

Board Policy

Uniform Complaint Procedures

Community Relations

BP 1312.3

The Board of Education recognizes that the District has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The Board encourages the early, informal resolution of complaints whenever possible and appropriate. To resolve complaints which cannot be resolved through such informal process, the Board shall adopt a uniform system of complaint processes specified in 5 CCR 4600-4670 and the accompanying administrative regulation.

The District's uniform complaint procedures (UCP) shall be used to investigate and resolve the following complaints:

1. Accommodations for pregnant and parenting students (Education Code 46015)

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

2. Adult education programs (Education Code 8500-8538, 52334.7, 52500-52617)

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

3. After School Education and Safety programs (Education Code 8482-8484.65)

(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)

4. Agricultural career technical education (Education Code 52460-52462)

5. Career technical and technical education and career technical and technical training programs (Education Code 52300-52462)

(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

(cf. 6178.1 - Work-Experience Education)

6. Child care and development programs (Education Code 8200-8498)

7. Compensatory education (Education Code 54400)

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

8. Consolidated categorical aid programs (Education Code 33315; 34 CFR 299.10-299.12)

9. Course periods without educational content, when students in grades 9-12 are assigned to such courses more than one week in any semester or in a course the student has previously satisfactorily completed, unless specified conditions are met (Education Code 51228.1-51228.3)

10. Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in district programs and activities, including in those programs or activities funded directly by or that receive or benefit from any state financial assistance, based on the person's actual or perceived characteristics of race or ethnicity, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or any other characteristic identified in Education Code 200 or 220, Government Code 11135, or Penal Code 422.55, or based on the person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics (5 CCR 4610)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures)

11. Educational and graduation requirements for students in foster care, homeless students, students from military families, students formerly in a juvenile court school, migrant students, and immigrant students participating in a newcomer program (Education Code 48645.7, 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

12. Every Student Succeeds Act (Education Code 52059; 20 USC 6301 et seq.)

13. Local control and accountability plan (Education Code 52075)

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

14. Migrant education (Education Code 54440-54445)

(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)

15. Physical education instructional minutes (Education Code 51210, 51222, 51223)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

16. Student fees (Education Code 49010-49013)

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

17. Reasonable accommodations to a lactating student (Education Code 222)
18. Regional occupational centers and programs (Education Code 52300-52334.7)
19. School plans for student achievement as required for the consolidated application for specified federal and/or state categorical funding (Education Code 64001)

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

20. School safety plans (Education Code 32280-32289)

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

21. School site councils as required for the consolidated application for specified federal and/or state categorical funding (Education Code 65000)

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

22. Any complaint alleging retaliation against a complainant or other participant in the complaint process or anyone who has acted to uncover or report a violation subject to this policy

23. Any other state or federal educational program the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee deems appropriate

The Board recognizes that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) can, depending on the nature of the allegations, offer a process for resolving a complaint in a manner that is acceptable to all parties. An ADR process such as mediation may be offered to resolve complaints that involve more than one student and no adult. However, mediation shall not be offered or used to resolve any complaint involving sexual assault or where there is a reasonable risk that a party to the mediation would feel compelled to participate. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the use of ADR is consistent with state and federal laws and regulations. The District shall protect all complainants from retaliation. In investigating complaints, the confidentiality of all parties involved shall be protected as required by law. As appropriate for any complaint, alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the Superintendent or designee shall keep confidential the identity of the complainant and/or the subject of the complaint, if different from the complainant, when appropriate and as long as the integrity of the complaint process is maintained.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

When an allegation that is not subject to the UCP is included in a UCP complaint, the District shall refer the non-UCP allegation to the appropriate staff or agency and shall resolve the UCP-related allegation(s) through the District's UCP.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to District staff to ensure awareness and knowledge of current law and related requirements, including the steps and timelines specified in this policy and the accompanying administrative regulation.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of each complaint and subsequent related actions, including steps taken during the investigation and all information required for compliance with 5 CCR 4631 and 4633.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Non-UCP Complaints

