

Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Professional Environmental Educators in Texas

Statement of Purpose

The environmental educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, program participants and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom. The Texas environmental educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty. The Texas environmental educator, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. The Texas environmental educator, in accepting a position of public trust, shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen. The Texas environmental educator, in fulfilling responsibilities in the community, shall cooperate with parents and others to improve the educational opportunities in the community.

Standards

(1) Professional Ethical Conduct, Practices and Performance.

Standard 1.1. The educator shall not knowingly engage in deceptive practices regarding official policies of the local school district or institution.

Standard 1.2. The educator shall not knowingly misappropriate, divert, or use monies, personnel, property, or equipment committed to his or her charge for personal gain or advantage.

Standard 1.3. The educator shall not submit fraudulent requests for reimbursement, expenses, or pay.

Standard 1.4. The educator shall not use institutional or professional privileges for personal or partisan advantage.

Standard 1.5. The educator shall neither accept nor offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or to obtain special advantage. This standard shall not restrict the acceptance of gifts or tokens offered and accepted openly from students, parents, or other persons or organizations in recognition or appreciation of service.

Standard 1.6. The educator shall not falsify records, or direct or coerce others to do so.

Standard 1.7. The educator shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies, and other applicable state and federal laws.

Standard 1.8. The educator shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or a responsibility on the basis of professional qualifications.

Standard 1.9. The educator shall not work while under the influence of alcohol, or other illegal/nonauthorized drugs.

(2) Ethical Conduct Toward Professional Colleagues.

Standard 2.1. The educator shall not reveal confidential health or personnel information concerning colleagues unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

Standard 2.2. The educator shall not harm others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the organization.

Standard 2.3. The educator shall adhere to written policies and state and federal laws regarding the hiring, evaluation, and dismissal of personnel.

Standard 2.4. The educator shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political, professional, or citizenship rights and responsibilities.

Standard 2.5. The educator shall not discriminate against or coerce a colleague on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, or family status.

Standard 2.6. The educator shall not use coercive means or promise of special treatment in order to influence professional decisions or colleagues.

Standard 2.7. The educator shall not retaliate against any individual who has filed a complaint under these standards.

(3) Ethical Conduct Toward Students.

Standard 3.1. The educator shall not reveal confidential information concerning students unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

Standard 3.2. The educator shall not knowingly treat a student in a manner that adversely affects the student's learning, physical health, mental health, or safety.

Standard 3.3. The educator shall not deliberately or knowingly misrepresent facts regarding a student.

Standard 3.4. The educator shall not exclude a student from participation in a program, deny benefits to a student, or grant an advantage to a student on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, national origin, religion, or family status.

Standard 3.5. The educator shall not engage in physical mistreatment of a student.

Standard 3.6. The educator shall not solicit or engage in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student.

Standard 3.7. The educator shall not furnish alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs to any student or knowingly allow any student to consume alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs in the presence of the educator.

(4) Ethical Conduct Towards the Environment

Standard 4.1 The educator shall be sure students remain safe.

Standard 4.2 The educator shall make sure students follow directions and use appropriate equipment.

Standard 4.3 The educator shall be sure supervision is adequate for number of students and the particular study site.

Standard 4.4 The educator shall obey all laws protecting plants and animals. All living things are to be respected and not injured in any way.

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Standard 4.5 The educator shall stay within boundaries, ask property owners before taking anything.

Standard 4.6 The educator shall collect an animal/plant **only** if it can keep it alive long enough to learn from it. In most cases, the educator should follow the rule: look, learn, leave alone.

Standard 4.7 The educator shall not collect things that will hurt the program participants.

Standard 4.8 The educator shall collect something only if there are a lot of them in that place. Minimize the number of organisms collected. Never collect a rare or endangered species. Never collect in a national or state park.

Standard 4.9 The educator shall collect something only if something very important can be learned about it. The organism shall be returned to the spot it was collected from as soon as the observation is complete.

Standard 4.10 The educator shall avoid making the main focus of the activity collecting animals/plants instead of understanding ecological concepts.

I, _____, have read the above Code of Ethics and Standard Practices and pledge to comply with standard practices and ethical conduct.

Signature

Date