

Ethics Instruction: A Must in Teacher Preparation Classes

By:

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Goals and objectives of this presentation are:

1. Examine surprising examples of violations of ethical principles
2. Promote an increased awareness of the process necessary for making ethical decisions
3. Provide case studies and a brief hands-on experience in the decision-making process
4. Develop an increased inclination to include ethics instruction in all courses
5. Discuss best practices in embedding ethics instruction in classes

Old homeplace suddenly gone – by mistake

Exhibit explores African imprint on U.S. history

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

75¢

State probe reveals cheating on CRCT

By **Nancy Badertscher**
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Four elementary schools – including three in metro Atlanta – are being investigated over changed answers on the high-stakes CRCT.

Preliminary audit results by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement reveal that someone at the schools deliberately changed students' answers last summer on fifth-grade standardized math retests.

One principal resigned Thursday in the fallout. James Berry, principal of DeKalb County's

Atherton Elementary School, quit after being confronted with the findings.

Atherton Assistant Principal Doretha Alexander was given a new assignment pending further investigation, said Robert Moseley, DeKalb chief deputy superin-

Answers continued on A12

Criterion-Referenced Competency Test

Last year, Georgia's Department of Education retested fifth-grade students who failed the CRCT math test. Statistically, the average gain in test score points for some schools was highly unlikely. Atherton's average point gain, for example, was 76 points. Statewide, the average point gain was 16 points. NOTE: These numbers do not match those released by the state this week because the state suppressed some data it gave to the AJC that might have identified individual students.

School system	School	Students retested	Average point gain
DeKalb County	Atherton Elementary	32	76
Glynn County	Burroughs-Molette	21	57
Fulton County	Parklane Elementary	24	45
Atlanta City	Deerwood Academy	30	41
Statewide			16

* Schools that fail to achieve testing goals face penalties. A12

Principals arrested in cheating scandal

Attorney can't recall case like it in Georgia.

Educators face felony charges of falsifying a state document.

By **Kristina Torres**
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A DeKalb County principal who lost his job last week in the fallout over a CRCT cheating scandal is now facing a rare criminal prosecution.



James Berry and Doretha Alexander face felony charges after officials found evidence of altered CRCT answers from their school.

DeKalb County police arrested James Berry, the former principal at Atherton Elementary School, at his home Friday on a felony charge of falsifying a state document.

They arrested Doretha Alexander, the school's former assistant principal, on the same charge late Thursday. Each was released Friday on \$15,000 bond, pending indictment and possible trial on the charge, which carries a potential two- to 10-year prison term, authorities said.

Neither Alexander nor Berry could be reached by phone for comment Friday evening.

Berry, Atherton's principal for the last four years, resigned, and Alexander was reassigned last week after a preliminary audit was released. The audit by the Governor's Office of Student

Cheating continued on A7

AJC 6-20-09

- Teacher's lesson: Ballot fraud is bad...
Teacher who tried to rig the homecoming vote?
- Teacher charged with stealing bags from student's lockers
 - Principal arrested for enticement
 - Teacher arrested at school on drug charges
 - Teacher fired for "Butt Painting"
Art teacher goes bottom-up
- High school coach arrested on porn charges

- Another beer bash – principal and teacher arrested
- School counselor charged in sex with student
- Principal to be fired over school chicken blood ritual
- School principal indicted on child porn charges
- Third grade teacher charged in drug bust
- When tests' cheaters are the teachers

Criminal Acts in former cases include:

- Murder & Attempted murder
- Possession of crack cocaine
- Tampering with public records
- Possession of child pornography
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Statutory rape
- Arson 1st Degree
- Burglary
- Terroristic threats
- Theft
- Shoplifting
- Indecent Exposure
- Manufacturing Marijuana
- Contributing to the Delinquency of Minor
- Enticing a Child for Indecent Purposes
- Conspiracy to Manufacture Methamphetamine
- Grand theft and credit card fraud
- Stalking



