**Section 26.470 Professional Conduct and Leadership**

The competent elementary teacher understands education as a profession, maintains standards of professional conduct, serves as a positive role model, and provides leadership to improve students' learning and well-being.

a) Knowledge Indicators – The competent elementary teacher:

1) understands the unique characteristics of education as a profession and the ethical considerations that apply to educators.

2) understands how school systems are organized and operate.

3) understands school policies and procedures.

4) understands legal issues in education.

5) understands the importance of active participation and leadership in professional organizations.

b) Performance Indicators – The competent elementary teacher:

1) contributes knowledge and expertise about teaching and learning to the profession.

2) acts in accordance with current legal directives.

3) follows school policy and procedures, respecting the boundaries of professional responsibilities, when working with students, colleagues, and families.

4) initiates and develops educational projects and programs.

5) participates actively in curriculum development, staff development, and student organizations.

6) participates, as appropriate, in policy design and development at the local level, with professional organizations, and/or with community organizations.