

PRINCIPLE I: Ethical Conduct Toward Students

E. H. Mott Learning Center accepts personal responsibility for teaching students character qualities that will help them evaluate the consequences of and accept the responsibility for their actions and choices. We strongly affirm parents as the primary moral educators of their children. Nevertheless, we believe all educators are obligated to help foster civic virtues such as integrity, diligence, responsibility, cooperation, loyalty, fidelity, and respect-for the law, for human life, for others, and for self.

E. H. Mott Learning Center, in accepting a position of public trust, measures success not only by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her personal potential, but also as a citizen of the greater community.

- 1.) E. H. Mott Learning Center deals considerately and justly with each student, and seeks to resolve problems, including discipline, according to law and school policy.
- 2.) E. H. Mott Learning Center does not intentionally expose the student to disparagement.
- 3.) E. H. Mott Learning Center does not reveal confidential information concerning students, unless required by law.
- 4.) E. H. Mott Learning Center makes a constructive effort to protect the student from conditions detrimental to learning, health, or safety.
- 5.) E. H. Mott Learning Center endeavors to present facts without distortion, bias, or personal prejudice.

PRINCIPLE II: Ethical Conduct Toward Practices and Performance

E. H. Mott Learning Center assumes responsibility and accountability for his or her performance and continually strives to demonstrate competence.

E. H. Mott Learning Center endeavors to maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the law, and by demonstrating personal integrity.

- 1.) E. H. Mott Learning Center applies for, accepts, or assigns a position or a responsibility on the basis of professional qualifications, and adheres to the terms of a contract or appointment.
- 2.) E. H. Mott Learning Center maintains sound mental health, physical stamina, and social prudence necessary to perform the duties of any professional assignment.
- 3.) E. H. Mott Learning Center continues professional growth.

- 4.) E. H. Mott Learning Center complies with written local school policies and applicable laws and regulations that are not in conflict with this code of ethics.
- 5.) E. H. Mott Learning Center does not intentionally misrepresent official policies of the school or educational organizations, and clearly distinguishes those views from his or her own personal opinions.
- 6.) E. H. Mott Learning Center honestly accounts for all funds committed to his or her charge.
- 7.) E. H. Mott Learning Center does not use institutional or professional privileges for personal or partisan advantage.

PRINCIPLE III: Ethical Conduct Toward Professional Colleagues

E. H. Mott Learning Center, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, accords just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession.

- 1.) E. H. Mott Learning Center does not reveal confidential information concerning colleagues unless required by law.
- 2.) E. H. Mott Learning Center does not willfully make false statements about a colleague or the school system.
- 3.) E. H. Mott Learning Center does not interfere with a colleague's freedom of choice, and works to eliminate coercion that forces educators to support actions and ideologies that violate individual professional integrity.

PRINCIPLE IIII: Ethical Conduct Toward Parents and Community

E. H. Mott Learning Center pledges to protect public sovereignty over public education and private control of private education.

E. H. Mott Learning Center recognizes that quality education is the common goal of the public, boards of education, and educators, and that a cooperative effort is essential among these groups to attain that goal.

- 1.) E. H. Mott Learning Center makes concerted efforts to communicate to parents all information that should be revealed in the interest of the student.
- 2.) E. H. Mott Learning Center endeavors to understand and respect the values and traditions of the diverse cultures represented in the community and in his or her classroom.
- 3.) E. H. Mott Learning Center manifests a positive and active role in school/community relations.

PRINCIPLE V: Training Requirement

All instructional personnel and administrators are required as a condition of employment to complete training on these standards of ethical conduct.

PRINCIPLE VI: Reporting Misconduct by Instructional Personnel and Administrators

All employees and administrators have an obligation to report misconduct by instructional personnel and school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. Examples of misconduct include obscene language, drug and alcohol use, disparaging comments, prejudice or bigotry, sexual innuendo, cheating or testing violations, physical aggression, and accepting or offering favors. Reports of misconduct of employees should be made to Ms. Carmen Hamer, EHMLC Administrator. Reports of misconduct committed by administrators should be made to The Florida Department of Education. Sufficient allegations of misconduct by Florida certified educators will be reported to the Office of Professional Practices Services. Policies and procedures for reporting misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student are posted in the EHMLC school office and on our Web site at. www.EHMott.org.

PRINCIPLE VII: Reporting Child Abuse, Abandonment or Neglect

All employees and agents have an affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. **Call 1-800-96-ABUSE or report online at: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/>.**

- 1) **Signs of Physical Abuse:** The child may have unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, or other injuries; broken bones; or burns. A child experiencing physical abuse may seem withdrawn or depressed, seem afraid to go home or may run away, shy away from physical contact, be aggressive, or wear inappropriate clothing to hide injuries.
- 2) **Signs of Sexual Abuse:** The child may have torn, stained or bloody underwear, trouble walking or sitting, pain or itching in genital area, or a sexually transmitted disease. A child experiencing sexual abuse may have unusual knowledge of sex or act seductively, fear a particular person, seem withdrawn or depressed, gain or lose weight suddenly, shy away from physical contact, or run away from home.
- 3) **Signs of Neglect:** The child may have unattended medical needs, little or no supervision at home, poor hygiene, or appear underweight. A child experiencing neglect may be frequently tired or hungry, steal food, or appear overly needy for adult attention.
- 4) **Patterns of Abuse:** Serious abuse usually involves a combination of factors. While a single sign may not be significant, a pattern of physical or behavioral signs is a serious indicator and should be reported.

PRINCIPLE VIII: Liability Protections

Any person, official, or institution participating in good faith in any act authorized or required by law, or reporting in good faith any instance of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the department or any

law enforcement agency, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise result by reason of such action. (F.S. 39.203)

An employer who discloses information about a former or current employee to a prospective employer of the former or current employee upon request of the prospective employer or of the former or current employee is immune from civil liability for such disclosure or its consequences unless it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the information disclosed by the former or current employer was knowingly false or violated any civil right of the former or current employee protected under F.S. Chapter 760. (F.S. 768.095)