

# Corruption In Class?

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• **Students and teachers** in Alabama are getting a real-life ethics lesson from lawmakers. A new state anti-bribery law makes it illegal for teachers to receive personal gifts from students, citing a need to discourage favoritism. Instructors who accept, let's say, a \$20 gift card or bottle of cologne— could potentially face a year in jail and a \$6,000 fine. The statute, which previously allowed gifts under \$100 to be accepted, was amended after high-profile corruption cases involving public officials. It now applies to all public employees, including teachers. However, coffee mugs, cookies and items of “little intrinsic value” are OK under the law. Whew! Looks like an apple is not a forbidden fruit after all.



## Tardy Tax Day

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**There's no escaping the inevitable:** The taxman cometh. But this year, he'll arrive two days later, thanks to a couple of calendar coincidences.

Taxpayers will have until Tuesday, April 17, to file their 2011 tax returns, according to the IRS Web site, [irs.gov](http://irs.gov). The traditional tax deadline, April 15, falls on a Sunday this year. And Emancipation Day, a holiday observed in the

District of Columbia that commemorates the end of slavery in the nation's capital, falls on Monday, April 16. The IRS site says that, according to federal law, DC holidays impact tax deadlines in the same way that federal holidays do. What that means for us: Two extra days to pull it all together before filing this year.

A short reprieve, but we'll take it.