

Augustana College

PLT CONCEPT REVIEW SHEET

Concepts addressed:

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

CODE OF ETHICS

Generally speaking, questions of right and wrong are the focus of ethics. Ethics relate to how teachers conduct their classes as well as their relationships with students, parents, and colleagues. Thus, ethics play an integral role in how teachers practice their profession. Professional teachers conduct their practices in ways that are legally and ethically proper. Teachers are governed or guided by their own set of personal ethics as well as codes of ethics articulated by various facets of the teaching profession. Ethical questions guide personal choices as well as classroom discussions particularly around current social issues.

Professionals choose to do what is right. While the profession of teaching does not have one unified code of ethics, typically, state departments or boards of education and professional organizations, such as NEA, have codes of ethics for teachers to guide their professional practice. NEA's code of ethics consists of a preamble and two main sections; one devoted to the teacher's commitment or obligation to the student and the other devoted to the teacher's commitment or obligation to the profession.

The state of South Dakota has established a code of ethics for teachers. South Dakota's Code of Ethics for Teachers consists of three sections:

Obligations to Students

Obligations to the Public

Obligations to the Profession

Ethical practice means teachers must constantly be monitoring their behavior and reflect upon their professional practice.

ADVOCACY FOR LEARNERS

Advocacy for learners means that teachers take on the role of supporting their students and their learning. It might mean speaking on behalf of students who are unable to do so. Typically, teachers are advocates for students who are disadvantaged in some way. It might mean lobbying for appropriate educational placements or services for students with special needs.