

Teacher Standards

Teachers are required, as a condition of their employment with the Anchorage School District, to comply with the Code of Ethics of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

1. A teacher can describe the teacher's philosophy of education and demonstrate its relationship to the teacher's practice.

A teacher shall:

- a) engage in thoughtful and critical examination of the teacher's practice with others, including describing the relationship of beliefs about learning, teaching and assessment practice to current trends, strategies and resources in the teaching profession; and
 - b) demonstrate consistency between a teacher's beliefs and the teacher's practice.
2. A teacher understands how students learn and develop, and applies that knowledge in the teacher's practice.

A teacher shall:

- a) accurately identify and teach to the developmental and future instructional needs of students and prepare lesson plans which reflect those identified needs;
 - b) apply learning theory in practice to accommodate differences in how students learn, including accommodating differences in student intelligence, perception and cognitive style;
 - c) incorporate a variety of methods and materials to assist the many learning styles of students;
 - d) check for learner understanding;
 - e) monitor and, if necessary, adjust instruction based on student feedback;
3. A teacher teaches students with respect for their individual and cultural characteristics.

A teacher shall:

- a) act on the belief that all students can learn and encourage achievement at the highest level for each student;
- b) incorporate characteristics of the student's and local community's culture into instructional strategies that support student learning;

- c) identify and use instructional strategies and resources that are appropriate to the individual and special needs of students; and
 - d) promote positive self-concept in students.
4. A teacher knows the teacher's content area and how to teach it.
- A teacher shall:
- a) teach the adopted District curriculum as the basic instructional program;
 - b) demonstrate thorough knowledge of subjects taught, their tools of inquiry, and central concepts;
 - c) draw from a wide variety of teaching materials, including available technology, and apply these to the subjects when preparing required lesson plans in compliance with District curriculum;
 - d) apply knowledge of Alaska history, geography, economics, governance, languages, traditional life cycles and current issues to the selection of instructional strategies, materials and resources;
 - e) state the objective of each lesson;
 - f) demonstrate the subject's relationship with and application to classroom activities, life, work, and community;
 - g) clearly present information, using appropriate methods;
 - h) maximize teaching and learning time;
 - i) relate student activities to lesson objectives;
5. A teacher facilitates, monitors and assesses student learning.

A teacher shall:

- a) create, select, adapt and use a variety of instructional resources which support adopted District curriculum and facilitate student achievement;
- b) strike a balance between dissemination of information, providing for adequate student practice time, and encouraging application of new information to practical problems;
- c) check regularly for students' understanding of content, concept, and provide timely notice of their progress on skills and assignments in order to increase student learning and confidence to learn;

- d) use a variety of assessment methods that provide information about and reinforce student learning, and that assist students in evaluating their own progress;
 - e) organize and maintain records on students' learning, and use a variety of methods to timely report on student progress to students, parents, administrators and other appropriate audiences; and
 - f) self-evaluate and adjust teaching practice based on information gained from assessment to facilitate student progress toward learning and District curricular goals for the subject;
6. A teacher creates and maintains a learning environment in which all students are actively engaged and contributing members.

A teacher shall:

- a) create and foster a stimulating, inclusive and safe learning community in which students take intellectual risks and work independently and collaboratively;
 - b) establish high standards for student performance and clear expectations of what students will learn and communicate those standards to students and parents; recognize and acknowledge outstanding student performance;
 - c) use questioning strategies that promote learning;
 - d) elicit overt (observable) behavior in all students in order to check for understanding;
 - e) plan and use a variety of classroom management techniques to establish and maintain an environment in which all students are able to learn;
 - f) assist students in understanding their role in sharing responsibility for their learning;
 - g) understand and clearly post District and school discipline policies, classroom rules, and behavior expectations; fairly and consistently enforce class rules and behavior expectations.
7. A Teacher works as a partner with parents, families and with the community.

A teacher shall:

- a) promote and maintain regular and meaningful communication between the classroom and student families;
- b) establish partnerships with parents and families to support and promote student learning;

- c) participate in school and District efforts to communicate with the broader community and involve parents and families in student learning;
 - d) connect, through instructional strategies, the school and classroom activities with student homes and cultures, work places and the community; and involve parents and families in setting and monitoring student learning goals.
8. A teacher participates in and contributes to the teaching profession.

A teacher shall:

- a) maintain a high standard of professional ethics;
- b) update both knowledge of the teacher's content area(s) and best teaching practice through instructional development activities to improve the quality of or update classroom, school or District programs;
- c) communicate, work cooperatively and develop professional relationships with colleagues;
- d) complete lesson plans, reports, records, and requisitions in a professional manner;
- e) demonstrate proficiency in written and oral communication;
- f) be receptive to constructive suggestions;
- g) maintain good grooming and personal care;
- h) perform non-instructional duties as requested (e.g. recess, hall, detention, study);
- i) exhibit a positive attitude towards the profession and be flexible and cooperative with colleagues, administrators, parents and students;
- j) evaluate own performance;
- k) maintain up-to-date knowledge of District curriculum requirements.