

ET-ETP-5 Summarize the professional practices and standards related to working in the field of education.

5.1 Determine knowledge, skills and dispositions needed by teaching professionals.

5.2 Examine personal characteristics needed to work in the teaching profession.

### In your teams

- **Read scenario**
  - **Discuss what consequences should be.**
  - **Share with class**
- **Scenario 1:**
  - You are on an overnight trip with the band out of town. It is after curfew for all of the students and they are sleeping soundly in their rooms. You walk into your fellow teachers' motel room and find two of the teachers drinking alcohol in celebration of the band's success in the competition. They invite you to join them but you politely refuse and turn around and leave the room. What should your next actions be? Should you turn them in? Why or why not?
  - **Scenario 2:** After two convictions of driving while intoxicated, a tenured elementary school teacher was dismissed on grounds of immorality. The teacher argued that the convictions did not relate to teacher effectiveness as her first grade students did not know of her arrests. Will her termination be upheld by the courts? Why or why not?
  - **Scenario 3:** After a new high school biology teacher assigned final semester grades, two students asked him to reconsider the C's he gave them. One got just what his test scores indicated. The other was close to a B-minus, and while he did poorly early on, he worked hard, sought help and improved significantly. The teacher raised his grade to a B-minus but did not alter the other student's. Nowhere in the course description or the district's grading guidelines does it state that improvement can be a factor in grading. The parents of the child with the C have come straight to the superintendent to complain. What position would you take on this issue, and how would you explain your position?
  - **Scenario 4:** You are a well-respected 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. The parents of a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student (not one of your students) comes to you and ask if you would tutor their son for the academic year. They will pay you \$30 per hour and ask for 10 hours of tutoring to be done per week (two hours per day after school). They tell you that their son has been clinically diagnosed with a learning disability, but they refuse to believe the diagnosis. They state that their son "is lazy and needs the kind of accountability that his current teacher is not providing." You could use the money, but are concerned about the ethics of accepting such a position. What legal and ethical considerations need to be analyzed prior to you making a decision?
  - **Scenario 5:** An educator discusses information from "Dave's" cumulative folder while in the presence of another teacher, a school volunteer, and students.
  - **Scenario 6:** A second grade teacher suspects that one of her students is a victim of child abuse. The child comes to school with bruises and cuts that are not, in the teacher's mind, consistent with injuries that second grade students routinely receive. She chose not to report the injuries to her superiors for nearly two weeks. She did confer with another teacher about her concerns. While she was contemplating what action should be taken, the student received a life-altering injury at the hands of an abusive parent. Should the teacher be held liable for not immediately reporting her suspicions? What legal principals should be examined by the courts in assessing this situation?

**Now, let's look the Georgia Teacher Code of Ethics, and then we will review these scenarios again to see if your decisions have changed.**