Concepts addressed:
Ongoing Personal Reflection on Teaching and Learning Practices as a Basis for Making Professional Decisions

Code of Ethics and Advocacy for Learners

As a teacher, we are required to be familiar with the laws that pertain to the profession of teaching as well as the codes of ethics that we must follow in our work with students. In our daily interactions with students, we face ethical situations which we must respond to using the following codes of ethics as guidelines in our decision making process. These codes of ethics outline the moral obligations we have to our students, to the public and to the profession.

South Dakota Resource

• "Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers" developed by the South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission is available at http://doe.sd.gov/oatq/propractices/PTPSC/ethicsteach.asp. This document provides information about the code of ethics that South Dakota teachers are obligated to follow.

National Resource

• The National Education Association's (NEA) Code of Ethics of the Education Profession is available at http://www2.nea.org/code.html.

Ongoing Personal Reflection

Ongoing personal reflection is one of the most critical parts of a teacher's day. Through continuous reflection, we grow as teachers. It is important to reflect daily, thinking through the day's events and its implications. When analyzing the effectiveness of daily lessons, reflection should also include written notes or comments that can be referred to in the future when teaching the lesson again.

Sample reflective questions could include:

• What aspects of my day (or this lesson) went well?
• Were the instructional activities I used effective?
• What changes need to be made to make this a more effective lesson or activity?
• What will I do differently next time I teach this lesson?
• What did I learn about teaching and learning today?

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