Information Sheet – 06/12/18 - Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 7.9

FR: Celli Coeville

DATE: June 7, 2018

RE: Policy Revision – Board Policy & Administrative Regulation 1312.3, Uniform Complaint Procedures

Uniform Complaint Procedures

(BP/AR revised) Policy updated to list all state and federal programs subject to the uniform complaint procedures (UCP) as specified in the Federal Program Monitoring instrument, reflect NEW LAW (AB 699) which includes immigration status as a prohibited basis for discrimination, and reflect NEW LAW (AB 365) which authorizes the use of UCP for alleged noncompliance with certain educational rights of children of military families. Policy also revised to clarify that, although complaints of employment discrimination are not subject to UCP, the district has an obligation to investigate such complaints using other district procedures. Regulation updated to reflect a requirement in AB 365 that the annual UCP notice include the educational rights of children of military families. Regulation also clarifies that any individual, public agency, or organization may file a complaint alleging violation of law regarding applicable state or federal programs, and deletes references to Office of Civil Rights resources on sexual violence which have been withdrawn.

Recommendation Action: Approve the revised Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Note: To address prohibited discrimination and violations of state and federal laws governing educational programs, 5 CCR 4621 mandates districts to adopt uniform complaint procedures (UCP) consistent with the state's complaint procedures specified in 5 CCR 4600-4670. Pursuant to 5 CCR 4610, the UCP must meet specified requirements for investigating and resolving complaints alleging (1) noncompliance with state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs; (2) noncompliance with state law prohibiting the charging of student fees; and (3) unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying). Although some bullying incidents may not fall within the provisions of 5 CCR 4610, BP 5131.2 - Bullying strongly recommends that districts use the UCP to investigate all bullying incidents, regardless of whether there is an allegation of discriminatory bullying, to ensure consistent implementation by district staff. It is not always easy or possible for staff to know prior to an investigation whether a student was bullied because of his/her actual or perceived membership in a legally protected class. After investigation, bullying incidents found to involve unlawful discrimination would then be resolved using the UCP. Districts that are concerned about the capacity of a single district compliance officer to handle a possible increase in the number of UCP complaints, or that prefer to handle certain incidents at the school site level whenever possible, may designate multiple compliance officers in accordance with the accompanying administrative regulation.

Note: Education Code 52075 mandates districts to adopt policies and procedures implementing the use of the UCP to investigate and resolve complaints alleging noncompliance with requirements related to the local control and accountability plan. For plan requirements, see BP/AR 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan. In addition, state law authorizes the use of the UCP to resolve complaints of noncompliance with laws related to accommodations for lactating students; educational rights of foster youth, homeless students, former juvenile court school students, and children of military families; assignment of students to courses without educational content; and physical education instructional minutes, as specified in items #3 and #6-9 below. Finally, a district should adopt policies and procedures implementing the use of the UCP to investigate and resolve complaints alleging retaliation in response to a complaint.

***Note: The California Department of Education (CDE) monitors district programs and operations for compliance with these requirements through its Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) process. The FPM consists of a review of (1) written district policies and procedures for required statements, including prohibition of discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying) against students pursuant to Education Code 234.1; and (2) records of required activities, such as annual notification provided to students, parents/guardians, employees, and other school community members. ***

***Note: The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (20 USC 12101-12213), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d-2000e-17), Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (20 USC 1681-1688), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 USC 6101-6107). OCR has issued guidance describing federal requirements for discrimination complaint procedures. OCR requires such procedures to be "prompt and equitable." The factors OCR examines to evaluate each district's procedures are specified in the accompanying administrative regulation, including whether and how the

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procedures (1) provide notice of the procedures to the district's students, parents/guardians, and employees; (2) ensure adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints; (3) contain reasonably prompt timeframes for major stages of the complaint process; (4) provide notice to the complainant of the resolution of the complaint; and (5) provide an assurance that action will be taken to prevent recurrence of any discrimination found and to correct its effects. ***

***Note: The following policy and accompanying administrative regulation reflect all components required by law and are consistent with CDE's Sample UCP Board Policies and Procedures and the FPM instrument. Additional details provided herein may help school districts and county offices of education during a compliance check by CDE or in the event that a CDE or OCR investigation occurs. ***

The Governing Board 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~~ may require a more formal process, the Board ~~shall~~ adopts ~~a~~ the uniform system of complaint processes specified in 5 CCR 4600-4670 and the accompanying administrative regulation.

