

## **STAFF ETHICS/CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The North Middlesex Regional School District expects members of its professional staff to be familiar with the code of ethics that applies to their profession and to adhere to it in their relationships with students, parents, coworkers, and officials of the school system.

### **Commitment To The Student**

In fulfilling the obligation to the student, the educator:

1. Shall not without just cause restrain the student from independent action in pursuit of learning, and shall not without just cause deny the student access to varying points of view.
2. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter for which he/she bears responsibility.
3. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety.
4. Shall conduct professional business in such a way that he/she does not expose the student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
5. Shall not exclude any student from participation in or deny him/her the benefits under any program, nor grant any discriminatory consideration or advantage according to the district's non-discrimination policy (AC).
6. Shall not use professional relationships with students for private advantage.
7. Shall keep in confidence information that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
8. Shall not tutor for remuneration students assigned to his/her classes unless no other qualified teacher is reasonably available.

### **Commitment To The Public**

In fulfilling his/her obligation to the public, the educator:

1. Shall not misrepresent an institution or organization with which he/she is affiliated, and shall take adequate precautions to distinguish between personal and institutional or organizational views.
2. Shall not knowingly distort or misrepresent the facts concerning educational matters in direct and indirect public expressions.
3. Shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities.
4. Shall not use institutional privileges for private gain or to promote political candidates or partisan political activities.
5. Shall accept no gratuities, gifts, or favors that might impair or appear to impair professional judgment, nor offer any favor, service, or thing of value to obtain special advantage.

### **Commitment to the Profession**

In fulfilling his/her obligation to the profession, the educator:

1. Shall not exclude any student from participation in or deny him/her the benefits under any program, nor grant any discriminatory consideration or advantage according to the district's non-discrimination policy (AC).
2. Shall accord just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession in the exercise of their professional rights and responsibilities.
3. Shall not use coercive means or promise special treatment in order to influence professional decisions of colleagues.
4. Shall withhold and safeguard information acquired about colleagues in the course of employment, unless disclosure serves professional purposes.
5. Shall not refuse to participate in a professional inquiry when requested by an appropriate professional association.
6. Shall provide upon the request of the aggrieved party a written statement of specific reasons for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment.
7. Shall not misrepresent his/her professional qualifications.
8. Shall not knowingly distort evaluations of colleagues.

#### Commitment to Professional Employment Practices

In fulfilling his/her obligation to professional employment practices, the educator:

1. Shall apply for, accept, offer or assign a position or responsibility on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications.
2. Shall apply for a specific position only when it is known to be vacant, and shall refrain from underbidding or commenting adversely about other candidates.
3. Shall not knowingly withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
4. Shall give prompt notice to the employing agency to any change in availability of service, and the employing agent shall give prompt notice of change in availability or nature of a position.
5. Shall not accept a position when so requested by the appropriate professional organization.
6. Shall adhere to the terms of a contract or appointment, unless these terms have been legally terminated, falsely represented, or substantially altered by unilateral action of the employing agency.
7. Shall conduct professional business through channels, when available, that have been jointly approved by the professional organization and the employing agency.
8. Shall not delegate assigned tasks to unqualified personnel.
9. Shall permit no commercial exploitation of his/her professional position.
10. Shall use time granted for the purpose for which it is intended.

In order to avoid the appearance of any possible conflict, it is the policy of the School Committee that when an immediate family member, as defined in the Conflict of Interest statute, of a School Committee member or district administrator is to be hired into or promoted within the School District, the Superintendent shall file public notice with the School Committee and the Town or District Clerk at least two weeks prior to date of hire in accordance with the law.

REF.: The AASA Code of Ethics, American Association of School Administrators, Washington, D.C. as revised by the Representative Assembly of the National Education Association, July 5, 1968

CROSS REFS:

GBCA, AC Non-discrimination

GCRD, Tutoring for Pay