



4153.1: PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES AND STAFF RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS

All employees are expected to comply with the Professional Code of Conduct, and to observe and maintain professional boundaries between themselves and students. A violation of such professional boundaries will be regarded as a form of misconduct and may result in disciplinary action.

All electronic communication with students will only occur through the District e-mail system or District approved communication systems.

The following non-exclusive list of actions will be regarded as a violation of the professional boundaries and staff relationships with students that employees are expected to maintain with a student includes, but is not limited to:

- Text-messaging students, unless the student is a child or family friend of the employee.**
- Any communication with students in an inappropriate, immoral or unethical manner.**
- Engaging in private social-networking communication with a student on a social networking site, unless the student is a child of the employee or family friend. Material that employees post on social networks that is publicly available to those in the school community should reflect the professional image applicable to the employee's position and not impair the employees capacity to maintain the respect of students and parents or impair the employees ability to serve as a role model for students.**
- Engaging in sexual activity, a romantic relationship, or dating a student or a former student within one year of the student graduating or otherwise leaving the District.**
- Making any sexual advances – verbal, written, or physical – towards a student.**
- Showing sexually inappropriate materials or objects to a student.**
- Discussing with a student sexual topics that are not related to a specific curriculum.**
- Telling sexual or inappropriate jokes to a student.**
- Invading a student's physical privacy (e.g., walking in on the student in a restroom), except as appropriate in relation to the child's needs.**
- Being overly "touchy" with a specific student.**
- Addressing students or permitting students to address staff members with personalized terms of endearment, pet names, or otherwise in an overly familiar manner.**
- Allowing a specific student to get away with misconduct that is not tolerated from other students, except as appropriate for students with an IEP or 504 plan.**

- **Discussing with the student the employee’s problems that would normally be discussed with adults (e.g., marital problems).**
- **Giving a student a ride in the employee’s personal vehicle without express permission of the student’s parent/guardian and school administrator unless another adult is in the vehicle and except in circumstances that are appropriate, such as driving a babysitter home or driving the friend or teammate of the employee’s child home. If there is any question as to whether it is appropriate or not, the employee should notify the employee’s direct supervisor for direction.**
- **Taking a student on an outing without obtaining prior express permission of the student’s parent and school administrator.**
- **Inviting a student to the employee’s home without prior express permission of the student’s parent and school administrator**
- **Going to the student’s home when the student’s parent or a proper chaperone is not present**
- **Giving gifts of a personal nature to a specific student**

Reporting Violations

Students and their parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to notify the principal (or other administrator) if they believe a teacher or other staff member may be engaging in conduct that violates this Rule.

Staff members are required to promptly notify the principal (or other administrator) or the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, if they become aware of a situation that may constitute a violation of this Rule.

If a student contacts a staff member and they do not use the District e-mail system or designated communication system, the staff member must notify their immediate supervisor of the communication within 24 hours, unless circumstances warrant and immediate contact. The staff member is also responsible to ensure student is aware of and utilizes District approved communication systems.

Date of Adoption

July 9, 2018

Related Policies and Rules

[4153: Professional Boundaries and Staff Relationships with Students](#)

[4155.1: Code of Ethics](#)

5620: Child Abuse, Neglect and Cruelty

5620.1: Child Abuse, Neglect and Cruelty

7305: Web and Social Media Publishing

7305.1: District Internet Web Pages and Social Media Sites