

August 31, 2002 Educator's Code of Ethics

The State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted the educator's code of ethics in 1975 and amended it in 1988. Prior to the SBOE's adoption, the code of ethics was submitted to the profession for approval in a statewide referendum. With only minor technical changes, the SBEC adopted in 1998 the educator's code of ethics originally developed under the SBOE. The SBEC began enforcing the code of ethics in April 1999, pursuant to rules then adopted. The following table shows the provisions of the code of ethics most frequently cited by complainants and those most frequently approved for hearing since SBEC began enforcing the Code:

Total Number of Complaints (multiple complaints may be filed by or against a single person):	556			
Total Number of Complaints Approved in Whole or in Part for Hearing:	87			
Total Number of Provisions Cited:	2492			
Total Number of Provisions Approved for Hearing:	298			
Total Number of Accused Educators	484 (320 administrators; 150 teachers; 14 other)			
Frequency of Allegation by Principle and Standard: (Because of rounding, subtotals may not add up to exactly 100%)	<i>Numbers and percentages of all provisions cited by complainants:</i>		<i>Numbers and percentages of all provisions approved for hearing:</i>	
Principle I. Professional ethical conduct.	425	17.1%	24	8.1%
Std. 1. Misrepresentation of school policies	136	5.5%	8	2.7%
Std. 2. Financial malfeasance	27	1.1%	3	1.0%
Std. 3. Abuse of position as educator	73	2.9%	4	1.3%
Std. 4. Bribery--acceptance	20	0.8 %		0.0%
Std. 5. Bribery--offering	30	1.2 %	2	0.7%
Std. 6. Falsification of records	139	5.6%	7	2.3%
Principle II. Professional practices and performance.	338	13.6%	32	10.7%
Std. 1. Unqualified for assignment/Breach of contract	50	2.0%	6	2.0%
Std. 2. Deliberately impaired faculties /Social imprudence	34	1.4%	1	0.3%
Std. 3. Unorganized instruction	46	1.8%	1	0.3%
Std. 4. Lack of professional growth	17	0.7%	0	0%
Std. 5. Noncompliance with board policy, state or federal laws	191	7.7%	24	8.1%
Principle III: Ethical conduct toward professional colleagues.	596	23.9%	104	34.9%
Std. 1. Wrongfully disclosing confidential information about colleague	53	2.1%	3	1.0%
Std. 2. Lying about colleague or school	108	4.3%	17	5.7%
Std. 3. Wrongful employment practices	108	4.3%	25	8.4%
Std. 4. Interference with colleague's civil rights	45	1.8%	6	2.0%
Std. 5. Unlawful discrimination against colleague	70	2.8%	6	2.0%
Std. 6. Interference with colleague's professional rights, privileges	97	3.9%	25	8.4%
Std. 7. Using coercion or favoritism to influence professional decisions, colleagues	56	2.2%	15	5.0%
Std. 8. Interfering with educator's academic freedom	59	2.4%	7	2.3%
Principle IV: Ethical conduct toward students.	827	33.2%	124	41.6%
Std. 1. Wrongful discipline	166	6.7%	29	9.7%
Std. 2. Subjecting student to disparagement	151	6.1%	34	11.4%
Std. 3. Wrongfully disclosing confidential information about student	61	2.4%	2	0.7%
Std. 4. Failure to protect student's health, safety, or learning opportunities	166	6.7%	28	9.4%
Std. 5. Lying	145	5.8%	14	4.7%
Std. 6. Unlawful discrimination toward students	102	4.1%	16	5.4%
Std. 7. Interfering with student's educational independence or access to varying views	36	1.4%	1	0.3%
Principle V: Ethical conduct toward parents and community.	306	12.3%	14	4.7%
Std. 1. Wrongfully failing to disclose information about student to parent	119	4.8%	6	2.0%
Std. 2. Failing to understand community/relate home environment to school	55	2.2%	3	1.0%
Std. 3. Failing to manifest positive role in school-public relations	132	5.3%	5	1.7%