Other Abuse of Students Cases

- Touched student with electric shock mechanism
- Slapped a student
- Struck a student in the head with a metal music stand
- Taped a student's mouth and tied his arms to his wheelchair
- Kissed or "licked" students
- Sexual relationship with student
- Child molestation
- Sent sexually suggestive e-mail to student
- Peeping Tom
- Videotaping girls' locker room
- Sodomy with students
- Held child's hand over burner of stove
- Exposed himself to student
- Oral sex with a student
- Offered students money to pose for nude photographs
- Allowed students to come to her residence and have sex with her 3 male roommates

Alcohol and Drugs Cases

- Had a blood alcohol level of .314 at school
- Fell asleep during planning period with a half-full cup of vodka beside the desk
- Consumed alcohol on field trips with students
- Consumed alcohol after hours at school
- Consumed alcohol at school function
- Consumed alcohol while chaperoning a school trip
- Allowed students to drink alcohol at his/her home
- Possession of cocaine
- Possession of more than 1 ounce of marijuana
- Prescription forgery
- Tested positive for cocaine

Misrepresentation or Falsification Cases

- Signed other teachers' signatures on IEP forms
- Forged a parent's signature on an SST record
- Used sick leave for vacation or second jobs
- Falsified time records
- Awarded credit when students had not earned it
- Changed grades of students to make them eligible to participate in an athletic event
- Provided students with answers for standardized tests.
- Forged or altered transcripts, certificates or references
- Altered scores on a Praxis test report
- Used professional leave for personal purposes

Public Funds and Property Cases

- Accessed pornography on school computer
- Embezzled school funds
- Theft of musical instruments
- Allowed educators who contributed to a charity to leave school early on a work day
- Diverted PTA funds for personal use
- Submitted a false travel voucher
- Conducted unauthorized fundraisers and diverted cash and items donated to herself
- Stole \$9000 from cheerleading and chorus accounts
- Opened credit account in school's name and used it for personal purchases
- Used school facilities for sexual activity
- Conducted a consulting business during school hours

Abandonment of Contract

- Refused to come to work
- Took a job in industry with better pay
- Failed to provide lesson plans, IEPs, curriculum, instruction, and supervision
- Could not report to work because he was in jail
- Taped keys and resignation to office door after lunch and left
- Said he had “Irreconcilable Differences” with the Principal
- Quit when the Principal informed him that he had to teach the curriculum

Professional Conduct Cases

- Organized a betting pool with students
- Called a student a “heifer” and said her mother was “stupid”
- Gave extra credit to students who contributed to a fundraiser
- Encouraged students to disrobe at hotel pool
- Left class without permission via a window several times
- Had two loaded guns in desk drawer
- Failed to supervise students (having oral sex in the back of the classroom)
- Sexually harassed a colleague
- Made inappropriate comments and sexual overtures to coworkers
- Restrained a teacher and tried to kiss her against her will
- Sexual interaction with colleague on school grounds
- Engaged in a sexual relationship with a subordinate

Hygienic Educator

The educator was found to be under the influence of alcohol while at school. The educator submitted to testing on an Intoxilyzer and the results of two tests indicated alcohol concentration levels of .212 and .220. The educator stated that she had consumed an unknown quantity of mouthwash prior to going to work because she had a throat ailment.

Trusting Educator

The educator was in an intoxicated state in a restaurant after school hours. Students from his school entered the restaurant and, based on the educator's condition, a student offered to drive him home. As a result of his truck being involved in the destruction of eighteen neighborhood lawns, the educator was arrested and charged with Criminal Trespass.

Sick'O

The educator falsified a doctor's signature on a Certificate of Disability form stating that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer, solicited monetary donations by telling her Students that she would drop their two lowest test scores and the lowest quiz score if the class donated \$100.00 or more, and accepted gifts from her students under false pretenses. Her students collected over \$300.00 to purchase the gifts and gave the educator an IPOD to listen to during her breast cancer treatments.

