



# EDUCATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

The Educator's Code of Conduct is a reminder to assist with student research that emphasizes ethics, support, guidance and fostering independence.

## 1. INTEGRITY

Encourage students to do authentic research. Talk to them about plagiarism and academic misconduct. Respect the confidentiality of students' data, and promote fairness and support to all students irrespective of their backgrounds. Avoid favoritism and provide equal opportunity to all students. Honesty, objectivity and avoidance of conflicts of interest are expected during every phase of the research. The project should reflect independent research completed by the student(s), and represent only one year's work.

## 2. TIMELY GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

Provide timely feedback to concerns and be willing to provide resources to students. Try to teach the students about data collection, analysis and critical thinking.

## 3. LEGALITY

Compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations is essential. All projects must be approved by a Scientific Review Committee (SRC), and when necessary must also be approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). You can find all the paperwork and rules for your reference at [societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules](https://societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules).

## 4. CREATE A SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM

Guide students to think critically and encourage them to try new things. Train them to embrace failure and encourage resilience in the face of challenges (lack of resources, etc.). Provide constructive feedback and teach them about professional boundaries while recognizing their effort and contributions. Look at Arizona Science Standards for more information at [azed.gov/standards-practices/k-12standards/standards-science](https://azed.gov/standards-practices/k-12standards/standards-science).

## 5. RESPECT FOR CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Confidential communications, as well as patents, copyrights and other forms of intellectual property must be honored. Unpublished data, methods or results may not be used without permission, and credit must be given to all contributions to research.



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### 6. CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

Try to look at problems or issues from the lens of the student. Build a relationship of trust and openness. Address any biases or stereotypes that may arise in your classroom (like non-STEM students afraid of scientific research) and discuss the relevance of inclusion, equity and belonging.

### 7. PROACTIVE DECISIONS

You as an educator and/or mentor have the responsibility to enable students to participate in your school/district/regional fair. If you need help identifying those, reach out to your administrators or contact [azsef@azscience.org](mailto:azsef@azscience.org). Look at the Educator Timeline of science fair milestones to help you through the process at [azscience.org/azsef](http://azscience.org/azsef).

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I have read the Educator Code of Conduct and agree to support my students through their research to the best of my ability.

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Educator Name (print)

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Educator Signature

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Date