Complaints Subject to the UCP

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

***Note: The FPM process includes a review of the district's policies and procedures to determine whether all district programs and activities that are subject to the UCP, as listed in the FPM instrument, are addressed. Item #1 lists all programs identified on the FPM instrument and should be revised to reflect the programs offered by the district. If the district does not list all such programs in its policy, it is required to comment in the FPM which programs and activities are not in operation. ***

1. Any complaint alleging district violation of applicable state or federal law or regulations governing adult education programs, After School Education and Safety programs, agricultural vocational education, American Indian education centers and early childhood education program assessments, bilingual education, peer assistance and review programs for teachers, career technical and technical education and training programs, child nutrition programs, compensatory education, consolidated categorical aid programs, Economic Impact Aid, English learner programs, federal education programs in Title I-VII, migrant education~~, career technical and technical education and training programs~~, Regional Occupational Centers and Programs, school safety plans, child care and development programs, ~~and~~ special education programs, State Preschool Programs, Tobacco-Use Prevention Education programs, and any other district-implemented program which is listed in Education Code 64000(a)
~~(5 CCR 4610)~~

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

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(cf. 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance)
(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)
~~*(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)*~~
(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)
(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)
(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)
(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)
(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)
(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)
(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)
(cf. 6178.1 - Work-Based Learning)
(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)
(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

***Note: As amended by AB 699 (Ch. 493, Statutes of 2017), Education Code 200, 220, and 234.1 expressly include immigration status as a prohibited basis for discrimination in district programs and activities. See BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities. ***

2. Any complaint alleging the occurrence of unlawful discrimination~~, including~~ (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), ~~in district programs and activities~~ against any student, employee, or other person participating in district programs and activities, including, but not limited to, those programs or activities funded directly by or that receive or benefit from any state financial assistance, based on ~~his/her~~ the persons's actual or perceived characteristics of race or ethnicity, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, 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 his/her 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. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)*~~
~~*(cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)*~~
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

~~3. Any complaint alleging bullying in district programs and activities, regardless of whether the bullying is based on a person's actual or perceived characteristics of race or ethnicity, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, 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 his/her association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.~~

~~*(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)*~~

3. Any complaint alleging district noncompliance with the requirement to provide

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reasonable accommodation to a lactating student on school campus to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other breastfeeding-related needs of the student (Education Code 222)
(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

4. Any complaint alleging district ~~violation~~ noncompliance ~~of~~ with the prohibition against requiring students to pay fees, deposits, or other charges for participation in educational activities (5 CCR 4610)

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)
(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)

5. Any complaint alleging ~~that the~~ district ~~has not complied~~ noncompliance with legal requirements related to the implementation of the local control and accountability plan (Education Code 52075)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

6. Any complaint, by or on behalf of any student who is a foster youth, alleging district noncompliance with any legal requirement applicable to the student regarding placement decisions, the responsibilities of the district's educational liaison to the student, the award of credit for coursework satisfactorily completed in another school or district, school transfer, or the grant of an exemption from Board-imposed graduation requirements (Education Code 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

7. Any complaint alleging district noncompliance with the physical education instructional minutes requirement for students in elementary school (Education Code 51210, 51223)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

***Note: 5 CCR 4621 mandates that district policy ensure that complainants are protected from retaliation as specified in item #10 below. ***

~~6.~~ 8. 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

***Note: Pursuant to 5 CCR 4610, a district may, at its discretion, use the UCP to investigate and resolve other complaints. ***

~~7.~~ 9. Any other complaint as specified in a district policy

***Note: 5 CCR 4631 authorizes the district to utilize alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods, including mediation, to resolve complaints before initiating a formal investigation. However, the district should ensure that any ADR it uses, particularly "in-person ADR," is

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appropriate for the particular situation. For example, in some instances (e.g., sexual assault), face-to-face mediation should not be used, even if all parties voluntarily agree, given the risk that a student might feel pressured to "voluntarily" agree to it. The following optional paragraph provides for a neutral mediator and should be revised to reflect district practice. ***

The Board recognizes that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) can, depending on the nature of the allegations, offer a process to reach a resolution to the complaint that is ~~agreeable~~ acceptable to all parties. ~~One type of~~ ADR such as ~~is~~ mediation~~, which shall~~ 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.