The following complaints shall not be subject to the District's UCP but shall be investigated and resolved by the specified agency or through an alternative process:

1. Any complaint alleging child abuse or neglect shall be referred to the County Department of Social Services, the County Protective Services Division, and the appropriate law enforcement agency. (5 CCR 4611)
(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)
2. Any complaint alleging health and safety violations by a child development program shall, for licensed facilities, be referred to Department of Social Services. (5 CCR 4611)
3. Any complaint alleging employment discrimination or harassment shall be investigated and resolved by the District in accordance with the procedures specified in AR 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment, including the right to file the complaint with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing.
4. Any complaint alleging a violation of a state or federal law or regulation related to special education, a settlement agreement related to the provision of a free appropriate public education, or a due process hearing order shall be submitted to the California

Department of Education (CDE) in accordance with AR 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education. (5 CCR 3200-3205)

(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)

5. Any complaint alleging noncompliance of the district's food service program with laws regarding meal counting and claiming, reimbursable meals, eligibility of children or adults, or use of cafeteria funds and allowable expenses shall be filed with or referred to CDE in accordance with BP 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance. (5 CCR 15580-15584)

6. Any allegation of discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in the district's food service program shall be filed with or referred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in accordance with BP 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance. (5 CCR 15582)

7. Any complaint related to sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials, emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health or safety of students or staff, or teacher vacancies and misassignments shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with AR 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures. (Education Code 35186)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

8200-8498 Child care and development programs

8500-8538 Adult basic education

18100-18203 School libraries

32280-32289 School safety plan, uniform complaint procedures

35186 Williams uniform complaint procedures

46015 Parental leave for students

48853-48853.5 Foster youth

48985 Notices in language other than English

49010-49014 Student fees

49060-49079 Student records, especially:

49069.5 Records of foster youth

49490-49590 Child nutrition programs

49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

51210 Courses of study grades 1-6

51222 Physical education, secondary schools
51223 Physical education, elementary schools
51225.1-51225.2 Foster youth, homeless children, former juvenile court school students, military-connected students, migrant students, and newly arrived immigrant students; course credits; graduation requirements
51226-51226.1 Career technical education
51228.1-51228.3 Course periods without educational content
52059.5 Statewide system of support
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan, especially:
52075 Complaint for lack of compliance with local control and accountability plan requirements
52300-52462 Career technical education
52500-52616.24 Adult schools
54400-54425 Compensatory education programs
54440-54445 Migrant education
54460-54529 Compensatory education programs
59000-59300 Special schools and centers
64000-64001 Consolidated application process; school plan for student achievement
65000-65001 School site councils
GOVERNMENT CODE
11135 Nondiscrimination in programs or activities funded by state
12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
1596.792 California Child Day Care Act; general provisions and definitions
1596.7925 California Child Day Care Act; health and safety regulations
PENAL CODE
422.55 Hate crime; definition
422.6 Interference with constitutional right or privilege
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2
11023 Harassment and discrimination prevention and correction
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
3200-3205 Special education compliance complaints
4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures
4680-4687 Williams uniform complaint procedures
4690-4694 Complaints regarding health and safety issues in license-exempt preschool programs
900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs
15580-15584 Child nutrition programs complaint procedures
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1221 Application of laws
1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
6301-6576 Title I Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

6801-7014 Title III language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000d-2000e-17 Title VI and Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended

2000h-2-2000h-6 Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

6101-6107 Age Discrimination Act of 1975

11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

12101-12213 Title II equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.107 Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

100.3 Prohibition of discrimination on basis of race, color or national origin

104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504

106.1-106.82 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs, especially:

106.8 Designation of responsible employee for Title IX

106.9 Notification of nondiscrimination on basis of sex

110.25 Notification of nondiscrimination on the basis of age

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Uniform Complaint Procedure 2020-21 Program Instrument

Sample UCP Board Policies and Procedures

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Dear Colleague Letter, September 22, 2017

Dear Colleague Letter: Title IX Coordinators, April 2015

Dear Colleague Letter: Responding to Bullying of Students with Disabilities, October 2014

Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties, January 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PUBLICATIONS

Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, 2002

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Student Privacy Policy Office: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opepd/sppo>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

U.S. Department of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov>

e.gov

Policy LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: April 23, 2013 Livermore, California

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revised: June 12, 2018

replaced: XXX XX, 2021

Administrative Regulation

Uniform Complaint Procedures Community Relations

AR 1312.3

Except as the Board of Education may otherwise specifically provide in other District policies, these general uniform complaint procedures (UCP) shall be used to investigate and resolve only the complaints specified in BP 1312.3.

