

EDUCATOR ETHICS/PROTOCOL/BOUNDARIES

The Agawam Public Schools Educator Ethics/Protocol/Boundaries Policy was developed to assist staff members, school committee members, and the general public in understanding what constitutes a safe learning environment that meets the needs of the whole child.

The following boundaries/guidelines should be followed by all staff members:

1. Don't date students, instant message (IM) students, visit student "my space" profiles, invite students to your "tech space", or become personal with students.
2. Emails to students should only pertain to homework and assignments.
3. Boundaries between students and adults should be clear and maintained. Eighteen year-old students are "kids", and 19 year-old students are "adults." Adults should speak, dress, and respond as adults.
4. Don't give students any medicine, drug, or herbal remedy.
5. Don't allow students to sleep in class, as it sends the message that you condone it.
6. Don't lock a student in any room, place, or space.
7. Don't drive students.
8. Don't allow conversations about student alcohol use, drug use, partying, or inappropriate activities to continue in your presence. Silence is validation.
9. Take every indication, comment, notes, essay, or journal entry of suicide intention, drug use, illicit activity, or anger to the point of attack seriously. Immediately report it to an administrator.
10. Interrupt actions and comments that are racist, sexist, or discriminatory in any way. Confront put-downs and bullying.
11. Don't use sarcasm, as it creates an unsettled feeling like public humiliation.
12. Be aware of the school district's Acceptable Use Policy. The school's internet is for school work.
13. Don't make assumptions that could be hurtful, such as "Are you supposed to be in this honors class? Do you need to see the nurse to take your medication?"
14. Respect the "needs to know" limits regarding student information. Do not share the details of a student's discipline case or situation with others.

Agawam Public Schools 2009 - 2010

Approved by School Committee on June 8, 2010, by a vote of 6 – 0 – 1 absent.