THE MODEL CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS

A guide for educators when making professional decisions, navigating risks, and collaborating with colleagues. The Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE) establishes a standard of care, protects the profession and works to foster educator agency.

How do Educators make Professional decisions?

Educators regularly navigate between three frameworks...

1. Dispositional Framework: Personal and professional attitudes, values and beliefs
2. Regulatory Framework: Code of conduct, policy and law
3. Ethical Framework (MCEE): Ethical standards that guide decision-making

HUTCHINGS AND NASDTEC (2015)

MCEE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I. Responsibility to the Profession
II. Responsibility for Professional Competence
III. Responsibility to Students
IV. Responsibility to Parents/Guardians, Colleagues, Community and Employer
V. Responsible and Ethical Use of Technology

1847
American Medical Association establishes their code of ethics

1932
American Bar Association establishes their code of ethics

1952
American Psychological Association establishes their code of ethics

1961
American Counseling Association establishes their code of ethics

1984
American School Counseling Association establishes their code of ethics

2015
The Model Code of Ethics for Educators was created by educators

June 2018
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board Adopts The MCEE
THE MCEE ESTABLISHES A STANDARD OF CARE

PROTECTING THE PROFESSION.

We can start moving away from a binary way of thinking ("right" vs. "wrong") to a combination of policies, statutes, Code of Ethics and professional standards & norms. In the US Court system, judges outline a "Legal Threshold" by asking "What would a reasonable, competent professional do in a similar situation?" (Dr. Troy Hutchings, Senior Policy Advisor, NASDTEC)

THE MCEE HELPS EDUCATORS NAVIGATE RISKS

EMBRACING THE GRAY.

Navigating risks - Systemic risks (Risks inherent to the education profession), Situational risks (Risks that are unique to a particular situation), Individual risks (A combination of individual actions with situational and systemic variables). "Educators make about 3,000 nontrivial decisions every day." (Charlotte Danielson)

ETHICAL DILEMMAS ENCOURAGE REGULAR APPLICATION OF THE MCEE

BUILDING EDUCATOR AGENCY.

Recognize competing tensions, identify the situational context and weigh possible outcomes by applying the Model Code of Ethics for Educators. "Ethics interventions will continue to fail because they are predicated on a false assumption: that individuals recognize an ethical dilemma when it is presented to them." (Bazerman, M. & Tenbrunsel, A.)