district policies and procedures;
4. Using district and school business and financial procedures; and
5. Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations.

The competent administrator demonstrates:

1. Leadership skills in managing the school, its students, staff and programs as required by lawful and reasonable district policies, rules and regulations, state and federal laws and regulations and other programs as assigned and assures that staff is informed of these requirements; and
2. Skills in planning and staff assignment.

Human Relations and Communications

The competent educator works effectively with others - students, staff, parents and patrons. The competent educator is aware of the ways the community identifies with the school, as well as community needs and ways the school program is designed to meet these needs. The competent educator can communicate with knowledge, clarity and judgment about educational matters, the school and the needs of students.

The competent teacher demonstrates:

1. Willingness to be flexible in cooperatively working with others; and
2. Skill in communicating with students, staff, parents and other patrons

The competent administrator demonstrates:

1. Skill in helping students, staff, parents and other patrons to learn about the school, the district and its program;
2. Skill in communicating district and school goals to staff and public;
3. Willingness to be flexible in cooperatively working with others; and
4. Skill in reconciling conflict.

The Ethical Educator

The ethical educator is a person who accepts the requirements of membership in the teaching profession and acts at all times in ethical ways. In so doing, the ethical educator considers the needs of the students, the district and the profession.

The ethical educator, in fulfilling obligations to the student, will:

1. Keep the confidence entrusted in the profession as it relates to confidential information concerning a student and the student's family;
2. Refrain from exploiting professional relationships with any student for personal gain or in support of persons or issues; and
3. Maintain an appropriate professional student-educator relationship by:
 - a. Not demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life;
 - b. Not accepting or giving or exchanging romantic or overly personal gifts or notes with a student;
 - c. Reporting to the educator's supervisor if the educator has reason to believe a student is, or may be, becoming romantically attached to the educator; and
 - d. Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times.

The ethical educator, in fulfilling obligations to the district, will:

1. Apply for, accept, offer or assign a position of responsibility only on the basis of profession qualifications and will adhere to the conditions of a contract or the terms of the appointment;
2. Conduct professional business, including grievances, through established lawful and reasonable procedures;
3. Strive for continued improvement and professional growth;
4. Accept no gratuities or gifts of significance that could influence judgment in the exercise of professional duties; and
5. Not use the district's or school's name, property or resources for noneducational benefit without approval of the educator's supervisor or the appointing authority.

The ethical educator, in fulfilling obligations to the profession, will:

1. Maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the law, exemplifying personal integrity and honesty;
2. Extend equal treatment to all members of the profession in the exercise of their professional rights and responsibilities;
3. Respond to requests for evaluation of colleagues and to keep such information confidential as appropriate; and
4. Respond to requests from a TSPC representative for information, furnish documents to TSPC, and participate in interviews with a TSPC representative relating to a TSPC investigation, except subject to the exercise of any legal right or privilege.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[OAR 584-020-0000 - 0035](#)

[House Bill 4160 \(2024\).](#)