

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

CHURCH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
50 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-0009

March 4, 2020

To students, faculty, and staff of the Church Educational System:

Recently the language of the principle-based Church Educational System Honor Code was updated. Those adjustments included significant doctrinal and behavioral matters that have led to much discussion and some misinterpretation. Out of respect for all concerned, we are providing the following clarifying statement.

One change to the Honor Code language that has raised questions was the removal of a section on "Homosexual Behavior." The moral standards of the Church did not change with the recent release of the *General Handbook* or the updated Honor Code. There is and always has been more to living the Lord's standard of a chaste and virtuous life than refraining from sexual relations outside of marriage. Lasting joy comes when we live the spirit as well as the letter of God's laws.

A foundational doctrine of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ is that "marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children" ("The Family: A Proclamation to the World"). Church leaders have long taught these principles.

Same-sex romantic behavior cannot lead to eternal marriage and is therefore not compatible with the principles included in the Honor Code.

We are grateful for the commitment that all students and employees in the Church Educational System make to live the principles and spirit of the Honor Code.

Sincerely,



Elder Paul V. Johnson
Commissioner, Church Educational System