Houston Community College
Alternative Teacher Certificate Program
Educator's Code of Ethics

Student Name: _____ Student ID# _____

Per 19 TAC § 228.50: All EPP students must read, acknowledge, and sign the educator's code of ethics on the last page of this document.

Enforceable standards

Educator Conduct Standards

An educator shall not:

- Engage in deceptive practices regarding school district, institution, educator program, TEA, or SBEC policies and certification.
- Misuse funds, personnel, property, or equipment for personal gain.
- Submit fraudulent reimbursement, expense, or pay requests.
- Exploit professional privileges for personal or partisan advantage.
- Accept or offer gifts that impair judgment or secure special advantages, except openly given tokens of appreciation.
- Falsify records or coerce others to do so.
- Threaten violence against employees, board members, students, or parents.
- Misrepresent employment, criminal, or disciplinary history when seeking employment.
- Consume or be under the influence of alcohol on school property or at school events with students present.

An educator shall:

- Follow state regulations, local school board policies, and all applicable laws.
- Accept or assign positions based on professional qualifications.
- Demonstrate good moral character and fitness to instruct or supervise youth.

Educator Conduct with Colleagues

An educator shall not:

- Disclose confidential health or personnel information unless required by law or for lawful professional purposes.
- Make false statements about colleagues or the school system to cause harm.
- Interfere with a colleague's political, professional, or citizenship rights.
- Discriminate against or coerce colleagues based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, disability, family status, or sexual orientation.
- Use coercion or promises of special treatment to influence professional decisions.
- Retaliate against individuals who file complaints with SBEC or assist in disciplinary investigations.
- Engage in sexual harassment toward a colleague.

An educator shall:

- Follow local school board policies and state and federal laws on hiring, evaluation, and dismissal of personnel.
- Avoid illegal use, abuse, or distribution of controlled substances, prescription drugs, or inhalants.

Ethical Conduct Toward Students

An educator shall not:

- Disclose confidential student information unless required by law or for lawful professional purposes.
- Act in a way that endangers or negatively impacts a student's learning, health, or safety.
- Misrepresent facts about a student.
- Discriminate or grant unfair advantages based on race, color, gender, disability, national origin, religion, family status, or sexual orientation.
- Engage in physical mistreatment, neglect, or abuse of a student.
- Solicit or engage in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student.
- Provide or permit underage consumption of alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs unless the educator is the child's parent or guardian.

An educator shall:

- Maintain appropriate professional relationships and boundaries with students, following a reasonably prudent educator standard.
- Avoid inappropriate communication with students, including electronic interactions.

Factors for Assessing Inappropriate Communication:

- Nature, purpose, timing, and frequency of communication.
- Subject matter discussed.
- Whether communication was open or concealed.
- Whether it could be interpreted as soliciting sexual or romantic contact.
- Whether it was sexually explicit.
- Whether it involved discussions of physical or sexual attractiveness, history, activities, preferences, or fantasies of either party.

Enforceable standards, as defined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines, are legally binding rules governing educator conduct, requiring compliance with state regulations, district policies, and ethical expectations, with consequences for violations.

Please sign acknowledging the requirements, understand, and agree to adhere to the Educators' Code of Ethics in accordance with Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Print Name _____ Date

Signature _____

Please email the signed form to atcp@hccs.edu.