



WWVEA

PROBE

Walla Walla Valley Education Association

5 W Alder Suite 231 * Walla Walla, WA 99362 * Phone: 509-525-7810 * Fax: 509-525-7829

<mailto:wwveamargo@gmail.com>

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Touching DO's and DONT's

DO

1. **DO** think before you act. Consider how your actions might look to someone who has only superficial knowledge of education and of the children involved. Always ask yourself how your conduct would look to someone who wants to question your behavior.
2. **DO** keep contemporaneous notes of any situation that you believe might become of concern in the future. Be specific about who, what, where, and when regarding the situation. If needed, carry a dedicated notebook for this purpose.
3. **DO** make sure the door to your room is open when you are meeting with students, that windows are not papered over, and that all student interactions are in plain view of others to the extent possible.

DON'T

1. **DON'T** touch a student unless you are confident the touch will be well received. (The exception, of course, is when a student is disruptive.)
2. **DON'T** put yourself in any situation that creates even the impression of impropriety. In particular, never give a student a ride home or invite a student to your home without the express permission of the student's parents and the presence of another adult.
3. **DON'T** become a student's counselor unless that is your job.
4. **DON'T** single out one student for unusual rewards or punishments without consultation with the student's parents or your supervisor.
5. **DON'T** give a written or verbal statement to anyone--the police, a social worker, an administrator, a friend, or even your union representative--involving a situation where you are accused of doing something wrong until you have consulted a person who is knowledgeable about your rights.
6. **DON'T** try to be your own legal counsel.
7. **DON'T** submit a resignation under pressure, regardless of how tempting it might seem at the time.

This list of do's and don'ts is designed as a recommendation and not intended to be all-inclusive and not meant to define the standard of professional behavior for teachers.