



Ontario College of Teachers
Ordre des enseignantes et des enseignants de l'Ontario

Ethical Standards for the Teaching Profession

The teaching profession fosters the growth of dedicated and competent educators. Members of the profession uphold the dignity and honour of the profession through their practice.

Members of the Ontario College of Teachers in their positions of trust and influence:

- maintain professional relationships with students
- recognize and respect the privileged nature of the relationship that teachers maintain with students
- demonstrate impartial and consistent respect for all students as individuals with distinctive and on-going learning needs and capacities
- respect confidential information about students unless disclosure is required by law or personal safety is at risk
- model respect for human dignity, spiritual values, cultural values, freedom, social justice, democracy and the environment
- work with members of the College and others to create a professional environment that supports the social, physical, intellectual, spiritual, cultural, moral and emotional development of students
- base relationships with parents or guardians in their role as partners in the education of students, on respect, trust, and communication
- co-operate with professionals from other agencies in the interest of students and as required by law
- act with integrity, honesty, fairness and dignity
- respect the confidential nature of information about members of the College obtained in the course of professional practice unless disclosure is required by law or personal safety is at risk
- comply with the Acts and regulations
- advise the appropriate people in a professional manner when policies or practices exist that should be reviewed or revised.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL - JUNE 8, 2000

THE OVERALL PURPOSES OF ETHICAL STANDARDS STATEMENTS ARE:

- to clarify the ethics of the profession
- to inspire the quality of behaviour which reflects the honour and dignity of the profession
- to encourage and emphasize those positive attributes of professional conduct which characterize strong and effective teaching
- to enable the profession to declare itself publicly accountable.

The ethical standards combined with the standards of practice will serve as the foundation for all accredited pre-service and in-service programs for teachers in Ontario.