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# CODE OF ETHICS\*

## FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS

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*The professional conduct of every educator affects attitudes about the teaching profession and Catholic education. Aware of the importance of maintaining the confidence of students, parents, colleagues, and the Church community, Catholic school educators strive to sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct.*

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### COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS

*Catholic education is an expression of the mission entrusted by Jesus to the Church He founded. Through education the Church seeks to prepare its members to proclaim the Good News and to translate this proclamation into action. Since the Christian vocation is a call to transform oneself and society with God's help, the educational efforts of the Church must encompass the twin purposes of personal sanctification and social reform in light of Christian values.*

*(To Teach as Jesus Did)*

**The Catholic school educator makes the well-being of students the foundation of all decisions and actions. Therefore, the Catholic school educator:**

- Provides educational assistance with respect and reverence for each student.
  - Preserves the student's right to privacy by judiciously protecting information that is confidential.
  - Protects students when their well-being is threatened by unsafe, incompetent, unethical, or illegal actions of any person—student or adult.
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\*This is a revision of the 1982 document.  
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## COMMITMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF TEACHING

*Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and the building of community. Community is central to educational ministry both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church must therefore be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his [or her] solitary destiny but also to the destinies of the many communities in which he [or she] lives.*

*(To Teach as Jesus Did)*

**The Catholic school educator performs teaching responsibilities with diligence and integrity. Therefore, the Catholic school educator:**

- Enhances self-competence by continuing education to increase knowledge and skills.
- Fosters a philosophy of education which encourages lifelong learning.
- Promotes professionalism by respecting and preserving the privacy and dignity of colleagues.
- Upholds the authority of the school when communicating with parents, students, and the school community.

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## COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

*The success of the Church's educational mission will also be judged by how well it helps the Catholic community to see the dignity of human life with the vision of Jesus and involve itself in the search for solutions to the pressing problems of society. Christians are obliged to seek justice and peace in the world. Catholics individually and collectively should join wherever possible with all persons of good will in the effort to solve problems in ways which constantly reflect Gospel values.*

*(To Teach as Jesus Did)*

**The Catholic school educator believes the Catholic school community is both an agent of appropriate change and a preserver of basic tradition. Therefore, the Catholic school educator:**

- Regards the school community as an integral part of the parish and a vital force for preparing future Church and civic leaders.
- Develops peacemaking strategies that reflect Christian problem-solving techniques.
- Designs and develops age-appropriate activities that foster leadership within the school community.
- Challenges students to respond to the needs of the time and live out their Christian virtues.