

PDE Educator Ethics Law Update to the PMEA Board

October 17, 2021

1. As posted in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, Volume 51, Issue 34 on August 31, 2021, revisions to the PA “Code” of **Professional Practice and Conduct** have been approved by the Pennsylvania Board of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission
2. The old “Code” had eleven sections; the new “Code” is organized into six sections:
 - Mission
 - Introduction
 - Definitions
 - Commitment to Students
 - Commitment to Colleagues
 - Commitment to the Profession
3. This “Code” is a regulation that licenses and governs all PA professional educators:
 - “Professional conduct defines interactions between the individual educator and students, the employing agencies, and other professionals...”
 - “This chapter makes explicit the values of the education profession. When individuals become educators in this Commonwealth, they make a moral commitment to uphold these values.”
4. We are awaiting the final release of the official copy of this “Code” and updates on the Commission’s website.
5. The final draft of revisions to the PA Chapter 49 Certification of Professional Personnel (with specific mandated competencies for ethics training to be covered in pre-service classes, induction programs, and professional development in-service workshops) was approved by the PA State Board of Education on September 9, 2021, and is currently being examined by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.
6. PMEA is ahead of the curve in providing ethics training of its members: webinars, conference sessions, and PCMEA workshops.
7. Sources for more information:
 - <https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol51/51-34/1312.html>
 - <http://www.irrc.state.pa.us/docs/3283/AGENCY/3283PRO.pdf>
 - <https://paulfox.blog/2021/10/06/pa-educator-ethics-update/>

Council for Teacher Training



Recruitment and Retention