

Staff Conduct with Students

The Board accepts the principle that the relationship between the faculty, staff member and the student should be one of cooperation, understanding, and mutual respect. As the director of learning experiences within the classroom, the teacher is expected to exercise good interpersonal relationships with the students, to accept each as an individual, and to extend a feeling of friendship to all.

Taking a sincere professional interest in an individual student is commendable, provided partiality and the appearance of partiality is avoided. The teacher who inspires, guides, and helps can have lasting influence on a student throughout his/her life. But such teacher-student friendships must be on a *teacher*-student basis.

Teachers and students should interact with each other on a warm, open, and positive fashion. However, there must be maintained a certain distance in order to preserve the businesslike atmosphere that is necessary to achieve the educational mission of the school.

Excessive informal and social involvement with individual students and “pal-like” relationships give rise to charges of excessive personal involvement and unethical conduct. Such friendships are not compatible with professional ethics.

CROSS REF.: GBEB - Staff Conduct (And Responsibilities)