

Navigating Through the SBEC Educator's Code of Ethics

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“There is nothing complicated or difficult about ethics. It’s about values. It’s about right and wrong behavior. It’s about the common good—the good we all hold in common, notwithstanding race or gender. . . .

“Ethical behavior means being honest, telling the truth, and doing what you said you would do.”

Hon. Barbara Jordan

Why a Conversation about a Code of Ethics?

- To acknowledge to each other what we believe is ethical conduct**
- To tell others (the public) what we believe in**
- To be clear with each other about our expectations regarding ethical conduct**
- Because all professionals should have a moral code**

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Texas Educators' Code of Ethics

Located in Chapter 19 of the Texas Administrative Code, Rule § 247.1 and § 247.2. Section 247.1 outlines the ethics code's purpose and scope, including applicable definitions, while Section 247.2 details the actual ethical standards that make up the Code.

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Section 247.1(b) provides the following prescriptive directives applicable to Texas educators and their conduct:

-The Texas educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom.

-The Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty and good moral character.

-The Texas educator, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession.

-The Texas 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 educator, in fulfilling responsibilities in the community, shall cooperate with parents and others to improve the public schools of the community.

Also available as part of the eCourse

[School Law Ethics 2017: The Educator's Code of Ethics and Slippery Ethical Slopes for School Law Practitioners](#)

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