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ONLINE: Ethics for Education Professionals

“I was pleasantly surprised at the respectful and compassionate tone that the course took towards teachers who are tempted to commit boundary violations.”

– Christopher L.

With the advent of the internet and smart phones, it's easy for boundaries to become blurred. In the past it was rare for a student to call a teacher at home. Today, students and teachers are faced with numerous ways to contact one another 24/7. Things that in the past may have been black and white are now grey. Where do we draw the lines?

Even though most people believe that their actions are guided by logic and reason, we all have an innate ethical sense that urges us to make predictable choices. However, ethics in education is about recognizing the real power of our own innate ethical sense and how it influences our behaviors.

We build our ethical sense on beliefs that we already bring with us. This is why ethics is about individual's personal choices.

When we recognize and intuitively understand that ethics must be measured on a case-by-case basis, this type of ethical relationship can become a powerfully positive starting point for both educators and students. We must commit to broadening our understanding of ethical issues while at the same time seek to better understand the ideas of others. Step inside this course and discover tools and tips for bringing high standards of ethics into our schools and practical ways to address ethical decisions in our lives at every stage.

Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

The course also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.



Each self-study PD course from Professional Learning Board includes:

- **Convenient access** anytime, anywhere, any device
- Interactive **online** textbook
- Implement **practical suggestions** immediately
- Demonstrate comprehension with **quizzes** and checks for understanding
- Print **certificates** of completion
- Easily assign courses to align with each teacher's **personalized PD needs**
- **Integrate** with school and district-wide initiatives
- **Low cost solution for all courses, all teachers, all school year**
- **Reports** for school administrators



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Course Outline

LESSON 1

Ethics in School

- Examining morals, ethics and laws while understanding subtle differences between these.
- Insight on schools of thought and ethical models.
- Professionalism and how it applies to teachers.
- Reviewing basic ethical practices.

LESSON 2

Ethical Boundaries

- Boundaries and the need for teachers to equip themselves and be culturally aware of how behaviors such as touch, eye contact, conversation topics, styles and personal space differ amongst people.
- Types of boundaries and establishing boundaries through communication, both verbal and non-verbal.
- Insight on challenging ethical issues including excessive thinking, jealousy and inappropriate relationships, as well as how these may be avoided.

LESSON 3

Ethical Behaviors

- Professional habits, including the infusion of modesty, fidelity and civility.
- Understanding appropriate behavior in areas including touch and conversation.
- Practical strategies that can be used to maintain positive professional relationships with students, colleagues and parents.
- Virtues and the traits that are the cornerstone for every professional teacher.

LESSON 4

Implementing Ethics in School

- Laws and legal issues in the area of educational records, privacy, disclosure and consent.
- Ethical practices in the areas of conduct, assessment and planning.
- Implementation of a school-wide system for dealing with ethical issues through the formation of an ethics committee.
- Ethical codes and reflection.