General Institution

Reference:
> Accreditation Standard III.A.1.d

Definition of Ethics

commonly accepted rules of conduct for a society or for a profession. The ethical person is often described in absolute terms as one who is fair, honest, straightforward, trustworthy, dispassionate, and unprejudiced. If, however, one is inconsistently fair or honest, one loses credibility and is perceived to be unethical. The ethical person must be conspicuously consistent in the exercise of integrity to sustain the credibility that is an expectation of office.

Importance of Ethics

The credibility of District employees depends upon whether they are perceived as honest men and women. If integrity contributes to credibility, then ethical behavior is a singular prerequisite to successful performance. When people are convinced that public institutions employ honest individuals, questions of credibility and demands for public accountability rarely arise.

Statements of ethical standards do not necessarily ensure ethical behavior. Yet public statements of intent surely create an expectation that public employees, in their official capacity, will indeed act with integrity in the public interest.

Expectations for Ethical Behavior

Employees shall be committed to the principles of honesty and equity.

Employees shall exercise judgments that are dispassionate, fair, consistent, and equitable. They shall exhibit openness and reliability in what they say and do as educational leaders. They shall confront issues and people without prejudice. They shall do everything they can to demonstrate a commitment to excellence in education and without compromise to the principles of ethical behavior.

Similarly, students are expected to abide by ethical behavior and decision-making in their treatment of District employees, other students, and members of the public.

Employee Responsibilities

The following statements of responsibilities are intended as guidelines:

x   To provide and protect student access to the educational resources of the