***Note: The following paragraph is mandated pursuant to 5 CCR 4621. Appropriate disclosure will vary in each case depending on the facts and circumstances. ***

The district shall protect all complainants from retaliation. In ~~filing and~~ investigating complaints, the confidentiality of the 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 he/she is different from the complainant, confidential 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)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

***Note: It is important to maintain records of all UCP complaints and the investigations of those complaints. If the district is ever investigated by OCR or CDE, these are important documents in demonstrating that the district has complied with federal law, state law, and its own policies and regulations. ***

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The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of all UCP complaints and the investigations of those complaints~~. All such records shall be destroyed~~ in accordance with applicable ~~state~~ law and district policy.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Non-UCP Complaints

***Note: 5 CCR 4611 details complaint issues that are not subject to the UCP. Such issues include, but are not limited to, allegations of child abuse, health and safety complaints regarding a child development program, allegations of fraud, and employment discrimination complaints. ***

The following complaints shall not be subject to the district's UCP but shall be referred to the specified agency: (5 CCR 4611)

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.

(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 and shall, for licensing-exempt facilities, be referred to the appropriate Child Development regional administrator.

~~3. Any complaint alleging employment discrimination shall be sent to the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing and the compliance officer shall notify the complainant by first class mail of the transfer.~~

~~4.~~ 3. Any complaint alleging fraud shall be referred to the Legal, Audits and Compliance Branch of the California Department of Education.

***Note: Complaints of employment discrimination are not subject to the UCP. Instead, pursuant to 2 CCR 11023, the district must establish an impartial and prompt process for addressing such complaints. In addition, 5 CCR 4611 requires that employment discrimination complaints be referred to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH). See AR 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment for applicable complaint procedures. ***

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.

***Note: Education Code 35186 requires the district to use the UCP, with modifications, to investigate and resolve complaints related to the issues stated in the following paragraph (i.e., "Williams complaints"). Because Education Code 35186 sets forth different timelines for

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investigation and resolution of these kinds of complaints than the timelines specified in law for other uniform complaints, CDE has created a separate uniform complaint process for the Williams complaints. See AR 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures for the separate procedure. ***

~~In addition, the district's Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures, AR 1312.4, shall be used to investigate and resolve~~ 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 the procedures in 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
222 Reasonable accommodations; lactating students
8200-8498 Child care and development programs
8500-8538 Adult basic education
18100-18203 School libraries
32280-32289 School safety plan, uniform complaint procedures
33380-33384 California Indian Education Centers
35186 Williams uniform complaint procedures
44500-44508 California Peer Assistance and Review Program for Teachers
48853-48853.5 Foster youth
48985 Notices in language other than English
49010-49013 Student fees
49060-49079 Student records
49069.5 Rights of parents
49490-49590 Child nutrition programs
49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
51210 Courses of study grades 1-6
51223 Physical education, elementary schools
51225.1-51225.2 Foster youth, homeless children, former juvenile court school students, and military-connected students; course credits; graduation requirements
51226-51226.1 Career technical education
51228.1-51228.3 Course periods without educational content
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan, especially
52075 Complaint for lack of compliance with local control and accountability plan requirements
52160-52178 Bilingual education programs
52300-~~52490~~ 52462Career technical education
52500-52616.24 Adult schools
~~52800-52870 School-based program coordination~~
54000-54029 Economic Impact Aid
54400-54425 Compensatory education programs
54440-54445 Migrant education
54460-54529 Compensatory education programs
56000-56867 Special education programs
59000-59300 Special schools and centers
64000-64001 Consolidated application process
GOVERNMENT CODE

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)
Legal Reference: continued

11135 Nondiscrimination in programs or activities funded by state
12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
104420 Tobacco-Use Prevention Education
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
3080 Application of section
4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures
4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs
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-~~6577~~ 6576Title I basic programs
6801-~~6871~~ 7014 Title III language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students
7101-7184 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act
7201-7283g Title V promoting informed parental choice and innovative programs
7301-7372 Title V rural and low-income school programs
12101-12213 Title II equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities
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
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
100.3 Prohibition of discrimination on basis of race, color or national origin
104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
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
Sample UCP Board Policies and Procedures

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS
Dear Colleague Letter: Title IX Coordinators, April 2015
~~Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence, April 2014~~
Dear Colleague Letter: Bullying of Students with Disabilities, August 2013
~~Dear Colleague Letter: Sexual Violence, April 2011~~
Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010
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

