

Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics

Model Principles

To serve the needs of all students, it is essential that professional educators strive to maintain the highest ethical standards. It is their responsibility to create learning environments to help all students reach their full potential while honoring the trust and confidence placed in them by students, families, colleagues, and the community.

The Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics serves as a set of aspirational principles intended to guide educator conduct and protect the rights of all students. These model principles are intended to be used by school districts, educator preparation programs, and other educational entities as they seek to adhere to the highest ethical standards in their service to students and families, the profession, and the community.

Principle I. Commitment to Students and Families. The ethical educator:

- A. Makes the well-being of students the foundation of all decisions and actions.
- B. Promotes a spirit of inquiry, creativity, and high expectations.
- C. Assures just and equitable treatment of every student.
- D. Protects students when their learning or well-being is threatened by the unsafe, incompetent, unethical, or illegal practice of any person.
- E. Keeps information confidential that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling purpose in the best interest of students, or is required by law.
- F. Respects the roles, responsibilities, and rights of students, parents, and guardians.
- G. Maintains appropriate educator-student relationship boundaries in all respects, including speech, print, and digital communications.
- H. Demonstrates an understanding of educational inclusion, respects human diversity, and provides opportunities and resources for all students to reach their full potential.

Principle II. Commitment to the Profession. The ethical educator:

- A. Fulfills professional obligations with diligence and integrity.
- B. Demonstrates continued professional growth, collaboration, and accountability.
- C. Respects the roles, responsibilities, and rights of colleagues, support personnel, and supervisors.
- D. Contributes to the development of the profession's body of knowledge.
- E. Manages information, including student data and assessments, with integrity.
- F. Teaches without distortion, bias, or prejudice.
- G. Represents professional qualifications accurately.

Principle III. Commitment to the Community. The ethical educator:

- A. Models the principles of citizenship in a democratic society.
- B. Protects the civil and human rights of students and colleagues.
- C. Assumes responsibility for personal actions.
- D. Demonstrates good stewardship of public resources.
- E. Exemplifies a positive, active role in school-community relations.
- F. Adheres to the terms of contracts, district policies and procedures, and relevant statutes and regulations.
- G. Uses social media and digital communications responsibly and professionally.