

OISE Standards of Professional Practice, Behaviour and Ethical Performance for Teacher Candidates

All Teacher Candidates registered in OISE's Master of Teaching program leading to recommendation for certification by the Ontario College of Teachers accept that the teaching profession demands integrity and exemplary behaviour. *OISE Standards of Professional Practice, Behaviour and Ethical Performance* for teaching includes upholding the applicable standards for the teaching profession established with reference to:

- a. The *Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession* and the *Ethical Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession* of the Ontario College of Teachers;
- b. The *Education Act* of the Province of Ontario;
- c. *We the Teachers of Ontario* of the Ontario Teachers' Federation;
- d. The *Code of Student Conduct* of the University of Toronto;
- e. The *Ontario Human Rights Code*;
- f. The *Criminal Code of Canada*; and
- g. The expectations of schools and communities that act as OISE's partners and field sites.

These standards apply to Teacher Candidates in all teaching or practice-related settings. By registering in OISE's Master of Teaching program, a Teacher Candidate accepts that s/he will follow *OISE Standards of Professional Practice, Behaviour and Ethical Performance*.

OISE Standards of Professional Practice, Behaviour and Ethical Performance do not replace the legal and ethical standards defined by professional or regulatory bodies or those regulations applicable to host organizations nor those defined by other University policies or procedures. Action respecting these OISE standards does not preclude any other action under other applicable University policies or procedures, action by program regulatory bodies, professional bodies or Boards of Education, or action under applicable law including the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

Breach of any of *OISE Standards of Professional Practice, Behaviour and Ethical Performance* may, after appropriate evaluation of a Teacher Candidate and in accordance with applicable procedures, be cause for dismissal or failure in a course, practicum, field placement or program.

All OISE Teacher Candidates are expected to demonstrate high levels of both academic and professional integrity and behaviour. As associate members of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF), Teacher Candidates should be aware of the regulations made under the *Teaching Profession Act*. All OISE Teacher Candidates will uphold the relevant behavioural and ethical standards of the teaching profession and will refrain from taking any action that is inconsistent with the appropriate standards of professional behaviour and ethical performance. These appropriate standards include:

1. Acting in a manner consistent with a teacher professional who is in a 'position of trust' in relationships with students in their care during practicum and field experiences. As a teaching professional in a position of trust, Teacher Candidates must not use relationships with students for personal benefit, gain or gratification.
2. Demonstrating dedication and commitment to students in their care.
3. Respecting appropriate confidentiality of all students in their care. The standard of confidentiality permits discussion of information about the student with school authorities who have direct involvement with that student and the release of information as required by law.
4. Respecting the students' rights and dignity, emotional wellness, physical safety and cognitive development at all times.
5. Refraining from any act that may be reasonably construed as physical, emotional or sexual abuse of students.
6. Establishing, respecting and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries in relationships with students, peers, colleagues and other professionals.
7. Respecting and demonstrating willingness to work professionally with instructors, peers, colleagues and other professionals.
8. Attending scheduled practicum and field placements and in the event of unforeseen circumstances, providing timely notice of absence to the appropriate person.
9. Upholding all applicable aspects of the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.
10. Fulfilling the duties of a Teacher as outlined in the *Education Act of the Province of Ontario* (RR, 1990, reg. 298 sec 20).
11. Behaving in a way that upholds the ethical and behavioural standards established by the Ontario College of Teachers and applicable Canadian law including the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

OISE Standards of Professional Practice, Behaviour and Ethical Performance represent minimum expected behaviour and ethical performance of Teacher Candidates; all Teacher Candidates should strive for exemplary ethical and professional behaviour at all times.

Breaches related to *OISE Standards of Professional Practice, Behaviour and Ethical Performance* are a serious matter and represent failure to meet the standards of the program.