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Legal Reference: continued

Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, 2002
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
Family Policy Compliance Office: http://familypolicy.ed.gov
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: http://www.ed.gov/~~about/offices/list~~/ocr
U.S. Department of Justice: http://www.justice.gov

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Note: 5 CCR 4621 mandates that the district's uniform complaint procedures (UCP) be consistent with the procedures of 5 CCR 4600-4687. Additionally, Education Code 52075 mandates districts to adopt policies and procedures implementing the use of the UCP to investigate and resolve complaints alleging noncompliance with requirements related to the local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

Note: Furthermore, a number of federal civil rights statutes and their implementing regulations mandate districts to adopt policies and procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying). For example, all districts are mandated pursuant to 28 CFR 35.107 to adopt policy and procedures to address discrimination on the basis of disability, while districts that receive federal financial assistance are mandated pursuant to 34 CFR 106.8 and 34 CFR 110.25 to adopt such policies and procedures to address discrimination on the basis of sex and age. Some of the factors considered by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) when determining whether a district's procedures are "prompt and equitable" are addressed throughout the following administrative regulation.

Note: Apart from these mandates, state law authorizes the use of the UCP to resolve complaints of noncompliance with laws related to accommodations for lactating students; prohibition against the charging of student fees; educational rights of foster youth, homeless students, former juvenile court school students, and children of military families; assignment of students to courses without educational content; and physical education instructional minutes, as specified in the accompanying Board policy.

Except as the Governing Board 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. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)
~~*(cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)*~~

Compliance Officers

***Note: 5 CCR 4621 mandates the district to identify in its policies and procedures the person(s), position(s), or unit(s) responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs, including the receiving and investigating of complaints alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) and retaliation. During its Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) process, California Department of Education (CDE) staff will check to ensure that the district's procedures list the specific title(s) of the employee(s) responsible for receiving and investigating complaints. Districts should identify the specific title(s) of the compliance officer(s) in the space provided below. If a district identifies multiple compliance officers, it is recommended that one

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be designated the "lead compliance officer."***

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(s) to handle complaints regarding ~~sex discrimination~~ unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying). The individual(s) shall receive and coordinate the investigation of complaints and shall ensure district compliance with law.

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

Superintendent
1219 Whispering Wind Drive, Tracy California, 95377
(209) 836-3388

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 ~~designated to investigate~~ assigned to the complaint.

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

Note: 5 CCR 4621 mandates that the district's policy provide that employees responsible for compliance and/or for investigating and resolving complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs at issue in the complaints they are assigned. OCR requires that the compliance officer(s) involved in implementing discrimination complaint procedures be knowledgeable about the procedures and be able to explain them to parents/guardians and students. They must also have training or experience in handling discrimination complaints, including appropriate investigative techniques and understanding of the applicable legal standards.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that employees ~~designated~~ 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 ~~to investigate~~. Training provided to such ~~designated~~ employees shall ~~include~~ cover current state and federal laws and regulations governing the program, applicable processes for investigating and resolving complaints, including those ~~involving alleged~~ alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), applicable standards for reaching decisions on complaints,

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and appropriate corrective measures. ~~Designated~~ Assigned employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

(cf. 4331 - 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 result~~s~~ 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~~ shall 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)

Note: 5 CCR 4622 requires the district to include specified information in its annual UCP notice to students, parents/guardians, employees, and others. Education Code 51225.1-51225.2, as amended by AB 365 (Ch. 739, Statutes of 2017), require that the notice include information about specified educational rights of children of military families who transfer into the district after their second year of high school. Districts that do not maintain high schools may revise the following paragraph to delete notification related to the rights of homeless students, former juvenile court school students, and children of military families.

Note: During the FPM process, CDE staff will check to ensure that the district's policy contains a statement ensuring annual dissemination of notice of the district's UCP to the persons specified below. A sample of the annual notice is available through the CDE web site. In addition, 28 CFR 35.107, 34 CFR 106.8, and 34 CFR 110.25 require the district to publish its complaint procedures covering unlawful discrimination.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually provide written notification of the district's UCP to students, employees, parents/guardians of district students, ~~the~~ district advisory committee members, school advisory committee~~s~~ members, appropriate private school officials or representatives, and other interested parties. The notification shall include information regarding the prohibition of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying; unlawful student fees; local control and accountability plan (LCAP) requirements; and requirements related to the educational rights of foster youth, homeless students, former juvenile court school students, and children of military families. (Education Code 262.3, 48853, 48853.5, 49010-49013, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2, 52075; 5 CCR 4622)

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)
(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

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(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)
(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)
(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)
(cf. 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students)

Note: During the FPM process, CDE staff will check the notice to ensure that it contains a summary of the complaint procedures as specified in items #1-4 below.

