

Uniform Complaint Procedures

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Except as the Board of Trustees may otherwise specifically provide in other district policies, these general uniform complaint procedures (UCP) shall be used to investigate and resolve 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 as the responsible employee to handle complaints regarding sex discrimination. The individual(s) shall receive and coordinate the investigation of complaints and shall ensure district compliance with law.

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The compliance officer who receives a complaint may assign another compliance officer to investigate the complaint. The compliance officer shall promptly notify the complainant if another compliance officer is designated to investigate the complaint.

In no instance shall a compliance officer be designated to investigate a complaint if he/she is mentioned in the complaint or has a conflict of interest that would prohibit him/her from fairly investigating the complaint. Any complaint filed against or implicating a compliance officer may be filed with the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that employees designated to investigate complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs for which they are responsible. Designated employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

(cf. [9124](#) - Attorney)

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](#))

The Superintendent or designee shall annually provide written notification of the district's uniform complaint procedures (UCP) and information regarding unlawful pupil fees and LCAP requirements (Education Code 234.1, 49013, 52075 (e), 5 CCR 4622) to students, employees, parents/guardians, the district advisory committee, school advisory committees, appropriate private school officials or representatives, and other interested parties. (Education Code [262.3](#), [49013](#), 52075; 5 CCR [4622](#)) If a public school or LEA finds merit in a pupil fees and/or an LCAP complaint, the public school or LEA shall provide a remedy to all affected pupils, parents, and guardians that, in the case of pupil fees, includes reasonable efforts by the public school or LEA to ensure full reimbursement to all affected pupils, parents, and guardians. Pupil fees are subject to procedures established through regulations adopted by the State Board. (EC 49013 (d), 52075 (d))

Pupil fees complaints may be filed with the site Principal of a school (Education Code 49013 (a)) and shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred. (5 CCR 4630 (c)(2)) The LEA will attempt in good faith by engaging in reasonable efforts to identify and fully reimburse all pupils, parents, and guardians who paid a pupil fee within one year prior to the filing of the complaint. (5 CCR 4600 (u))

(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 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.

The notice shall:

1. Identify the person(s), position(s), or unit(s) responsible for receiving complaints

2. Advise the complainant of any civil law remedies that may be available to him/her under state or federal discrimination ~~and~~ laws, if applicable

3. Advise the complainant of the appeal process, including if applicable, the complainant's right to take a complaint directly to the California Department of Education (CDE) or to pursue remedies before civil courts or other public agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in cases involving unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

4. Include statements that:

a. The district has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs.

b. The complaint review shall be completed within 60 calendar days from the date of receipt of the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to an extension of the timeline

c. A complaint alleging retaliation, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying ~~or bullying~~ must be filed not later than six months from the date it occurred, or six months from the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. 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.

d. A student enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a fee for his/her participation in an educational activity that constitutes an integral fundamental part of the district's educational program, including curricular and extracurricular activities.

e. The Board is required to adopt and annually update a local control and accountability plan (LCAP), in a manner that includes meaningful engagement of parents/guardians, students, and other stakeholders in the development and/or review of the LCAP.

(cf. [0460](#) - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

f. The complainant has a right to appeal the district's decision to the CDE by filing a written appeal within 15 calendar days of receiving the district's decision

g. The appeal to the CDE must include a copy of the complaint filed with the district and a copy of the district's decision

h. Copies of the district's uniform complaint procedures are available free of charge.

District Responsibilities

All UCP-related complaints shall be investigated and resolved within 60 calendar days of the district's receipt of the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to an extension of the timeline. (5 CCR [4631](#))

The compliance officer 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](#).

All parties involved in the allegations shall be notified when a complaint is filed and when a decision or ruling is made. However, the compliance officer shall keep all complaints or allegations of retaliation, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying ~~or bullying~~ confidential except when disclosure is necessary to carry out the investigation, take subsequent corrective action, conduct ongoing monitoring, or maintain the integrity of the process. (5 CCR [4630](#), [4964](#))

Filing of Complaint

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 accordance with the following:

1. A written complaint alleging district violation of applicable state or federal law or regulations governing adult education programs, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, career technical and technical education and training programs, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs, and special education programs may be filed by any individual, public agency, or organization. (5 CCR [4630](#))
2. Any complaint alleging noncompliance with law regarding the prohibition against requiring students to pay 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. (Education Code [49013](#), [52075](#))
3. A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may be filed only by a person who alleges that he/she personally suffered unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying or by a person who believes that an individual or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to it. The complaint shall be initiated no later than six months from the date when the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying occurred, or six months from the date when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. 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](#))
4. When a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying ~~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.
5. When the complainant or alleged victim of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or ~~or~~ bullying requests confidentiality, the compliance officer shall inform him/her 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 will nevertheless take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint consistent with the request.
6. If a complainant is unable to put a complaint in writing due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, district staff shall assist him/her in the filing of the complaint. (5 CCR [4600](#))

Mediation

Within three business days after the compliance officer receives the complaint, he/she 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, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying 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.

