

Boundary Questions to Consider: Continuum of Professional Behavior Activity

DIRECTIONS

Have participants stand in the middle of the room. Designate one side of the room as “unacceptable behavior” and the other side as “super professional/helpful behavior”. Read each bullet point one at a time. After each, participants will move to the side of the area of the room where they feel the behavior falls. Have a discussion after each point, allowing for folks on different ends of the spectrum to describe their thinking.

- A student asks to talk with you about the grade on their essay, asking for a better grade. You refuse to meet with them. You have graded fairly and will not adjust grades.
- You drive a student home from an after-school club alone, which is against stated policy because the parent’s car broke down.
- You have a part-time job as a bartender in the small town in which you also live and teach.
- You never make time to read through your student’s IEPs, instead you get to know your students and work with them individually to help them achieve.
- You volunteer to chaperone all the school dances, to help with an after school club, and take on extra duties during the school day. You are not getting enough sleep, and you are eating poorly. You are trying your best to be a great staff member in service to the community.
- A high school student you have been working with asks you to attend their religious confirmation, so you attend and bring a gift.
- You notice a student looking at another student’s test while completing their test. This student is African American and you know your principal is pushing you to be culturally competent. You say nothing about the cheating, so that you are not accused of racism.
- You create a professional facebook profile to accept friend requests from the school community.
- You discuss problems you are having with your child who is the same age as the student you are working with to help them relate to you.
- You have a creepy feeling about your male high school colleague. They spend a lot of time one-on-one with various girls and you notice them touching the student’s arms or backs while they talk. You decide it is not your business and say nothing.
- You give your personal cell phone number to a student so they can text you for school-related communications.
- You talk with a Christian student about the bible passages that mean a lot to them.
- You attend Alcoholics Anonymous with a parent of a student who is in your class.
- To relate better to your students, you use slang and sometimes swear words casually. They think of you as the cool teacher.