- (cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
- (cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
- (cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
- (cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)

Compliance Officers

The District designates the individual(s) identified below as the employee(s) responsible for coordinating the District's response to complaints and for complying with state and federal civil rights laws. The individual(s) also serve as the compliance officer(s) specified in AR 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment responsible for handling complaints regarding unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) and in AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment for handling complaints regarding sexual harassment. The compliance officer(s) shall receive and coordinate the investigation of complaints and shall ensure district compliance with law.

Deputy Superintendent
685 E. Jack London Blvd.
Livermore, CA 94551

- (cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
- (cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)
- (cf. 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaints Procedures)

The compliance officer who receives a complaint may assign another compliance officer to investigate and resolve the complaint. The compliance officer shall promptly notify the complainant and respondent, if applicable, if another compliance officer is assigned to the complaint.

In no instance shall a compliance officer be assigned to a complaint in which the compliance officer has a bias or conflict of interest that would prohibit the fair investigation or resolution of the complaint. Any complaint against a compliance officer or that raises a concern about the compliance officer's ability to investigate the complaint fairly and without bias shall be filed with the Superintendent or designee who shall determine how the complaint will be investigated.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that employees assigned to investigate and resolve complaints receive training and are knowledgeable about the laws and programs at issue in the complaints to which they are assigned. Training provided to such employees shall cover current state and federal laws and regulations governing the program, applicable processes for investigating and resolving complaints, including those alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), applicable standards for reaching decisions on complaints, and appropriate corrective measures. Assigned employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Superintendent or designee.
(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)(cf. 9124 - Attorney)

The compliance officer or, if necessary, any appropriate administrator shall determine whether interim measures are necessary during and pending the results of an investigation. If interim measures are determined to be necessary, the compliance officer or the administrator shall consult with the Superintendent, the Superintendent's designee, or, if appropriate, the site principal to implement, if possible, one or more of the interim measures. The interim measures may remain in place until the compliance officer determines that they are no longer necessary or until the District issues its final written decision, whichever occurs first.

Notifications

The District's UCP policy and administrative regulation shall be posted in all District schools and offices, including staff lounges and student government meeting rooms.
(Education Code 234.1)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall annually provide written notification of the District's UCP to students, employees, parents/guardians, District advisory committee members school advisory committee members,, appropriate private school officials or representatives, and other interested parties. (5 CCR 4622)

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)
(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)
(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The notice shall include:

1. A statement that the District is primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, including those related to prohibition of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against any protected group, and a list of all programs and activities that are subject to UCP as identified in the section "Complaints Subject to UCP" in the accompanying Board policy

2. The title of the position responsible for processing complaints, the identity of the person(s) currently occupying that position if known, and a statement that such persons will be knowledgeable about the laws and programs that they are assigned to investigate
3. A statement that a UCP complaint must be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred
4. A statement that, in the case of a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, a UCP complaint must be filed no later than six months from the date of the alleged conduct or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged conduct
5. A statement that a student enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a fee for participation in an educational activity that constitutes an integral fundamental part of the District's educational program, including curricular and extracurricular activities
6. A statement that a complaint regarding student fees or the local control and accountability plan (LCAP) may be filed anonymously if the complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support the complaint

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)
(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)
7. A statement that the district will post a standardized notice of the educational rights of foster youth, homeless students, former juvenile court school students now enrolled in the district, children of military families, migrant students, and immigrant students enrolled in a newcomer program, as specified in Education Code 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, and 51225.2, and the complaint process

