

CODE OF ETHICS FOR NC EDUCATORS

The Code of Ethics defines standards of professional conduct for all North Carolina educators who hold a teaching license.

**COMMITMENT
TO THE
STUDENTS**



**COMMITMENT
TO THE
SCHOOL PROGRAM**



**COMMITMENT
TO THE
PROFESSION**



COACHING CORNER

COMMITMENT TO THE STUDENTS

- A. Protects students**
- B. Maintains an appropriate relationship**
- C. Assesses students**
- D. Disciplines students justly and fairly**
- E. Maintains confidentiality**
- F. Refuses significant gifts**

Educators often act as role models for their children and unethical behavior could have a negative impact on children's growth and development.



How can I demonstrate a commitment to my students?

- Encourage and recognize children's efforts, even when they make mistakes.
- Pay attention to children's social, emotional, and physical development in addition to their academic growth.
- Regular communication with families and caregivers can help in understanding a child's background, behaviors, and growth. Share successes and concerns honestly and regularly, and work together to support the child's development.
- Teaching young children can be challenging and requires immense patience. Take care of your own physical, emotional, and mental health.
- Ensure that the classroom is a safe, healthy, and nurturing space for all children.
- Apply rules and expectations consistently to promote a sense of security and fairness.
- Demonstrate kindness, respect, and responsibility in interactions with others. Model how children and families can behave in their own relationships.

COMMITMENT TO THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

- A. Uses available resources to promote learning
- B. Acknowledges diversity
- C. Does not abandon professional duties; signs a contract in good faith
- D. Participates actively in professional decision-making process
- E. Acts appropriately when serving in an administrative capacity



How can I demonstrate a commitment to my school and the school community?

- Acknowledge and respect diverse viewpoints. Ensure that your own personal agenda or values do not disrupt collaborative efforts.
- Understand your program's philosophy, objectives, and methodology. This will help you align your work with the program's goals.
- Take part in activities beyond the classroom, such as community events, parent-teacher meetings, staff meetings, or committees.
- Work collaboratively with other staff members by sharing resources, ideas, and strategies to ensure smooth running of the program.
- Adhere to and uphold the school's policies, standards, and guidelines around classroom management, child safety, curriculum implementation, and more.
- When problems arise, offer constructive solutions and ideas for improvement.

COMMITMENT TO THE PROFESSION

- A. Provides accurate credentials
- B. Takes action to remedy an observed violation of the Code of Ethics
- C. Takes advantage of professional development opportunities and uses knowledge to improve teaching



How can I demonstrate a commitment to the teaching profession?

- Continually seek professional development opportunities to stay updated with the latest theories, techniques, and trends. Attend workshops, read professional literature, or participate in online training programs.
- Having a network of fellow educators to share experiences, challenges, and successes with can be incredibly supportive. This can be found in the teaching staff at the school, professional organizations, or online communities.
- Set personal growth and professional development goals to maintain motivation and a sense of progress in your career.
- Standing up for the rights and needs of teachers and children can make the profession more sustainable and rewarding. This could involve actively participating in educational policy discussions or joining a professional organization.
- Focus on aspects of your job that you truly enjoy and find rewarding to maintain your love for teaching and keep your passion alive.

COACHING CORNER

What steps do you take to protect the health and safety of your children?

How do you ensure your discipline measures are developmentally appropriate? What alternatives are available to a “behavior chart“?

How do you handle issues with colleagues that are affecting your work performance?

What are some of your strongly held moral beliefs in the field of early childhood education?

What action steps do you need to take to uphold the Code of Ethics in your professional practice?

What is your comfort level discussing or sharing the Code of Ethics with others?

Ethics is a code of values that guide our choices and actions, determining the purpose and course of our lives.
