



Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Professional Environmental Educators in Georgia

Statement of Purpose

The Georgia environmental educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, whatever their age or developmental level, toward professional colleagues, school officials, parents, program participants and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom. The Georgia environmental educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty. The Georgia environmental educator, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. The Georgia environmental educator, in accepting a position of public trust, shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen.

Standards

1. Professional Ethical Conduct, Practices and Performance. (Note: the word student refers to participants of all ages.)

Standard 1.1. The educator will provide the most balanced and factual information possible about the environment.

Standard 1.2. The educator will use monies, personnel, property, or equipment committed to his or her charge according to accepted ethical standards.

Standard 1.3. The educator shall submit only accurate and honest requests for reimbursement, expenses, or pay.

Standard 1.4. The educator shall use institutional or professional privileges only in the appropriate context and not for personal or partisan advantage.

Standard 1.5. The acceptance of gifts or tokens offered and accepted openly from students, parents, or other persons or organizations in recognition or appreciation of service is allowable; however, the educator shall not accept nor offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or to obtain special advantage.

Standard 1.6. The educator shall keep accurate and honest records.

Standard 1.7. The educator shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies, and other applicable state and federal laws.

Standard 1.8. The educator shall only apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or a responsibility on the basis of professional qualifications.

2. Ethical Conduct Toward Professional Colleagues.

Standard 2.1. The educator shall maintain confidentiality concerning health or personnel information concerning colleagues unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

Standard 2.2. The educator shall not harm others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or organization.

Standard 2.3. The educator shall adhere to written policies and state and federal laws regarding

the hiring, evaluation, and dismissal of personnel.

Standard 2.4. The educator shall respect a colleague's exercise of political, professional, or citizenship rights and responsibilities.

Standard 2.5. The educator shall not discriminate against or coerce a colleague on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or family status.

Standard 2.6. The educator shall not use coercive means or promise of special treatment in order to influence professional decisions or colleagues.

3. Ethical Conduct Toward Students.

Standard 3.1. The educator shall maintain confidentiality concerning students unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

Standard 3.2. The educator shall not knowingly treat a student in a manner that adversely affects the student's learning, physical health, mental health, or safety.

Standard 3.3. The educator shall not deliberately or knowingly misrepresent facts regarding a student.

Standard 3.4. The educator shall not exclude a student from participation in a program, deny benefits to a student, or grant an advantage to a student on the basis of race, color, gender, disability, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation or family status.

Standard 3.5. The educator shall not engage in physical, sexual or emotional mistreatment, of a student.

Standard 3.6. The educator shall not furnish alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs to any underage student or knowingly allow any underage student to consume alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs in the presence of the educator.

4. Ethical Conduct Towards the Learning Environment

Standard 4.1. The educator shall exercise due care and diligence to insure that students remain safe and encourage students to follow directions and use appropriate equipment.

Standard 4.2. The educator shall provide adequate supervision for the number of students and the particular study site.

Standard 4.3. The educator shall obey all laws protecting plants, animals, and property and shall encourage students to do likewise. All living things are to be appropriately respected.

Advanced Training

A T E E G

for Environmental
Education in Georgia

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or family status.



Confidentiality Agreement

This Confidentiality Agreement is entered into for the purpose of preventing the direct and indirect unauthorized disclosure of confidential information. Such information includes but is not limited to social security numbers, names, addresses, educator or student data, review materials, and any discussions regarding the aforementioned.

The undersigned shall hold and maintain the confidential information, regardless of form, in strictest confidence for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Environmental Education Alliance (EEA). The undersigned shall carefully restrict access to confidential information to employees, contractors, and third parties, if any, as is reasonable, and shall require those persons to sign nondisclosure restrictions at least as protective as those in this Agreement. The undersigned shall not, without prior written approval of EEA, use for the undersigned's own benefit, publish, copy, or otherwise disclose to others, or permit the use by others for their benefit or to the detriment of EEA, any confidential information. The undersigned shall return to EEA any and all records, notes, and other written, printed, or tangible materials in his/her possession pertaining to confidential information immediately when requested by EEA and/or upon termination of undersigned's employment or other relationship with EEA. The undersigned shall provide to EEA copies of any and all electronic information in his/her possession obtained during the fulfillment of the terms of the contract or other relationship with EEA when requested by EEA.

The undersigned shall destroy all electronic information in his/her possession containing confidential information obtained during the fulfillment of the terms of the contract when requested by EEA and/or upon the termination of the undersigned's employment or other relationship with EEA unless specifically exempted in writing by EEA.

The undersigned's obligations under this Agreement do not extend to information that is: (a) publicly known at the time of disclosure to the undersigned or subsequently becomes publicly known through no fault of the undersigned; (b) learned by the undersigned through legitimate means other than from EEA; (c) disclosed by the undersigned with EEA's prior written approval; or (d) disclosed to the undersigned by the owner or original provider of the confidential information.

The nondisclosure provisions of this Agreement shall survive the termination of the undersigned's relationship with EEA, and the undersigned's duty to hold the confidential information in confidence shall remain in effect in perpetuity or until such time that EEA releases the undersigned from the nondisclosure provisions in writing.

If a court finds any provisions of this Agreement invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall be interpreted so as best to affect the intent of the parties.



Policy Agreement Form

Please read the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Environmental Educators in Georgia, the Nondiscrimination Statement and the Confidentiality Policy for the Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia (ATEEG) certification program and sign this Policy Agreement Form indicating that you have read all three documents and agree to these policies.

The signed Policy Agreement Form will become part of your ATEEG participant file kept by the ATEEG Program Administrator.

I have read and agree to the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Environmental Educators in Georgia of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read and agree to the Nondiscrimination Statement of the Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read and agree to the Confidentiality Policy of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia.

Signature: _____ Date: _____