

The Code of Conduct and Ethical Decision Making



TEKS Standards & Objectives

TEKS: 1I, 11A, 11B, 11C

The student will:

- Explain the purpose of an educator code of ethics
- Describe ethical conduct—as a professional, toward professional colleagues, and toward students— as an essential responsibility of an educator
- Prescribe ethical action (aligned to the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics) for a teacher in examples of situations with ethical dimensions



Bellringer

Think back to your time in Principles of Education & Training. What do you remember learning about the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics? If you're having trouble remembering the topic, what do you think would be included in the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics?



Vocabulary

Ethics	Set of moral principles that govern a person's behavior or actions
Ethical Behavior	Respecting and obeying the law, being honest and demonstrating good moral character, and being fair to all
Texas Educators' Code of Ethics	Legal document that outlines an educator's responsibilities to students and provides standards by which to judge ethical and professional conduct



Three Sections of the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics

- Professional Ethical Conduct, Practices and Performance
- Ethical Conduct Toward Professional Colleagues
- Ethical Conduct Toward Students



Standard 1.5

The educator shall neither accept nor offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or that are used to obtain special advantage. This standard shall not restrict the acceptance of gifts or tokens offered and accepted openly from students, parents of students, or other persons or organizations in recognition or appreciation of service.

Standard 2.4

The educator shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political, professional, or citizenship rights and responsibilities.

Standard 3.1

The educator shall not reveal confidential information concerning students unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

Exit Ticket, Question 1

1. Ms. G. is walking to her car in the parking lot, and she sees someone on their cell phone in the car next to hers. The person is Ms. W., another teacher at the school. As Ms. G. puts her belongings in her car, she can hear Ms. W. crying and yelling about how her son is using drugs. Ms. G. feels badly that Ms. W. is going through such a tough situation. The next day, Ms. G. speaks with Ms. W.'s teacher assistant. She tells the assistant about what she saw and heard and asks her to be as helpful as possible to Ms. W.
 - Did Ms. G. follow the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics? Explain your answer.
 - If Ms. G. did follow the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics, did she still act unprofessionally? Explain your answer.
 - If Ms. G. did not follow the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics or otherwise acted unprofessionally, what should she have done differently?



Exit Ticket, Question 2

2. Ms. M.'s mother has been on the local school board for five years. Recently, the board fired the district's superintendent, and there was a great deal of media coverage about the dismissal. At parent-teacher night, several parents corner Ms. M. about why her mother would have voted to fire the superintendent. Ms. M. shares what her mother told her about the previous superintendent's misconduct, which is information that also appeared in the local newsletter.
- Did Ms. M. follow the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics? Explain your answer.
 - If Ms. M. did follow the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics, did she still act unprofessionally? Explain your answer.
 - If Ms. M. did not follow the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics or otherwise acted unprofessionally, what should she have done differently?

