



FITNESS TO TEACH STANDARDS FOR TEACHER CANDIDATES

1. **Social Maturity:** Interacts with staff and students appropriately.
2. **Emotional Maturity:** Exhibits personal self-control using mature judgment.
3. **Effective Communication:** Uses professional language in oral and written communication. Effective communication includes showing respect for students, families, and co-workers, and avoiding use of derogatory terms and phrases. Effective communication also recognizes variation in expectations depending on the audience, with particular attention to the teacher's capacity as a role model to all students and their learning outcomes. Effective communication will therefore exhibit proficiency in appropriate grammar. Teachers should demonstrate ability to facilitate two-way communication with parents/guardians using available tools that are responsive to their language needs.
4. **Initiative and Reliability:** Reliable and Responsible in meeting commitments.
5. **Ethical Standards:** Follows Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators as found in Chapter 247 of the Texas Administrative Code.
6. **Role Model:** Projects a professional image and positive attitude for students through professional attire, personal hygiene, respect for the rules of the school/district, respect for others, leadership, and demonstrated passion for their role as a teacher.
7. **Receptiveness to Instruction:** Seeks and accepts guidance and demonstrates application.
8. **Aptitude for the Profession:** Displays a positive interest toward competence in teaching.
9. **Cooperation:** Works smoothly within social guidelines and with professional personnel and collaborates with colleagues to improve instruction for all students. A teacher exhibiting cooperation will take an active role in building a professional culture that supports school initiatives and programming inside and outside the classroom.
10. **Student Motivation:** Maintains appropriate level of concern to support student effort and success, which is exhibited by student feedback highlighting the teacher's establishment of a safe and supportive learning environment, their willingness to help students learn, and demonstrated care for individual interests and learning goals.
11. **Critical Thinking:** Demonstrates cognitive flexibility and problem solving.
12. **Sensitivity to Diversity:** Demonstrates knowledge, skill, and respect in working with others from diverse backgrounds by modeling fair, equitable and appropriate treatment of all students, families, and co-workers.