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### Ethical and Legal Influences

Some teachers' personal codes of ethics do not align with what is technically legal in regards to education. The teacher has to figure out how they will run their classroom, whether that be by the book according to the law or their morals and ethics. Most ethical statements are in accordance with the law, but occasionally in certain circumstances there could be times when the law does not suffice with the teacher's ethics. Obviously if the teacher's personal code of ethics severely contradicts the law and is not benefitting the students, the teacher could be in a lot of trouble. If the teacher's code of ethics is benefitting the students and is in accordance with the law, the teacher might be able to justify themselves.

These altercations with the law have happened all throughout the history of education. For example, when the Jim Crow laws came into existence many teachers had to choose between what they believed what was ethically right and what was legally right. Not all of the teachers chose to follow their ethics or ended up agreeing with the law, and many students suffered because of it. This was because many African American students were not provided with the educational material or opportunities as the white students were. It is up to the teacher to decipher what is essential for their students to learn.

There are certain procedures that happen if the teacher is held accountable for not teaching in agreement with the law. Through due process and its counterparts, substantive and procedural, teachers have rights within the law so that they are fairly treated. Due process insures a teacher

that their case will be handled with fairness and that their rights will not be violated. Substantive due process deals with specific issues. Finally procedural due process makes sure that the events following the breaking of the law are handled with fairness. Through these process teachers will be able to justify themselves in the actions they took to create a better learning environment for their students.