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 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 (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying).

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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~~,~~ (such as discriminatory 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 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.

d. Complaints should be filed in writing and signed by the complainant. If a complainant is unable to put his/her complaint in writing, for example, due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, district staff shall assist him/her in the filing of the complaint.

e. If a complaint is not filed in writing but the district receives notice of any allegation that is subject to the UCP, the district shall take affirmative steps to investigate and address the allegations, in a manner appropriate to the particular circumstances.

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If the allegation involves retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) and the investigation confirms that discrimination has occurred, the district will take steps to prevent recurrence of discrimination and correct its discriminatory effects on the complainant, and on others, if appropriate.

~~d.~~f. 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.

Note: Education Code 52075 requires that information regarding LCAP requirements be included in the district's annual notification. See BP/AR 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan for details of the LCAP and specific requirements for its adoption and implementation.

~~e.~~g. The Board is required to adopt and annually update ~~a~~ the 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)*~~

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48853, 48853.5, and 49069.5, as well as 51225.1-51225.2 as amended by AB 365 (Ch. 739, Statutes of 2017), the UCP notice must include information regarding certain educational rights of foster youth, homeless students, former juvenile court school students, and children of military families, as provided in items #4h and i below. Pursuant to Education Code 48853.5, CDE is required to develop a standardized notice of the rights of foster youth in consultation with the California Foster Youth Education Task Force, and to make it available for dissemination by posting it on its Internet Web site.

h. A foster youth shall receive information about educational rights related to his/her educational placement, enrollment in and checkout from school, as well as the responsibilities of the district liaison for foster youth to ensure and facilitate these requirements and to assist the student in ensuring proper transfer of his/her credits, records, and grades when he/she transfers between schools or between the district and another district.

i. A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, or child of a military family who transfers into a district high school or between district high schools as applicable shall be notified of the district's responsibility to:

(1) Accept any coursework or part of the coursework that the student has satisfactorily completed in another public school, juvenile court school, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency, and to issue full or partial credit for the coursework completed

(2) Not require the student to retake any course or a portion of a course which he/she has satisfactorily completed in another public school, juvenile court school, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

(3) If the student has completed his/her second year of high school before the transfer, provide the student information about district-adopted coursework and Board-imposed graduation requirements from which he/she may be exempted pursuant to Education Code 51225.1

~~f.~~j. 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.

Note: Pursuant to federal law, including 34 CFR 106.8, the district is required to establish "prompt and equitable" procedures for investigating and resolving complaints alleging unlawful discrimination. The following statement reflects OCR's interpretation of such provisions as requiring fairness and equity not just for a complainant but for a respondent as well.

In any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the respondent also shall have the right to file an appeal with CDE in the same manner as the complainant, if he/she is dissatisfied with the district's decision.

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

Note: CDE staff will review the notice during the FPM process to ensure that the public is made aware of the district's obligation to provide copies of the UCP free of charge pursuant to 5 CCR 4622.

~~h.~~ l. Copies of the district's UCP are available free of charge.

Note: The following paragraph may be modified to reflect district practice. Pursuant to Education Code 221.61, districts are required to post information related to Title IX on their web sites, including specified information about complaint procedures under Title IX. See AR 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment. A district that does not maintain a web site may comply by posting the information on the web site of its county office of education. A comprehensive list of rights based on the provisions of the federal regulations implementing Title IX can be found in Education Code 221.8. In addition, in its April 2015 Dear Colleague Letter: Title IX Coordinators, OCR recommends that districts use web posting and social media to disseminate their nondiscrimination notices, policies, and procedures and communicate current compliance officer(s)' contact information to students, parents/guardians, and employees.

