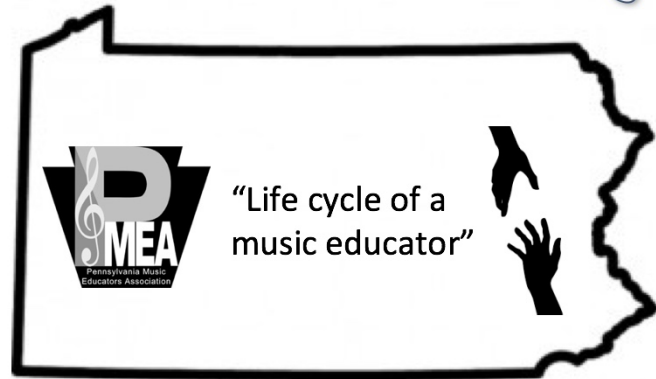


# PDE Educator Ethics Law Update to the PMEA Board

July 2023 Paul Fox, TTRR Council Chair

1. As published in *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, Volume 52, Issue 17 on April 23, 2022, revisions to the **Chapter 49 Certification** have been approved by the Pennsylvania Board of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission
2. Chapter 49 sets forth requirements for educator preparation, certification, induction, and ongoing professional education.
3. The updated PA **Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators** is now in effect with the following sections:
  - 235.1. Mission
  - 235.2. Introduction
  - 235.3a. Definitions
  - 235.5a. Commitment to Students
  - 235.5b. Commitment to Colleagues
  - 235.5c. Commitment to the Profession
4. This “Code of Conduct” is a regulation that licenses and governs all PA professional educators:
  - “Professional conduct defines interactions between the individual educator and students, the employing agencies, and other professionals.”
  - “Generally, the responsibility for professional conduct rests with the individual educator.” However, in this Commonwealth, the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC) is charged with the duty to adopt and maintain a code for professional practice and conduct that shall be applicable to any educator.”
5. As a guiding document on standards of behavior, values, and principles related to professional ethics, the Pennsylvania **Model Code of Ethics for Educators** (MCEE) was adopted by the Professional Standards and Practices Commission.
6. See next page revisions to the PA Chapter 49 (relating to Certification of Professional Personnel) **Professional Ethics Program Framework Guidelines** with specific mandated competencies for ethics training to be covered in pre-service classes, induction programs, and professional development in-service workshops.
7. PMEA Board of Directors adopted the MCEE in 2020 and has provided educator ethics training of its members offering webinars, conference sessions, and PCMEA workshops (2017-2022).
8. Sources for more information:
  - <https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol52/52-17/624.html&continued=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol52/52-17/624a.html&d=reduce>
  - <https://www.pspc.education.pa.gov/Statutes-Regulations-Policies-Forms/Code-of-Professional-Practice-Conduct/Pages/default.aspx>
  - <https://www.pspc.education.pa.gov/Documents/Statutes Regs Forms/Model Code of Ethics for Educators.pdf>

Council for Teacher Training



Recruitment and Retention



# Professional Ethics (PE) Program Framework Guidelines

*Executive Summary by Paul Fox, Chair of the Council for Teacher Training, Recruitment, and Retention*

On April 23, 2022, the final form amendments to Chapter 49 (relating to Certification of Professional Personnel) of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code became effective upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

22 Pa. Code § 49.14(4)(i) requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to identify competencies and develop associated standards for educator training in professional ethics.

Chapter 49 requires instruction in professional ethics to be integrated in educator preparation, induction, and continuing professional development programs as follows:

- Continuing professional development programs must integrate the professional ethics competencies no later than the 2023-24 academic year.
- Educator preparation and induction programs must integrate the professional ethics competencies no later than the 2024-25 academic year.

## COMPETENCIES: PROFESSIONAL ETHICS (PE)

<b>Professional educators:</b>	
PE.1	Demonstrate their understanding of the PA Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators and the PA Educator Discipline Act.
PE.2	Describe the function of the PA Professional Standards and Practices Commission and its role in professional disciplinary actions for educators.
PE.3	Differentiate between codes of conduct and codes of ethics and explain how each informs professional practice and decision making.
PE.4	Demonstrate their understanding of their responsibility to the profession as described in Principle 1 of the Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE).
PE.5	Demonstrate their understanding of their responsibility for professional competence as described in Principle 2 of the Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE).
PE.6	Demonstrate their understanding of their responsibility to students as described in Principle 3 of the Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE).
PE.7	Demonstrate their understanding of their responsibility to the school community as described in Principle 4 of the Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE).
PE.8	Demonstrate their understanding of the expectation for responsible and ethical use of technology as described in Principle 5 of the Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE).