



Professional Standards for Independent School Teaching Certificate Holders

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Professional Standards for Independent School Teaching Certificate Holders (Professional Standards: Independent)

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The Professional Standards for Independent School Teaching Certificate Holders (Professional Standards: Independent) apply to educators holding the Independent School Teaching Certificate including a system restricted, subject restricted, or school and subject restricted certificate. The Professional Standards: Independent apply to all academic phases and types of school in which a Certificate Holder is employed. The Independent School Teaching Certificate Standards Committee (ISTCSC) is charged with establishing the Professional Standards: Independent (as outlined in section 5 of the *Independent School Act*). Certificate Holders who hold a Certificate of Qualification and teach in independent schools are bound by the Professional Standards for BC Educators.

PURPOSE AND APPLICATION/OUTCOMES

The Professional Standards: Independent communicate the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that define educators' work. They also communicate the responsibilities that educators have in fostering public confidence and highlight the complex and varied nature of educators' work. Educators have a level of autonomy but are accountable for their actions and must act in their students' and the public interest.

The Professional Standards: Independent also reflect that educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation, and healing, acknowledging the history and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada. Through the application of these standards, educators advocate for student needs and contribute to a safe and inclusive learning environment that reflects the diversity of all students.

The Professional Standards: Independent serve both as ideals to which educators aspire and expectations that can be reasonably held. The Professional Standards: Independent are also used by the education system as a whole to:

- Uphold commonly held standards of practice (knowledge, skills, attitudes) and conduct that guide teaching practice and shape ongoing professional growth;
- Communicate to the public the standards and responsibilities that educators hold;
- Contribute to a safe and high-quality learning environment for students and provide a basis for attaining and assessing both competency and conduct; and
- Provide a framework that guides the ISTCSC, the Ministry of Education and Child Care, and the Commissioner for Teacher Regulation in setting requirements and making decisions related to the certification of applicants, fitness to practice, and discipline.

Independent school educators' practice is governed by the ethics and principles as outlined in the Professional Standards: Independent, contributing to a high-quality education system and a democratic society.

Professional Standards: Independent

- 1 | Educators value the success of all students. Educators care for students and act in their best interest.
- 2 | Educators act ethically and maintain the integrity, credibility and reputation of the profession.
- 3 | Educators understand and apply knowledge of student growth and development.
- 4 | Educators value the involvement and support of parents, guardians, families and communities in schools.
- 5 | Educators create respectful and safe learning environments through the implementation of effective practices in planning, instruction, assessment and reporting.
- 6 | Educators demonstrate a broad knowledge base and an understanding of areas they teach.
- 7 | Educators value and participate in ongoing professional learning.
- 8 | Educators contribute to the profession through collaboration, reflective practice and sharing with others.
- 9 | Educators respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.



GLOSSARY

Note: These terms are included to assist the public. To the extent that there is any discrepancy between these terms and the definitions in the legislation, the legislative definitions prevail.

Certificate Holder:	A person who holds a Certificate of Qualification or Independent School Teaching Certificate from the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care. The Professional Standards for Independent School Teaching Certificate Holders are only applicable to educators who hold the Independent School Teaching Certificate.
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Commissioner for Teacher Regulation:	An independent statutory decision maker appointed under the <i>Teachers Act</i> to ensure concerns about teacher competence and conduct are addressed fairly and in the public interest in both the public and independent school systems as set out in the <i>Teachers Act</i> .
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Director of Certification:	A statutory decision maker whose mandate is detailed in the <i>Teachers Act</i> ; responsible for the regulation of the BC teaching profession in the areas of teacher certification.
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Educator:	A person who holds or has held a Certificate of Qualification or an Independent School Teaching Certificate from the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care. The Professional Standards for Independent School Teaching Certificate Holders are only applicable to educators who hold the Independent School Teaching Certificate.
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Ministry of Education and Child Care:	Under the authority of the Provincial Government, the Ministry of Education and Child Care has responsibility for the Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system in BC.
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Parent/Guardian: (in respect of a student or of a child)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The guardian of the student or child; or• The person legally entitled to custody of the student or child; or• The person who usually has the care and control of the student or child.
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School:	A unit organized for educational purposes mandated under the <i>School Act</i> , the Independent School Act or the <i>First Nations Education Act</i> .
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School and Subject Restricted Certificate:	A teaching certificate issued by the Director of Certification. This certificate restricts educators to teach: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only the subjects related to their specialized post-secondary training, unique life skills, or practical experience (e.g., religious studies or board authority approved courses);• Only for the independent authority seeking to hire them; and• Specific grades, depending on the applicant's credentials, training, and experience.
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Subject Restricted Certificate:	A teaching certificate issued by the Director of Certification. This certificate restricts educators to teach subjects that are directly related to their post-secondary studies. These certificates are not issued to elementary generalists.
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System Restricted Certificate:

A teaching certificate issued by the Director of Certification. This certificate is non-expiring and restricts educators to teaching within a BC independent Montessori or Waldorf school. The certificate can also be:

- Restricted to Kindergarten, depending on the teaching program completed; or
- Issued for teaching in schools that operate under l'Agence pour l'Enseignement Français à l'Étranger (AEFE).

Student:

A person taught by a Certificate Holder.

Teachers Act:

Teachers Act, S.B.C. 2011, c. 19 regulates and guides the work of the regulatory structure for the teaching profession in the BC Kindergarten to Grade 12 school systems.

Truth, Reconciliation and Healing:

Implementation of the Calls to Action outlined in the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015) regarding acknowledgement of the histories, legacies and associated harms of the former Indian Residential School systems.

Ways of Knowing and Being:

Forms of knowledge construction and understanding the world by groups of people that allow them to maintain their cultures over time.



Find out more about the Professional Standards for Independent School Teaching Certificate Holders and the Independent School Teaching Certificate Standards Committee, or visit <https://gov.bc.ca/information-for-teachers> and select “Standards in teaching.”

