

Chapter 2

Roles of Teachers

ABSTRACT

This chapter offers information concerning the roles of teachers in schools, who have the most important impact on students' learning. While mentioning the California Education Code and the Chinese Education Act, the chapter focuses on the Ontario Education Act. It provides the specific sections in the Ontario Education Act on the roles of teachers: What they shall do in schools, how they shall treat students, how they shall maintain order, how they shall conduct class, how they shall co-operate with each other, and how they shall behave in schools and in all school related activities. It lists the professional standards prescribed by the Ontario College of Teachers.

Teachers teach. In addition to teaching, contemporary teachers must also maintain order in the classroom and school and perform other duties assigned. California Education Code Title 2 Division 3 Part 25 Chapter 4 Article 1 section 44805 stipulates that every teacher in the public schools shall enforce the course of study, the use of legally authorized textbooks, and the rules and regulations prescribed for schools (California Legislative Information, n.d.). Section 44807 states that every teacher in the public schools shall hold pupils to a strict account for their conduct on the way to and from school, on the playgrounds, or during recess. The Chinese Education Act Part 4 section 33 simply stipulates that teachers enjoy their rights under the law, perform their duties according to the law, and shall be loyal to the educational cause of the people (the Chinese People's Congress, 2021).

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The Ontario Education Act is more detailed in describing teachers' roles. The Education Act section 213 subsection (2) warns that every teacher who keeps a false school register or makes a false return is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$200.

Section 261 stipulates that the probationary period for teachers and designated early childhood educators when they first become employed by a district school board shall not exceed two years.

Section 262 states that no person shall be employed in an elementary or secondary school to teach or to perform any duty for which membership in the Ontario College of Teachers is required.

In terms of a teacher's contract, section 263 stipulates that when a teacher is employed by a board and a matter arises that in the opinion of the Minister adversely affects the welfare of the school where the teacher is employed, (a) the board or the teacher may, with the consent of the Minister, give the other party 30 days written notice of termination, and the teacher's employment is terminated at the expiration of 30 days from the date the notice is given; or (b) the board may, with the consent of the Minister, give the teacher written notice of immediate termination together with one-tenth of the teacher's yearly salary in addition to the amount to which the teacher would otherwise be entitled, and, on doing so, the teacher's employment is terminated.

Section 264 provides that a teacher and a temporary teacher's duty is to teach; encourage pupils to learn; inculcate respect for religion and the principles of Judaeo-Christian morality and the highest regard for truth, justice, loyalty, love of country, humanity, benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, purity, temperance and all other virtues; assist in developing co-operation and co-ordination of effort among the members of the staff of the school; maintain proper order and discipline in the classroom and in the school; conduct class in accordance with a timetable; participate in professional activity days; use only textbooks approved by the Minister in certain subjects and only textbooks approved by the board in all subjects; perform all duties assigned.

In addition to the Education Act, Regulation 298/1990 Operation of Schools made under the Act stipulates the duties of teachers. Section 14 subsection (3) states that a board may appoint for each organizational unit of an elementary or secondary school a teacher to direct and supervise such organizational unit.

Section 17 stipulates that a board may, in respect of one or more subjects or programs in the schools, appoint a teacher to supervise the subjects or programs, who shall hold specialist or honour specialist qualifications.

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