Superintendent

The educator used his school system computer and cell phone to communicate with someone that he believed to be a 14 or 15 year-old female who was, in reality, a law enforcement officer. He expressed an interest in having a sexual relationship with the underage female persona. Pornography was discovered during a search of the educator's school system office and school system computer.

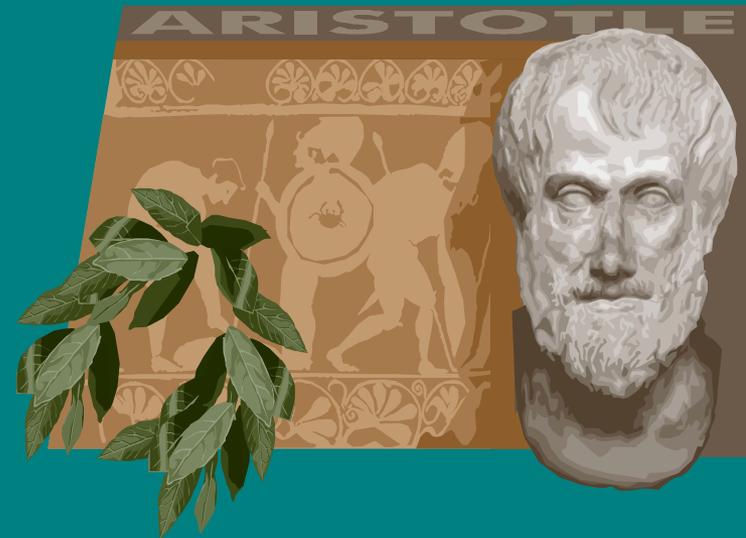
State School Superintendent

The educator converted money that was intended for students to be used for her own purposes. She pled guilty to Conspiracy & Conspiracy to Money Launder involving approximately \$600,000 of education funds.

What is Ethics?

- ✓ From Greek Word, ethos, which originally meant “the accustomed place” or “abode of animals”
- ✓ It was then applied to mankind to mean disposition, character, conduct

✓ Aristotle saw the study of ethics as tied to the state of being “happy” or of the general well being of mankind



- According to John Dewey, ethics is the science that deals with conduct insofar as this is considered as right or wrong, good or bad.

- From The American Heritage College Dictionary:

“A set of principles of right conduct.”

“A theory or a system of moral values.”

“The study of the general nature of morals and of specific moral choices.”

Simply put, ethics involves learning what is right or wrong, and then doing the right thing.

How Do You Know It's Right

Three questions you should ask yourself when faced with an ethical dilemma.

- **Is it legal?** *Does it violate any criminal or civil laws?*
- **Is it balanced?** *Is it fair to all parties concerned?*
- **Is it right?** *Are you proud of yourself for making this decision?*

*Kenneth Blanchard and Norman Vincent Peale
The Power of Ethical Management*

Teaching ethics is teaching ethical decision making

- Providing a framework for making ethical decisions is not about teaching a set of values. Rather it is about teaching a *process* of analyzing and understanding behaviors and teaching *respect* for the perception of others.

Simplified Ethics

Three Moral Principles

1. Do no harm
2. Do not be unfair
3. Do not violate another's freedom

Thomas Sergiovanni

Michael Fullan

John Goodlad

All seem to agree with the notion that part of educators' guiding credo includes moral responsibility

“Education of deliberate moral intent provides apprenticeship in the understandings, dispositions, and behaviors required for democratic citizenry.

Providing this apprenticeship is a major purpose of our schools.”

John Goodlad

“Whether you mean to or not you are modeling behavior and teaching ethics every time you encounter students.”