The use of mediation process does not resolve the problem within the parameters of the law, the compliance officer shall proceed with his/her 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 five business day of initiating the investigation, the compliance officer shall provide the complainant and/or his/her representative with the opportunity to present the information contained in complaint to the compliance officer and shall notify the complainant and/or

his/her 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, 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. To resolve a complaint alleging retaliation, unlawful discrimination, intimidation, harassment or bullying including allegations against any protected group~~To resolve a complaint alleging retaliation, unlawful discrimination, or bullying as identified in Education Code section 200 and 220 and Government Code section 11135, including any actual or perceived characteristics as set forth in Penal Code section 422.55 or on the basis or a person's association with a person or group which one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any program or activity conducted by the LEA which is funded directly by, or that receives or benefits from any state financial assistance (GC 11135, Education Code 200, 220, 234.1, 5 CCR 4610, PC 422.55)~~, 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, [access to records](#), or other evidence [and/or information](#) related to the allegations in the complaint, or his/her 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 [or may result in a finding based on evidence collected that a violation has occurred and may result in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant](#). (5 CCR [4631](#)) [Complainants are protected from retaliation and the identity of a complainant alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying will remain confidential as appropriate. \(Education Code 234.1, 5 CCR 4621\)](#)

The compliance officer shall apply a "preponderance of the evidence" standard in determining the veracity of the factual allegations in a complaint. This standard is met if the allegation is more likely to be true than not.

Report of Findings

Unless extended by written agreement with the complainant, a final decision shall be sent to the complainant within 60 calendar days of the district's receipt of the complaint. Within 30 calendar days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall prepare and send to the complainant a written report of the district's investigation and decision, as described in the section "Final Written Decision" below. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the compliance officer's decision, he/she may, within five business days, file his/her complaint in writing with the Board.

The Board may consider the matter at its next regular Board meeting or at a special Board meeting convened in order to meet the 60-day time limit within which the complaint must be answered. The Board may decide not to hear the complaint, in which case the compliance officer's decision shall be final.

If the Board hears the complaint, the compliance officer shall send the Board's decision to the complainant within 60 calendar days of the district's initial receipt of the complaint or within the time period that has been specified in a written agreement with the complainant. (5 CCR [4631](#))

Final Written Decision

The district's decision shall be in writing and sent to the complainant. (5 CCR [4631](#))

In consultation with district legal counsel, information about the relevant part of a decision may be communicated to a victim who is not the complainant and to other parties that may be involved in implementing the decision or affected by the complaint, as long as the privacy of the parties is protected.

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

For all complaints, the decision shall include: (5 CCR [4631](#))

1. The findings of fact based on the evidence gathered. In reaching a factual determination, the following factors may be taken into account:

- a. Statements made by any witnesses
 - b. The relative credibility of the individuals involved
 - c. How the complaining individual reacted to the incident
 - d. Any documentary or other evidence relating to the alleged conduct
 - e. Past instances of similar conduct by any alleged offenders
 - f. Past false allegations made by the complainant
2. The conclusion(s) of law
 3. Disposition of the complaint
 4. Rationale for such disposition

For complaints of retaliation or unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the disposition of the complaint shall include a determination for each allegation as to whether retaliation or unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying has occurred.

The determination of whether a hostile environment exists may involve consideration of the following:

- a. How the misconduct affected one or more students' education
 - b. The type, frequency, and duration of the misconduct
 - c. The relationship between the alleged victim(s) and offender(s)
 - d. The number of persons engaged in the conduct and at whom the conduct was directed
 - e. The size of the school, location of the incidents, and context in which they occurred
 - f. Other incidents at the school involving different individuals
5. Corrective action(s), including any actions that have been taken or will be taken to address the allegations in the complaint and including, with respect to a student fees complaint, a remedy that comports with Education Code [49013](#) and 5 CCR [4600](#)

For complaints of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the notice may, as required by law, include:

- a. The corrective actions imposed on the individual found to have engaged in the conduct that relate directly to the subject of the complaint
- b. Individual remedies offered or provided to the subject of the complaint

c. Systemic measures the school has taken to eliminate a hostile environment and prevent recurrence

6. Notice of the complainant's right to appeal the district's decision within 15 calendar days to the CDE and procedures to be followed for initiating such an appeal

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

For complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, based on state law, the decision shall also include a notice to the complainant that:

1. He/she 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 the 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.

For complaints involving retaliation, unlawful discrimination, [harassment, intimidation, or bullying or bullying](#), appropriate corrective actions that focus on the victim 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

9. Determination of whether any past actions of the victim that resulted in discipline were related to the treatment the victim received and described in the complaint

~~For complaints involving retaliation, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying, appropriate corrective actions that focus on a student offender may include, but are not limited to~~ For complaints involving retaliation, unlawful discrimination, 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 co-curricular activities or other privileges as permitted by law
7. Disciplinary action, such as suspension or expulsion, as permitted by law

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, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, that the district does not tolerate it, and how to report and respond to it.

If a complaint alleging noncompliance with the laws regarding student fees, deposits, and other charges is found to have merit, the district shall provide a remedy to all affected students and parents/guardians, which, where applicable, shall include reasonable efforts to ensure full reimbursement to them. (Education Code [49013](#))

Appeals to the California Department of Education

Any complainant who is dissatisfied with the district's final written decision may file an appeal in writing to the CDE within 15 calendar days of receiving the district's decision. (Education Code [49013](#); 5 CCR [4632](#))

The complainant shall specify the basis for the appeal of the decision and whether the facts are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied. The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the locally filed complaint and a copy of the district's decision. (5 CCR [4632](#))

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 decision

3. A summary of the nature and extent of the investigation conducted by the district, if not covered by the decision
4. 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
5. A report of any action taken to resolve the complaint
6. A copy of the district's uniform complaint procedures
7. Other relevant information requested by the CDE

Regulation WESTERN PLACER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

approved: March 2008 Lincoln, California

revised: November 5, 2013

revised: February 17, 2015

revised: October 20, 2015