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)
8. A statement that complaints will be investigated in accordance with the District's UCP and a written decision will be sent to the complainant within 60 days from the receipt of the complaint, unless this time period is extended by written agreement of the complainant
9. A statement that the complainant has a right to appeal the District's investigation report to CDE for programs within the scope of the UCP by filing a written appeal, including a copy of the original complaint and the District's decision, within 15 days of receiving the District's decision

10. A statement advising the complainant of any civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders that may be available under state or federal antidiscrimination laws, if applicable

11. A statement that copies of the district's UCP are available free of charge

The annual notification, complete contact information of the compliance officer(s), and information related to Title IX as required pursuant to Education Code 221.61 shall be posted on the District web site and may be provided through District-supported social media, if available.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all students and parents/guardians, including students and parents/guardians with limited English proficiency, have access to the relevant information provided in the District's policy, regulation, forms, and notices concerning the UCP.

If 15 percent or more of students enrolled in a particular District school speak a single primary language other than English, the District's policy, regulation, forms, and notices concerning the UCP shall be translated into that language, in accordance with Education Code 234.1 and 48985. In all other instances, the District shall ensure meaningful access to all relevant UCP information for parents/guardians with limited English proficiency.

Filing of Complaints

The complaint shall be presented to the compliance officer who shall maintain a log of complaints received, providing each with a code number and a date stamp.

All complaints shall be filed in writing and signed by the complainant. If a complainant is unable to put a complaint in writing due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, District staff shall assist in the filing of the complaint. (5 CCR 4600)

Complaints shall also be filed in accordance with the following rules, as applicable:

1. A written complaint alleging District violation of applicable state or federal law or regulations governing the programs specified in the accompanying Board policy may be filed by any individual, public agency, or organization. (5 CCR 4630)

2. Any complaint alleging noncompliance with law regarding the prohibition against student fees, deposits, and charges or any requirement related to the LCAP may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence, or information leading to

evidence, to support an allegation of noncompliance. A complaint about a violation of the prohibition against the charging of unlawful student fees may be filed with the principal of the school or with the Superintendent or designee.

3. A UCP complaint shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred. For complaints related to the LCAP, the date of the alleged violation is the date when the County Superintendent of Schools approves the LCAP that was adopted by the Board. (5 CCR 4630)

4. A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) may be filed only by a person who alleges having personally suffered unlawful discrimination, a person who believes that any specific class of individuals has been subjected to unlawful discrimination, or a duly authorized representative who alleges that an individual student has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The complaint shall be initiated no later than six months from the date that the alleged unlawful discrimination occurred, or six months from the date that the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination. The time for filing may be extended for up to 90 days by the Superintendent or designee for good cause upon written request by the complainant setting forth the reasons for the extension. (5 CCR 4630)

5. When a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) is filed anonymously, the compliance officer shall pursue an investigation or other response as appropriate, depending on the specificity and reliability of the information provided and the seriousness of the allegation.

6. When the complainant of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) or the alleged victim, when not the complainant, requests confidentiality, the compliance officer shall inform the complainant or victim that the request may limit the District's ability to investigate the conduct or take other necessary action. When honoring a request for confidentiality, the District shall nevertheless take all reasonable steps to investigate and resolve/respond to the complaint consistent with the request.

Mediation

Within three business days after receiving the complaint, the compliance officer may informally discuss with all the parties the possibility of using mediation. Mediation shall be offered to resolve complaints that involve more than one student and no adult. However, mediation shall not be offered or used to resolve any complaint involving an allegation of a sexual assault or where there is a reasonable risk that a party to the mediation would feel compelled to participate. If the parties agree to mediation, the compliance officer shall make all arrangements for this process.

Before initiating the mediation of a complaint alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the compliance officer shall ensure that all parties agree to make the mediator a party to relevant confidential information. The compliance officer shall also notify all parties of the right to end the informal process at any time.

If the mediation process does not resolve the problem within the parameters of law, the compliance officer shall proceed with an investigation of the complaint.