Gary Pavella

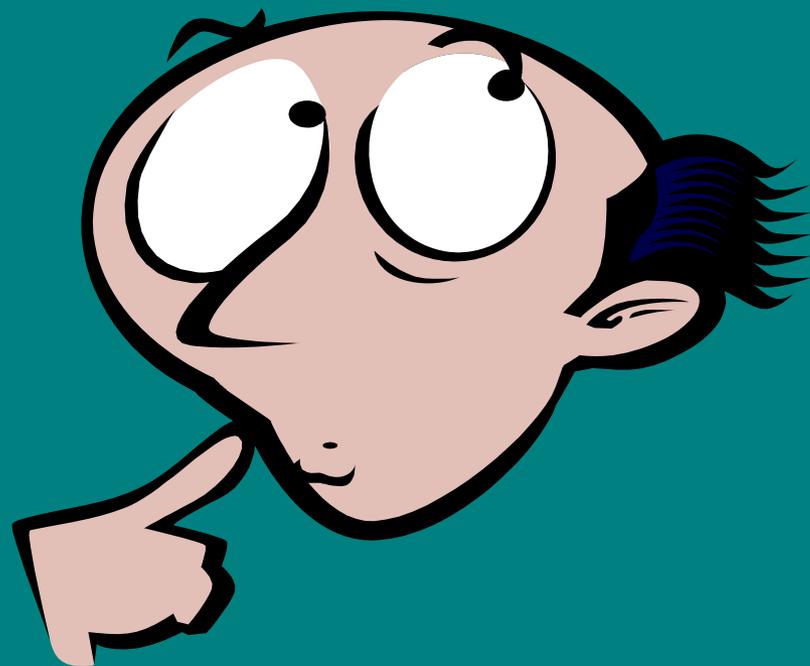
“Every class is to some degree a class in ethics.”

David Hoekema

The Chronicle of Higher Education

January 29, 2010

What can we do?



- Intentionally include ethical decision-making in courses

Codes of Ethics

Role Playing

Case Studies

- Just what is the problem or issue here?
- Are people in the case morally responsible for potential or caused harm or not?
- If harms are (or are likely to be) caused, then, can those harms be justified?
- Is there any way to resolve the case that doesn't involve the breaking of moral rules?

Multiple Paradigms for Making Ethical Decisions

(Shapiro & Stefkovich, 2009)

- *Ethic of justice* focusing on policies, rights, laws and equity
- *Ethic of critique* focusing on inequalities in society, especially schools in areas of race, gender, age, socioeconomic status and other areas of difference
- *Ethic of care* focusing on compassion and empathy in contrast to law and policy and the consequences of decisions
- *Ethic of the profession* focusing on a combination of the above informed by one's personal and professional codes of ethics

Describe any ethics instruction
that occurs in your classes

Thank You
Have a Great Weekend and a
Safe Trip Home



Unethical conduct includes but is not limited to:

- 1. Child Abuse, including physical and verbal abuse;**
- 2. Cruelty to Children or Child Endangerment;**
- 3. Committing or Soliciting any ~~unlawful~~ Sexual Act involving Students;**
- 4. Harassing behavior on the basis of race, gender, sex, national origin, religion or disability;**
- 5. Inappropriate Relationship with a Student (written, verbal, or physical); and**
- 6. Furnishing tobacco, alcohol, or illegal/unauthorized drugs to any student or allowing a student to consume alcohol, or illegal/unauthorized drugs.**

Ethics is a set of norms that is constructed and chosen by members of a pluralistic, democratic society and that are considered pragmatic norms to guide the conduct of their public lives, norms that coincide with fundamental virtues that promote the fullest and deepest commitment of the community

Robert Starratt

Educational Leaders Constituent Council (ELCC)

STANDARD 5.0:

Candidates who complete the program are educational leaders who have the knowledge and ability to promote the success of all students by acting with integrity, fairly, and in an ethical manner.

Alcohol or Drugs



An educator should refrain from the use of alcohol or illegal or unauthorized drugs during the course of professional practice.

