



## Tailgate Safety Talks for School Employees

Issue 46

### Ethics in Education

The American Heritage Dictionary defines ethics as: “a set of moral principals governing a person's conduct.” Essentially, ethics can be described as one's moral philosophy that determines how that person conducts him/herself in society and toward others.

How would you define yourself as an ethical individual in the field of education? What principles “guide your life?” Do those principals impact your daily interactions in your personal and professional lives? How do these principals impact your interaction with students, their parents, colleagues, or your community?

#### **Our Educators are Our Role Models**

Teachers are often held accountable to higher standards within a community, so using good judgment is crucial. Poor judgment can cause problems that most educators don't want to face. Educators must always be aware of their behavior with and around students.

Your district should have in place a set of standards for the behavior and professional practice for educators. These standards should include:

**Code of Ethics**- a set of aspirational goals based around the values of:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Responsibility

**Code of Conduct**- a more detailed set of standards for professional and personal conduct as well as professional competence based on values outlined in the Code of Ethics.

**Standards of Professional Practice**- a set of standards that apply to all teachers that articulate what an educator should know and be able to do.

#### **How are Ethics applied in the workplace?**

Ethics must be applied every time you have to make a decision regarding the “right” thing to do. It takes good **character** to make ethical decisions. Remember, ethical decisions have an impact on teamwork, productivity, and your district's public image.

#### **7 Steps to Ethical Decision Making**

1. Stop & Think
2. Review Long Term Goals
3. Determine the Facts
4. Consider the Options
5. Consider the Consequences
6. Choose
7. Monitor Results

