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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.

DATE: May 24, 2024

SUBJECT: **Amended State Board of Education Rule Regarding the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida**

Contact Information:

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The purpose of the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida is to serve as a guide for educators to ensure they make ethical choices and decisions and to set parameters for appropriate conduct while being responsible for the education of and holding positions of authority over students in our school systems. Violation of the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida may result in a sanction against the educator's Florida Educator Certificate.

On April 17, 2024, the State Board of Education amended [Rule 6A-10.081, Florida Administrative Code, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida](#), to ensure that students have direct access to educational materials. This amendment will go into effect on May 30, 2024.

This amendment prohibits a certificate holder serving as a school principal from preventing, directing school personnel to prevent, or allowing school personnel to prevent students from accessing any material used in a classroom, made available in a school or classroom library, or included on a reading list unless the certificate holder or his or her designee or the district school board has reviewed the material and determined it violated the prohibitions in [Section 1006.28\(2\)\(a\)2., F.S.](#), the material is unavailable to students based upon school board policies adopted to implement Section 1006.28(2)(d), F.S., or it was determined under the district's objection process adopted to implement Section 1006.28(2)(a)2., F.S., that the material violated one of the prohibitions in that section.

Section 1012.796(1)(d)1., Florida Statutes, states "each school district shall file in writing with the department all legally sufficient complaints within 30 days after the date on which subject matter of the complaint comes to the attention of the school district, regardless of whether the subject of the complaint is still an employee of the school district. A complaint is legally sufficient if it contains ultimate facts that show a violation has occurred as provided in s. 1012.795 and defined by rule of the State Board of Education." School districts will continue to report violations of the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida as amended to the Office of Professional Practices Services.

Thank you for your attention to and implementation of this important change to further ensure the rights of students and the health, safety and welfare of Florida's students.

POB/rk

DR. PAUL O. BURNS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS