ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF PROFESSIONALISM:

PROFESSIONALISM FOR EDUCATORS ENCOMPASSES VARIOUS COMPONENTS THAT INFLUENCE STUDENT LEARNING.
- Professional standards and ethics:
  - Adhere to legal and ethical guidelines
  - Follow standards defined for the profession
  - Model professional demeanor and positive interaction with others
  - Respect the diversity of ethnicity, race, gender, and special needs
- Continuous self-reflection and professional development:
  - Act as reflective practitioner
  - Acquire and refine professional knowledge and skill
  - Engage in ongoing professional growth
  - Act, as appropriate, as risk taker, stepping out of the comfort zone
  - Embrace practices of a life-long learner
- Contributions to the profession:
  - Perform as a role model for other educators
  - Serve on school, LEA, regional, and state educational committees, work groups, etc.
  - Participate in professional associations
  - Contribute to the development of the profession

The teachers’ ethical and personal qualities of empathy, care, respect, fairness, motivation, perseverance, and a strong belief that they can make a difference in a student’s life are dispositions associated with professionalism.

- **Caring** – Good teachers are often described as warm, friendly, and caring. When students perceive their teachers care about them, they respond by putting forth greater effort and being committed to learning.
- **Enthusiasm and motivation** – Teachers who display enthusiasm and energy in the classroom increase student interest and motivation to learn, and students exhibit higher rates of on-task behavior.
- **Efficacy** – Teachers having high self-efficacy set higher goals, invest more effort, and persist in getting their students to learn.