The use of mediation shall not extend the District's timelines for investigating and resolving the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to such an extension of time. If mediation is successful and the complaint is withdrawn, then the District shall take only the actions agreed to through the mediation. If mediation is unsuccessful, the District shall then continue with subsequent steps specified in this administrative regulation.

Investigation of Complaint

Within 10 business days after the compliance officer receives the complaint, the compliance officer shall begin an investigation into the complaint.

Within one business day of initiating the investigation, the compliance officer shall provide the complainant and/or the complainant's representative with the opportunity to present the information contained in complaint to the compliance officer and shall notify the complainant and/or representative of the opportunity to present the compliance officer with any evidence, or information leading to evidence, to support the allegations in the complaint. Such evidence or information may be presented at any time during the investigation.

In conducting the investigation, the compliance officer shall collect all available documents and review all available records, notes, or statements related to the complaint, including any additional evidence or information received from the parties during the course of the investigation. The compliance officer shall individually interview all available witnesses with information pertinent to the complaint, and may visit any reasonably accessible location where the relevant actions are alleged to have taken place. At appropriate intervals, the compliance officer shall inform both parties of the status of the investigation.

To investigate a complaint alleging retaliation, unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the compliance officer shall interview the alleged victim(s), any alleged offenders, and other relevant witnesses privately, separately, and in a confidential manner. As necessary, additional staff or legal counsel may conduct or support the investigation.

A complainant's refusal to provide the District's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation, or engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation may result in the dismissal of the complaint because of a lack of evidence to support the allegation. Similarly, a respondent's refusal to provide the district's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation, or engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation may result in a finding, based on evidence collected, that a violation has occurred and in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

In accordance with law, the District shall provide the investigator with access to records and other information related to the allegation in the complaint and shall not in any way obstruct the investigation. Failure or refusal of the District to cooperate in the investigation may result in a finding based on evidence collected that a violation has occurred and in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

Timeline for Investigation Report

Unless extended by written agreement with the complainant, the compliance officer shall prepare and send to the complainant a written investigation report, as described in the section "Investigation Report" below, within 60 calendar days of the district's receipt of the complaint. (5 CCR 4631)

For any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying), the respondent shall be informed of any extension of the timeline agreed to by the complainant. The respondent also shall be sent the investigation report at the same time it is provided to the complainant.

Investigation Report

For all complaints, the district's investigation report shall include: (5 CCR 4631)

1. The findings of fact based on the evidence gathered
2. A conclusion providing a clear determination for each allegation as to whether the district is in compliance with the relevant law
3. Corrective action(s) whenever the district finds merit in the complaint, including, when required by law, a remedy to all affected students and parents/guardians and, for a student fees complaint, a remedy that complies with Education Code 49013 and 5 CCR 4600
4. Notice of the complainant's right to appeal the district's investigation report to CDE, except when the district has used the UCP to address a complaint not specified in 5 CCR 4610

5. Procedures to be followed for initiating an appeal to CDE

The investigation report may also include follow-up procedures to prevent recurrence or retaliation and for reporting any subsequent problems.

In consultation with district legal counsel, information about the relevant part of an investigation report may be communicated to a victim who is not the complainant and to other parties who may be involved in implementing the investigation report or are affected by the complaint, as long as the privacy of the parties is protected. In a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying), notice of the investigation report to the alleged victim shall include information about any sanction to be imposed upon the respondent that relates directly to the alleged victim.

If the complaint involves a limited-English-proficient student or parent/guardian and the student involved is enrolled in a school at which 15 percent or more of the students speak a single primary language other than English, then the investigation report shall also be translated into that language pursuant to Education Code 48985. In all other instances, the District shall ensure meaningful access to all relevant information for parents/guardians with limited English proficiency.

