Participants’ Packet:

1. Pasco’s Ethical Standards Overview Acknowledgement Form

2. Ethics brochure: "The Code of Ethics and the Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida"

3. Reporting brochure: "Identifying and Reporting Professional Misconduct"

Websites Referenced in the Presentation:

- www.myfloridateacher.com
  (for State statutes and State Board Rules)

  (Florida Educator Misconduct Search Tool)

For confidential questions, talk with your administrator or call The Office for Employee Relations for an appointment.

The Ethical Standards presentation is available on the Employee Relations Website.
Pasco’s Ethical Standards Overview Acknowledgement Form

I acknowledge that I have:

1. viewed Pasco County’s Ethical Standards video presentation.

2. received a copy of “The Code of Ethics and the Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida”.

In addition, I have been provided the opportunity to ask questions about this information and been informed of resources for additional information.

Principal or Worksite Supervisor  Employee Signature  Date

Completed forms are to be sent to The Office for Human Resources and Educator Quality.
The Code of Ethics of The Education Profession in Florida

1. The educator values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.

2. The educator's primary professional concern will always be for the student and for the development of the student's potential. The educator will therefore strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.

3. Aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community, the educator strives to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct.


"By virtue of their leadership capacity, teachers are traditionally held to a high moral standard in a community."

For further information call or write:
Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 124
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850)245-0441, SUNCOM 205-0441

Professionalism Through Integrity
Florida Department of Education
www.fldoe.org
The Principles of Professional Conduct of The Education Profession in Florida

(1) The following disciplinary rule shall constitute the Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida.

(2) Violation of any of these principles shall subject the individual to revocation or suspension of the individual educator's certificate, or the other penalties as provided by law.

(3) Obligation to the student requires that the individual:

(a) Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety.

(b) Shall not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning.

(c) Shall not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view.

(d) Shall not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program.

(e) Shall not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.

(f) Shall not intentionally violate or deny a student's legal rights.

(g) Shall not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable effort to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination.

(h) Shall not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.

(i) Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.

(j) Obligation to the public requires that the individual:

(a) Shall take reasonable precautions to distinguish between personal views and those of any educational institution or organization with which the individual is affiliated.

(b) Shall not intentionally distort or misrepresent facts concerning an educational matter in direct or indirect public expression.

(c) Shall not use institutional privileges for personal gain or advantage.

(d) Shall accept no gratuity, gift, or favor that might influence professional judgement.

(e) Shall offer no gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantages.

(5) Obligation to the profession of education requires that the individual:

(a) Shall maintain honesty in all professional dealings.

(b) Shall not on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, or otherwise qualified, or social and family background deny to a colleague professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization.

(c) Shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.

(d) Shall not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and further, shall make reasonable effort to assure that each individual is protected from such harassment or discrimination.

(e) Shall not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague.

(f) Shall not use coercive means or promise special treatment to influence professional judgment of colleagues.

(g) Shall not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications.

(h) Shall not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities.

(i) Shall not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact in one's own or another's application for a professional position.

(j) Shall not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.

(k) Shall provide upon the request of the certificated individual, a written statement of specific reason for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment.

(l) Shall not assist entry into or continuance in the profession of any person known to be unqualified in accordance with these Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida and other applicable Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rules.

(m) Shall self-report within 48 hours to appropriate authorities (as determined by district) any arrest/charges involving the abuse of a child or the sale and/or possession of a controlled substance. Such notice shall not be considered an admission
Florida Statutes s. 1006.061 states all employees and agents of the district school board, charter schools and private schools that accept scholarship students, have an obligation to report misconduct by an instructional personnel member or school administrator.

Florida Statutes s. 1012.33 outlines disciplinary procedures regarding district employment contracts with instructional personnel staff, supervisors and school principals.

Florida Statutes s. 1012.795 provides the Education Practices Commission the authority to issue disciplinary action against an individual's Florida Educator certificate.

Florida Statutes s. 1012.796 provides authority for the Department of Education to investigate and prosecute allegations of educator misconduct.

Florida Statutes s. 1012.01 defines public school instructional personnel, administrative personnel, school volunteers, education support employees and managers.

State Board of Education Rule 6B-1.001 defines the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession in Florida.

State Board of Education Rule 6B-1.006 defines the Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida.

Contact:
Florida Department of Education
Office of Professional Practices Services
Turlington Building
325 West Gaines Street
(850)245-0438
www.myfloridateacher.com

{DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION}
**HOW TO REPORT MISCONDUCT**

- Report allegations or suspicion of misconduct by an instructional personnel member to your school administrator or district contact.
- Report allegations or suspicion of misconduct by your school administrator to your district contact.
- Document the activities or details of the event.
- Secure evidence (if applicable).

**WHO SHOULD REPORT MISCONDUCT?**

All employees and agents of a district school board, charter school or private school have a duty to report misconduct.

If you are aware of or observe misconduct:

**REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY!**

**WHO SHOULD YOU REPORT?**

- Classroom teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Substitute teachers
- Librarians, guidance counselors and social workers
- Career specialists and school psychologists
- Principals, Assistant Principals and Deans

If someone tells you about misconduct, be a LEADER:

Listen
Evaluate
Act immediately
Document
Encourage
Report

**FAILURE TO REPORT MISCONDUCT**

Possible penalties for instructional personnel or site administrators who fail to report misconduct may include:

- Written Reprimand
- Suspension with or without pay
- Termination of employment
- Discipline/Sanctions on an educator's certificate

"A teacher affects eternity...he can never tell where his influence stops."

~Henry B. Adams