



(352) 351-1913

FIRST ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A MINISTRY OF FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD, OCALA, FL.

"Children are a blessing & a gift from the Lord."

1827 NE 14TH STREET

OCALA, FL 34470

Standards of Ethical Conduct - First Assembly Christian School

Adapted from: The Code of Ethics of the Education Profession in Florida

The Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida

The ACTS Accredited School Code of Ethics

- Our school values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
 - ◆ **Christian Principles:**
 - Faith Integration: Integrate Christian principles into all aspects of the school's operations, fostering an environment that reflects a commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ.
 - Community Engagement: Actively engage with the local Christian community and encourage students to participate in outreach and service projects that demonstrate Christian love and compassion.
 - ◆ **Integrity and Accountability:**
 - Honesty and Truthfulness: Conduct all operations with honesty and truthfulness, ensuring transparent communication in all dealings.
 - Stewardship: Exercise responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to the school, including finances, facilities, and personnel.

- Our primary concern is the student and the development of the student's potential. Employees will therefore strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
 - ◆ **Professional Conduct:**
 - Respect: Treat all students, parents, staff and stakeholders with respect, recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of everyone.
 - Confidentiality: Safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of student records, personnel matters, and other sensitive information.
 - Professional Development: Foster a commitment to ongoing professional development for all staff members, ensuring that they are equipped to provide the best possible education.

- Concern for the student requires that our instructional personnel:
 - ◆ Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety.
 - ◆ Shall not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning.
 - ◆ Shall not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view.
 - ◆ Shall not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program.
 - ◆ Shall not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
 - ◆ Shall not intentionally violate or deny a student's legal rights.
 - ◆ Shall not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable effort to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination.
 - ◆ Shall not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.
 - ◆ Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
 - ◆ **Student-Centric Focus:**
 - Quality Education: Provide a high-quality education that encourages academic excellence, critical thinking, and a love for learning within a Christian worldview.
 - Spiritual Growth: Foster an environment that nurtures the spiritual growth of students, helping them develop a strong foundation in Christian faith.
 - ◆ **Collaboration and Communication:**
 - Open Communication: Encourage open and honest communication among all stakeholders, fostering collaboration and teamwork.
 - Conflict Resolution: Resolve conflicts in a spirit of Christian reconciliation, seeking solutions that promote unity and understanding.

- Aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of colleagues, of students, of parents, and of the community, employees of our school must display the highest degree of ethical conduct. This commitment requires that our employees:
- ◆ Shall maintain honesty in all professional dealings.
 - ◆ Shall not on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition if otherwise qualified, or social and family background deny to a colleague professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization.
 - ◆ Shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.
 - ◆ Shall not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, shall make reasonable effort to assure that each individual is protected from such harassment or discrimination.
 - ◆ Shall not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague.
 - ◆ **Continuous Improvement:**
 - Assessment and Evaluation: Regularly assess and evaluate the effectiveness of school operations, seeking opportunities for continuous improvement.
 - Adaptability: Embrace a spirit of adaptability and innovation, staying responsive to the evolving needs of the school community.

Our Daily Code of Ethics:

- ◆ Faith-Centered Mission: We commit to uphold the Christian faith as the foundation of our school's mission and will strive to integrate biblical principles into every aspect of our educational programs, administrative decisions, and school operations.
- ◆ Integrity: We will conduct all operations with honesty, transparency, and accountability, reflecting the teachings of Jesus Christ; We will be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us by our community and donors.
- ◆ Spiritual Formation: We will actively nurture the spiritual growth of students, encouraging them to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and live out Christian values.
- ◆ Community Service and Outreach: We will actively engage with the local community, seeking opportunities to serve and demonstrate Christ's love through outreach programs and partnerships.
- ◆ Professionalism: We will maintain high professional standards, continuously improving our teaching methods, and engaging in ongoing professional development.
- ◆ Excellence in Education: We are committed to providing a high-quality, Christ-centered education that fosters academic excellence, critical thinking, and a love for learning.
- ◆ Learning Environment: We will create a supportive learning environment that values the unique gifts and talents of each student.
- ◆ Communication and Transparency: We will communicate openly and transparently with all stakeholders, providing timely and accurate information about school policies, decisions, and activities.
- ◆ Collaboration and Teamwork: We will foster a collaborative and supportive work environment, encouraging teamwork and mutual respect among staff, administrators, and parents.
- ◆ Parental Involvement: We will encourage and facilitate meaningful involvement of parents in the educational process, recognizing them as essential partners in the development of their children.

Training requirement all instructional personnel and administrators are required as a condition of employment to complete training on these standards of ethical conduct.

Reporting misconduct by instructional personnel and administrators all employees and administrators have an obligation to report misconduct by instructional personnel and school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. Examples of misconduct include obscene language, drug and alcohol use, disparaging comments, prejudice or bigotry, sexual innuendo, cheating or testing violations, physical aggression, and accepting or offering favors.

Reports of misconduct of employees should be made to **Judith Earlene Carte at 352-351-1913.**

Reports of misconduct committed by administrators should be made to **Jeff Wade at 352-351-1827.**

Legally sufficient allegations of misconduct by Florida certified educators will be reported to the Office of Professional Practices Services. Policies and Procedures for reporting misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student are posted in the school office and on our Website at www.facs.ocalafirst.org.

Reporting child abuse, abandonment or neglect all employees and agents have an affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

Call 1-800-96-ABUSE or report online at: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/>.

Signs of physical abuse, the child may have: unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, or other injuries; broken bones; or burns. A child experiencing physical abuse may seem withdrawn or depressed, seem afraid to go home or may run away, shy away from physical contact, be aggressive, or wear inappropriate clothing to hide injuries.

Signs of sexual abuse, the child may have: torn, stained or bloody underwear, trouble walking or sitting, pain or itching in genital area, or a sexually transmitted disease. A child experiencing sexual abuse may have unusual knowledge of sex or act seductively, fear a particular person, seem withdrawn or depressed, gain or lose weight suddenly, shy away from physical contact, or run away from home.

Signs of neglect, the child may have: unattended medical needs, little or no supervision at home, poor hygiene, or appear underweight. A child experiencing neglect may be frequently tired or hungry, steal food, or appear overly needy for adult attention.

Patterns of abuse: serious abuse usually involves a combination of factors. While a single sign may not be significant, a pattern of physical or behavioral signs is a serious indicator and should be reported.

Liability protects any person, official, or institution participating in good faith in any act authorized or required by law, or reporting in good faith any instance of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the department or any law enforcement agency, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise result by reason of such action.
(F.S. 39.203)

An employer who discloses information about a former or current employee to a prospective employer of the former or current employee upon request of the prospective employer or of the former or current employee is immune from civil liability for such disclosure or its consequences unless it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the information disclosed by the former or current employer was knowingly false or violated any civil right of the former or current employee protected under F.S. Chapter 760.
(F.S. 768.095)