

## The Rules

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### Who decides?

An Ethics Subcommittee composed of education professionals carefully reviews each allegation before deciding whether it is authorized for investigation. When an investigation is complete and after an educator has had an opportunity for a hearing, the Ethics Subcommittee makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education. The State Board makes the final decision about the facts and any disciplinary actions.

### How does the process work?

The Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators include definitions, procedures for investigation of authorized allegations and possible disciplinary recommendations if an ethics standard is determined to have been violated. A current copy of the rules can be found on the ADE's website.

### Want to learn more?

For more information, please contact the chief investigator or the ethics attorney for the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

## Contact Information

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### Arkansas Department of Education

We can provide an ethics training session at your school! Contact our office for further information.

### Professional Licensure Standards Board

**Little Rock, AR 72201**

**Phone: 501-371-8014**

**Fax: 501-682-3781**

**[www.arkansased.org](http://www.arkansased.org)**



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## Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators

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The Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators defines minimum standards of ethical conduct for all licensed educators. The ADE’s Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators define these standards and provide a process for investigating alleged violations.

### **Why are a teacher’s ethics so important?**

The professional, ethical educator contributes to the development and maintenance of a supportive, student-centered learning community that values and promotes human dignity, fairness, care, the greater good, and individual rights. These standards are essential for maintaining the public’s respect and support for licensed educators.

### **Who has to abide by the Code of Ethics?**

Arkansas law mandates that every person with a valid Arkansas license issued by the State Board of Education is required to abide by the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators.

### **Who can file a complaint?**

Any person can fill out an allegation form and file it with the Department of Education, their Superintendent, or a public school district, but it must be signed under penalty of perjury. The allegation of violation form can be found on the ADE website—[www.arkansased.org](http://www.arkansased.org) type Professional Licensure Standards Board in the search box, then look under the “Resources” link on the PLSB menu.

### **Standard 1**

An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom.

### **Standard 2**

An educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive of skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position.

### **Standard 3**

An educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices.

### **Standard 4**

An educator entrusted with public funds and property, including school sponsored activity funds, honors that trust with honest, responsible stewardship.

### **Standard 5**

An educator maintains integrity regarding the acceptance of any gratuity, gift, compensation or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or actions and shall refrain from using the educator’s position for personal gain.

### **Standard 6**

An educator keeps in confidence secure standardized test materials and results and maintains integrity regarding test administration procedures.

### **Standard 7**

An educator maintains the confidentiality of information about students and colleagues obtained in the course of the educator’s professional services that is protected under state law or regulations, federal law or regulations, or the written policies of the educator’s school district, unless disclosure serves a professional purpose as allowed or required by law or regulations.

### **Standard 8**

An educator refrains from using, possessing and/or being under the influence of alcohol or unauthorized drugs/substances and/or possessing items prohibited by law, or possessing or using tobacco or tobacco-related products while on school premises or at school-sponsored activities involving students.