



Registered Dance Educator (RDE)

CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Ethics for *Registered Dance Educators* recommends professional behavior expected of educators accredited through the Registry of Dance Educators; and the Code serves as a guide to ethical conduct for teaching dance in the private sector and school environment. The Code protects the health, safety and general welfare of students and educators, and ensures the parents and community a degree of accountability within the dance education profession.

The responsibilities set forth recommend professional behavior for the *Registered Dance Educator*.

Commitment to the Student and Family

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the *Registered Dance Educator*:

1. Provides a curriculum that is developmentally appropriate, progressive, and sequential regardless of the genre taught.
2. Encourages the total development of each student regardless of age, gender, interest, ability, ethnicity, socio-economic status,
3. Ensures that professional training is made available to students with the potential of succeeding in a performing career.
4. Respects the uniqueness of the individual student so that the dance program is directed toward being a positive experience for age-appropriate learning pursued in a safe environment free from embarrassment or disparagement, abusive language, intimidation, unhealthy competition, or other negative stressors.
5. Maintains a professional relationship with all students, both in and outside of the classroom or studio.
6. Ensures the student leaves the studio or school property properly attired. If necessary, the *Registered Dance Educator* is obligated to work with parents, other teachers and administrators to ensure students wear outer garments over practice clothes or costumes when entering publicly inhabited spaces.
7. Refrains from using professional acquaintances of students or families for private advantage.
8. Utilizes current pedagogical knowledge, methods, and techniques known through dance medicine and science research and literature, to ensure safe practices in teaching dance to others.
 1. Dance involves physical movement and injuries may occur from a student's participation in any form of dance instruction. However, the *Registered Dance Educator* takes all reasonable precautions to minimize the occurrence of injury through informed and prudent teaching practice.
 2. Some recommended precautions may include: screening applicants to place students in appropriate classes based on age, ability, and expressed desires; developing a school curriculum that is sequential and taught at developmentally appropriate ages; employing scientifically sound movement techniques, calibrating class periods to meet the needs of students; and hiring other *Registered Dance Educators*, or qualified dance professionals, to minimize risk and raise standards in teaching dance.
9. Complies with the state and federal laws and the local institution's governing board policies relating to the confidentiality of student and personnel records, test and evaluations, and other information covered by confidentiality agreements.

Employment Practices

The *Registered Dance Educator* employs only the most highly qualified dance educators. Dance training should be comparable to that cited in the paragraph on "Training" (above). Prospective hires should have demonstrated experience in the specific form(s) of dance they are contracted to instruct, and should have demonstrated experience and knowledge of the age groups and abilities of students they are contracted to instruct. The *Registered Dance Educator* should ensure that entry-level educators gain valuable teaching experience under the supervision and training of a seasoned dance educator or *Registered Dance Educator*. Entry-level educators should teach in the presence of a *Registered Dance Educator* and their pedagogy should be observed, reviewed, and assessed.

The *Registered Dance Educator* conducts periodic reviews of (1) the teaching competencies and abilities of all dance educators under his/her supervision; and, (2) program effectiveness. Are students learning what they are supposed to be learning? Is the curriculum sequential, balanced, and appropriate to the age and abilities of the students? The *Registered Dance Educator* should hire, to the best of his/her ability, other accredited *Registered Dance Educators* to support industry standards.

Equal Opportunity

It is the obligation of the *Registered Dance Educator* to teach all persons with equal concern for their total development regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status. *Registered Dance Educators* should be informed of special, safe practices for persons with different abilities – i.e., physically, mentally or emotionally challenged individuals, Attention Deficit Disordered students, senior citizens, pregnant women, or a host of other special needs and requirements.

Commitment to the Profession

In fulfillment of the obligation to the profession and community at large, the *Registered Dance Educator*:

1. Conducts all business and professional activities with honesty and integrity, and projects a professional image in all aspects of practicing dance education.
 1. The *Registered Dance Educator* accurately represents his/her credentials in education, performance, and teaching experience.
 2. The *Registered Dance Educator* teaches only those forms of dance in which s/he has received quality professional education and training.
 3. The *Registered Dance Educator* develops a plan for professional development that embraces continuing education and lifelong learning for him or herself and for employees.
2. Demonstrates the highest level of honesty when procuring, implementing, and reporting the use of public funds with which s/he is entrusted for dance education at local, state, or federal levels.
3. Teaches in environments and under conditions that support the safe practice of teaching dance and the opportunity-to-learn standards cited in the Professional Teaching Standards for Dance Arts (2017), Standard IV: Learning Environments. Physical conditions may include, but not be limited to: bathrooms, dressing rooms, water fountains, room size, composition and covering of floor, obstructions, walls, barres, mirrors, audio/sound/media equipment, props, etc.)
 1. If the *Registered Dance Educator* is employed by other owners or administrators and the physical conditions in which dance is taught do not meet industry standards, it is the obligation of the *Registered Dance Educator* to make recommendations so the physical site meets the opportunity-to-learn standards (Professional Teaching Standards for Dance Arts, 2017).
 2. If the *Registered Dance Educator* is responsible for the physical space in which dance is taught, then it her/his responsibility make prudent choices in choosing a safe site; or work to make revisions so the site meets industry standards.
4. Actively supports the dance education profession whenever possible through participation in community, state, and national organizations to promote high standards in practice, research and development of dance education, and continues own education.
5. Actively supports professional dance performers and performances in their communities whenever possible.
6. Accepts responsibility to one's self, students, and colleagues to maintain personal physical, mental and emotional good health.

I have read this document. I agree to abide by the RDE Code of Ethics should I be accepted as an RDE.

Printed Name

Signature

Date