

The NARST Code of Ethics

NARST Code of Ethical Conduct

The purpose of the **National Association of Research in Science Teaching (NARST) Code of Ethical Conduct** speaks to the continuing maturing of our association to support members' expectations of ethical behavior in professional societies. These aspirational goals align with and support the mission of the organization to help all researchers achieve, develop, and contribute meaningfully to the improvement of science teaching and learning through research.

NARST expects its members to adhere to the highest ethical standards. The **Code of Ethical Conduct** is intended to serve as a guide to the everyday professional conduct of science educators. We accomplish this through our **Code of Ethical Conduct** where there is:

(A) Respect for members' rights, dignity, cultures, and identities

Science education professionals should treat all *colleagues* with respect, encourage them, learn with them, share ideas honestly, and give credit for their contributions. Science education professionals should carefully avoid any bias based on race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, and presence of disabilities, educational background, or other personal attributes. They should show consistent respect to colleagues, regardless of the level of their formal education and whether they are from industry, government or academia, other countries, or other disciplines and fields. Every member and guest of the organization should be treated fairly, respectfully, and without exploitation and be given opportunities to develop and contribute their unique skills, knowledge, and interest in professional environments.

(B) Professional and scholarly competence in science teaching, learning, and research

Science education professionals, who include researchers and practitioners and graduate students, are dedicated to advancing the teaching and learning of science in all classrooms—formal, informal, and global. We have a responsibility to advance the knowledge of science education research, practice and policy. Science education research professionals should regard the tutelage of our graduate students and early career faculty as a trust conferred by the organization for the promotion of these individual's learning and professional development.

(C) Integrity and social responsibility to those impacted by research and policy

It is the social responsibility of science education professionals to remain current with developments in the field, share ideas and information, maintain integrity in all conduct, publications, and forums and give due credit to the contributions of others. Public comments on matters of importance relevant to science education should be made with care and accuracy. Comment and debate within the bounds of collegiality and professionalism that keeps the organization moving forward and current with emergent issues and perspectives are encouraged.

(D) Promotion of a harmonious and professional work environment

It is the policy of NARST to maintain a harmonious working environment which is free from intimidation and harassment. Although the NARST Code of Ethical Conduct is aspirational in its intent, the organization also seeks to promptly address and seek resolution of problems and concerns that arise as the organization grows. NARST encourages members to express concerns about organizational-related issues including grievances with fellow members or the enactment of policies and procedures through normal governance structure of this organization, or the NARST President and/or Board of Directors.

Complaints may be fully described in writing and received through the NARST Board via the President and/or the Executive Director and / or the Equity and Ethics Committee Chair and / or Co-chair. The review and remediation of these grievances should be conducted honestly, fairly, and without bias through open, transparent communication. While there are no formal procedures to address Grievances at this time in the NARST governance structure, complaints and grievances particularly addressing those based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or physical challenge may be addressed to the Equity and Ethics Committee Chair and/or Co-Chair, who will bring forth the issue to the President and/or Board of Directors.

The Equity and Ethics Committee provides leadership and guidance to the organization on issues of equity and ethics including, but not limited to, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disabling conditions, sexual orientations, language, national origin and religion.

This policy is adapted from the American Chemical Society (ACS) Code of Conduct and the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Code of Ethics, and is revised with permission of ACS and AERA.

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