

The Regulation of Teachers

Being a Professional

Shawn McMullin – TRB Director of Professional Excellence & Outreach



Regulation of Teachers

- All BC teachers, principals, heads of school, and superintendents - whether in public, independent, First Nations, or BC offshore schools - must hold a certificate to teach in the K-12 system.
- A certificate is like a license to practice – you cannot work as teacher or administrator in BC without a certificate.

The BC Regulatory Structure

Supported by the *Teachers Act* which received Royal Assent on November 14, 2011 and came into force on January 9, 2012.



TEACHER REGULATION
BRANCH
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)

Public Interest – Transparency – Keeping Students Safe

BC Standards for Educators

- Standards are considered to be the hallmark of a profession.
- Should be measurable and speak to a degree of excellence.
- For BC educators, we have 8 statements of principle, along with brief descriptors, that describe what certificate holders in BC should know, be able to do, as well as the conduct they must adhere to.
- On application to the TRB, all teachers must sign that they understand and will abide by these Standards during their teaching careers.



BC Standards for Educators

- 1. *Educators value and care for all students and act in their best interest.***
- 2. *Educators are role models who act ethically and honestly.***
- 3. *Educators understand and apply knowledge of student growth and development.***
- 4. *Educators value the involvement and support of parents, guardians, families and communities in schools.***
- 5. *Educators implement effective practices in areas of classroom management, planning, instruction, evaluation and reporting.***
- 6. *Educators have a broad knowledge base and understand the subject areas they teach.***
- 7. *Educators engage in career-long learning.***
- 8. *Educators contribute to the profession.***

Standard 2

Educators are role models who act ethically and honestly.

- Educators act with integrity, maintaining the dignity and credibility of the profession. They understand that their individual conduct contributes to the perception of the profession as a whole. Educators are accountable for their conduct while on duty, as well as off duty, where that conduct has an effect on the education system. Educators have an understanding of the education system in BC and the law as it relates to their duties.

Living up to the Standards

- Balancing autonomy with responsibility and accountability.
- Understanding the importance of the work of teachers as relational.
- Establishing boundaries in those relationships that keep children/students safe.
 - The responsibility of setting these boundaries is always the educators and never the students.

Dilemmas in Defining Boundaries

An educator must:

- Act “in loco parentis” but is not the parent.
- Establish rapport with students but cannot be their friend.
- Care for students but cannot be their lovers.
- Care for students but is not a therapist, social worker or clergy - know the role/work within their area of expertise only and access professional help as needed.

In Summary

Educators must.....

- Act in ways that consider the best interest of their students and not their own needs or interests.
- Educators must act in the public interest.
- Educators must act to uphold the integrity of the profession as a whole.
- Understanding this makes teaching easier and more enjoyable.

Questions/Feedback

Shawn.McMullin@gov.bc.ca