For complaints alleging unlawful discrimination based on state law (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying), the investigation report shall also include a notice to the complainant that:

1. The complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the district's complaint procedures, including seeking assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys, 60 calendar days after the filing of an appeal with CDE. (Education Code 262.3)
2. The 60 days moratorium does not apply to complaints seeking injunctive relief in state courts or to discrimination complaints based on federal law. (Education Code 262.3)
3. Complaints alleging discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender, disability, or age may also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights at www.ed.gov/ocr within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

Corrective Actions

When a complaint is found to have merit, the compliance officer shall adopt any appropriate corrective action permitted by law. Appropriate corrective actions that focus on the larger school or District environment may include, but are not limited to, actions

to reinforce District policies; training for faculty, staff, and students; updates to school policies; or school climate surveys.

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

For complaints involving retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), appropriate remedies that may be offered to the victim but not communicated to the respondent may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Counseling
2. Academic support
3. Health services
4. Assignment of an escort to allow the victim to move safely about campus
5. Information regarding available resources and how to report similar incidents or retaliation
6. Separation of the victim from any other individuals involved, provided the separation does not penalize the victim
7. Restorative justice
8. Follow-up inquiries to ensure that the conduct has stopped and there has been no retaliation

For complaints involving retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), appropriate corrective actions that focus on a student offender may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Transfer from a class or school as permitted by law
2. Parent/guardian conference
3. Education regarding the impact of the conduct on others
4. Positive behavior support
5. Referral to a student success team

6. Denial of participation in extracurricular or cocurricular activities or other privileges as permitted by law

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

7. Disciplinary action, such as suspension or expulsion, as permitted by law

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

When an employee is found to have committed retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the district shall take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with applicable law and collective bargaining agreement.

The District may also consider training and other interventions for the larger school community to ensure that students, staff, and parents/guardians understand the types of behavior that constitute unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), that the District does not tolerate it, and how to report and respond to it.

When a complaint is found to have merit, an appropriate remedy shall be provided to the complainant or other affected person.

However, if a complaint alleging noncompliance with the laws regarding student fees, deposits, and other charges, physical education instructional minutes, courses without educational content, or any requirement related to the LCAP is found to have merit, the district shall provide a remedy to all affected students and parents/guardians subject to procedures established by regulation of the State Board of Education. (Education Code 49013, 51222, 51223, 52075)

For complaints alleging noncompliance with the laws regarding student fees, the district shall attempt in good faith, by engaging in reasonable efforts, to identify and fully reimburse all affected students and parents/guardians who paid the unlawful student fees within one year prior to the filing of the complaint. (Education Code 49013; 5 CCR 4600)

Appeals to the California Department of Education

Any complainant who is dissatisfied with the District's investigation report regarding any specified federal or state educational program subject to UCP may file an appeal in writing with the CDE within 30 calendar days of receiving the District's investigations report. (Education Code 49013, 52075; 5 CCR 4632)

The appeal shall be sent to CDE with a copy of the original locally filed complaint and a copy of the district's investigation report for that complaint. The complainant shall specify and explain the basis for the appeal, including as least one of the following: (5 CCR 4632)

1. The district failed to follow its complaint procedures.
2. Relative to the allegations of the complaint, the district's investigation report lacks material findings of fact necessary to reach a conclusion of law.
3. The material findings of fact in the district's investigation report are not supported by substantial evidence.
4. The legal conclusion in the district's investigation report is inconsistent with the law.
5. In a case in which the district found noncompliance, the corrective actions fail to provide a proper remedy.

Upon notification by the CDE that the complainant has appealed the District's decision, the Superintendent or designee shall forward the following documents to the CDE: (5 CCR 4633)

1. A copy of the original complaint
2. A copy of the District's investigation report
3. A copy of the investigation file including, but not limited to, all notes, interviews, and documents submitted by the parties and gathered by the investigator
4. A report of any action taken to resolve the complaint
- 5-. A copy of the District's uniform complaint procedures
- 6-. Other relevant information requested by the CDE

If notified by CDE that the district's investigation report failed to address allegation(s) raised by the complaint, the district shall, within 20 days of the notification, provide CDE and the appellant with an amended investigation report that addresses the allegation(s) that were not addressed in the original investigation report. The amended report shall also inform the appellant of the right to separately appeal the amended report with respect to the allegation(s) that were not addressed in the original report. (5 CCR 4632)

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