

**REVISED POLICY - VOL. 16, NO. 2**

**STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

**[CHOOSE OPTION #1 OR OPTION #2]**

**X ] Option #1**

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.

**Deleted:** An effective educational program requires the services of men and women of integrity, high ideals, and human understanding.¶

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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 provided by law.

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

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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 violate or deny a student's legal rights.
7. 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.

8. not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.
9. keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.

B. ~~Obligation to the public requires that the District instructional staff member shall:~~

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- ~~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 3129, Conflict of Interest)
- ~~4.~~ accept no gratuity, gift, or favor that might influence professional judgment. (see also Policy 3129, Conflict of Interest)

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**(NOTE: Pursuant to F.S. 112.313, no instructional staff member 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 instructional staff member would be influenced thereby.)**

- ~~5.~~ offer no gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantages. (see also Policy 3129, Conflict of Interest)

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C. Obligation to the profession of education requires that the District instructional staff member shall

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1. maintain honesty in all professional dealings.

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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.

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3. not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.

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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.

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5. not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague.

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6. not use coercive means or promise special treatment to influence professional judgments of colleagues.

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7. not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications.

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8. not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities.

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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.

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10. not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.

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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.

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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.

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13. self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to appropriate authorities (as determined by the District) any arrests/charges involving the abuse of a child or the sale and/or possession of a controlled substance. 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, District 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).

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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).

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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).

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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.

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

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D. 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 duties in the public interest. (see also Policy 3129, Conflict of Interest)

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E. All District instructional staff members shall adhere to the principles enumerated above.

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**[ ] Option #2**

The School Board hereby establishes the ethical and disciplinary principles set forth in the Florida Administrative Code as the *Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida* as the District's standards of ethical conduct and requires all instructional staff members to adhere to them.

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**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
MADISON COUNTY**

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF  
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**[End of Options]**

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

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

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