

The Professional Educator

- Cooney — a math teacher is a mathematician (a person with a general knowledge of mathematics and a specialty skill to enable effective teaching)



“Chain of Command”

- (Student)
- Classroom teacher
- Department chairperson
- Building administrator
- Curriculum coordinator
- District Superintendent
- Board of Education
- Community at large

Professional Membership

- NYSTRS (Retirement)
- Local federation (Union)
- NYSUT (State Union affiliate)
- AFT (Federal Union affiliate)
- Many other options are available - AMTNYS, NCTM, etc.

Probationary Process

- Three-year period
- Consideration for tenure at end
- Evaluations more frequent
- Challenging time with completion of state requirements for professional certification

Evaluations

- Building principal or assistant
- Sometimes a fellow teacher (chairperson)
- Evaluations are signed and become part of permanent personnel file
- Employee can attach a response to accompany the evaluation in the file

Personnel File

- Single repository for your “professional life” within a district
- Important for tenure consideration and periodic review
- You have access to it at any time

Community Connection

- Parents are a vital resource to you
- Community involvement can allow others to get to know you outside of your profession
- Overextension is a concern

Parents

- Contact and communicate regularly
- Can be closest ally or worst enemy, often you will determine
- Although they aren't part of the “chain of command,” they will often be there at varying levels
- Their position(s) can have tremendous influence

Colleagues

- Excellent resource, especially your mentor
- Negative versus positive outlooks
- Work cooperatively to solve problems
- Treat them as professionals and they will (usually) rise to your level of expectation

Other Resources

- Guidance Counseling Center and staff
- School Nurse and data
- Special Education department and information about student needs
- Disciplinary office and data
- Secretarial staff throughout the building and the district
- Custodial staff throughout the building and the district

You, the PROFESSIONAL

- Always be positive
- Always be prepared
- Always be punctual
- Always be proactive
- Always push yourself for professional improvement