

Schreiner University Student /Clinical Teaching Code of Ethics Contract
Texas Education Agency Requirement
Code of Ethics Standard 3.9 Social Media

Teachers must refrain from communicating with students through the use of social media under the requirements of an updated Educators' Code of Ethics endorsed by the State Board of Education. The Code of Ethics was updated by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), which oversees educator certification issues.

Texas Education Agency requested the change to the ethics code because they have received disciplinary case referrals in which teachers were found to have sent students text messages or other social media messaging. Although the content of the messages may not be deemed inappropriate, messages through any form of social media may indicate that the educator is "grooming" the student for a future sexual relationship.

A school district employee commits a second-degree felony under Penal Code Section 21.12 if the employee engages in sexual contact with a student who is not their spouse.

The new provision in the Code of Ethics says:

(I) Standard 3.9. The educator shall refrain from inappropriate communication with a student or minor, including, but not limited to, electronic communication such as cell phone, text messaging, email, instant messaging, blogging, or other social network communication. Factors that may be considered in assessing whether the communication is inappropriate include, but are not limited to:

- (i) the nature, purpose, timing, and amount of the communication;
- (ii) the subject matter of the communication;
- (iii) whether the communication was made openly or the educator attempted to conceal the communication;
- (iv) whether the communication could be reasonably interpreted as soliciting sexual contact or a romantic relationship;
- (v) whether the communication was sexually explicit; and
- (vi) whether the communication involved discussion(s) of the physical or sexual attractiveness or the sexual history, preferences, or fantasies of either the educator or the student.

I, _____, acknowledge the Texas Code of Ethics as a binding agreement as a professional educator and agree to uphold all aspects of the Code of Ethics contract including the additional standard concerning the use of social media with students. I understand that adherence to the Code of Ethics is necessary for placement in a student teaching or clinical teaching internship and disregard for this agreement may result in removal from the school internship placement and removal from the Schreiner University Teacher Education Program.

Signature of student _____ Date _____

I also acknowledge that I reviewed the videos included in the TEA Ethics Training as indicated below.

Signature of student _____ Date _____

TxED Agency's channel

Texas Education Agency Teacher Ethics Training

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYCCyVaf2g1vuF3qIz1NjEWFEMtxaBMvC>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_rYlbahwbg&list=PLYCCyVaf2g1vuF3qIz1NjEWFEMtxaBMvC&index=4

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_rYlbahwbg&list=PLYCCyVaf2g1vuF3qIz1NjEWFEMtxaBMvC&index=4