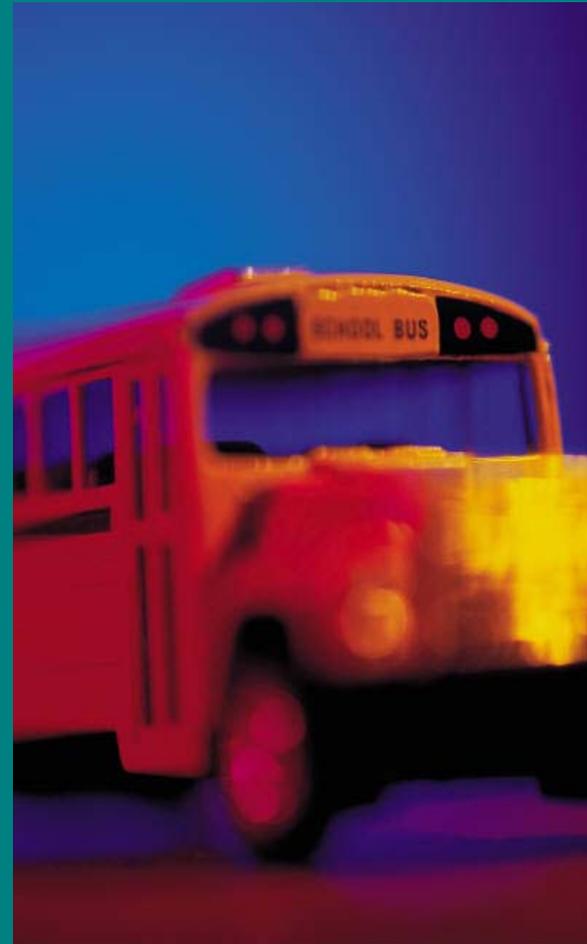


Unethical conduct includes:

1. **being on school premises or at a school-related activity involving students** while under the influence of, possessing, using, or consuming illegal or unauthorized **drugs**; and
2. **being on school premises or at a school-related activity involving students** while documented as being under the influence of, possessing, or consuming **alcoholic beverages**.

What is a school-related activity?

- Any activity sponsored by the school or school system (booster clubs, parent-teacher groups, or any activity designed to enhance curriculum, i.e., Foreign Language trips



Laid Back Educator

The educator fell asleep in class and failed to supervise two of his students engaged in oral sex during class time. On a required drug test the educator tested positive for cocaine.

Practical Educator

"I am a teacher and don't understand why my alcohol purchases weren't exempt from sales tax during the tax holiday. As any teacher can attest, it is essential to have ample supplies to make it through the school year."

*The "Vent" of the AJC
on August 8, 2007*

Public Funds and Property



An educator entrusted with public funds and property should honor that trust with honesty, accuracy and responsibility.

Unethical conduct includes:

- 1. misusing public or school-related funds;**
- 2. failing to account for funds collected from students or parents;**
- 3. submitting fraudulent requests for reimbursement of expenses or for pay;**
- 4. co-mingling public or school-related funds with personal funds or checking accounts; and**
- 5. using school property without the approval of the local board of education/governing board.**

Desperate

The educator used his school system computer and email account to view pornography and to contract for the services of prostitutes. His school system computer was found to contain nude photographs and email solicitations to various “escorts.”

Lookin For Love

Abandonment of Contract



An educator should fulfill all of the terms and obligations detailed in the contract with the local board of education or education agency for the duration of the contract.

Unethical conduct includes:

- 1. abandoning the contract for professional services without prior release from the contract by the employer, and**
- 2. willfully refusing to perform the services required by a contract.**

Professional Conduct



An educator should demonstrate conduct that follows generally recognized professional standards. Unethical conduct **is** any conduct that impairs the certificate holder's ability to function professionally in his **or** her employment position, or a pattern of behavior or conduct that is detrimental to the health, welfare, discipline, or morals of students.

GATE/GACTE/GAICTE

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Ethics Instruction For and By Teachers: Good or Bad?

By

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- Did principal fake school meeting

- Teacher reprimanded for prom party at home

- Judge: Teacher's hush tactic wasn't criminal