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)

***Note: Both federal and state laws contain requirements for translation of certain information

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

and documents. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires school districts to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency. OCR has interpreted this to require that, whenever information is provided to parents/guardians, districts must notify limited-English-proficient (LEP) parents/guardians in a language other than English in order to be adequate. OCR enforces this requirement consistent with the Department of Justice's 2002 Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons. Under the Guidance, a recipient of federal funds has an obligation to provide language assistance to LEP individuals based on balancing four factors: (1) the number or proportion of LEP individuals likely to encounter the program, (2) the frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program, (3) the nature and importance of the services provided by the program, and (4) the resources available to the recipient. State law is more specific than federal law: Education Code 48985 requires translation of certain information and documents if 15 percent or more of students enrolled in the school speak a single primary language other than English.***

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.

District Responsibilities

Note: 5 CCR 4631 requires that UCP complaints be investigated and completely resolved within 60 calendar days of the receipt of the complaint. Pursuant to 5 CCR 4640, when a UCP complaint is erroneously sent to CDE without first being filed with the district, the 60-day period specified in 5 CCR 4631 begins when the district receives the complaint.

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)

Note: The following paragraph reflects recommendation by OCR to ensure equity in the resolution process of a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination and may be modified to reflect district practice.

For complaints alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the district shall inform the respondent when the complainant agrees to an extension of the timeline for investigating and resolving the complaint.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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~~,~~ or unlawful discrimination~~, or bullying~~ (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, 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)

All complainants shall be protected from retaliation.

Filing of Complaints

Note: Complaints filed under the UCP may be filed directly with a compliance officer or with any site administrator not designated as a compliance officer. For example, acts of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) may initially be reported to a principal. See AR 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment and AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment. If a site administrator not designated as a compliance officer receives a UCP complaint, he/she must notify a compliance officer. A district may also establish a site-level process for receiving informal reports about incidents for which a UCP complaint may be filed and notifying students and parents/guardians of their right to file a UCP complaint. Any site-level process established by a district should be in writing and distributed in the same manner as the grievance procedures listed herein with an explanation of how it interacts with the UCP complaint process.

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 him/her in the filing of the complaint. (5 CCR 4600)

~~All~~ 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 ~~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~~ the programs specified in the accompanying Board policy (item #1 of the section "Complaints Subject to the UCP") may be filed by any individual, public agency, or organization. (5 CCR 4630)

***Note: Education Code 49013 mandates districts to adopt procedures that allow for anonymous complaints to be filed when a district allegedly violates the prohibition against the

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

charging of student fees. Pursuant to Education Code 52075, anonymous complaints are permitted with regard to the LCAP, as long as evidence, or information leading to evidence, to support the allegation of noncompliance is provided in the complaint.***

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. 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. However, any such complaint shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred. (Education Code 49013, 52075;5CCR 4630)

3. A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, ~~including~~ (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying~~,~~) may be filed only by a person who alleges that he/she personally suffered the unlawful discrimination 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 unlawful discrimination occurred, or six months from the date when 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)

4. 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.

Note: OCR's Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance indicates that if a complainant in a sexual harassment case requests that his/her name or that of the victim not be revealed to the alleged perpetrator or asks that the complaint not be pursued, the district should first inform the complainant that honoring the request may limit its ability to respond and pursue disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator. The OCR publication acknowledges that situations may exist in which a district cannot honor a student's request for confidentiality, but cautions that, in all instances, the district must still continue to ensure that it provides a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all students. Districts should consult legal counsel before honoring a confidentiality request to withhold the victim's name from the alleged perpetrator, especially in the case of alleged sexual assault. These guiding principles would also apply to harassment on the basis of race, gender, disability, or other protected characteristic.

5. When the complainant ~~or alleged victim~~ of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) or the alleged victim, when he/she is not the complainant, 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~~ shall nevertheless take all

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

reasonable steps to investigate and resolve/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

Note: The following section should be used only by those districts that have decided to establish procedures for attempting to resolve complaints through alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation; see the accompanying Board policy. The following section may be modified to specify the alternative dispute resolution method and timelines used within the district.

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. Meditation 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 ~~asexual~~ 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~~,~~ (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 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

Note: 5 CCR 4631, which requires the district to provide the complainant with the opportunity to present relevant information, does not provide any timeline. Thus, the timeline specified below may be modified to reflect district practice.

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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Within one 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.

Note: In his/her investigation, the compliance officer should consider all relevant circumstances, such as how the misconduct affected one or more students' education; the type, frequency, and duration of the misconduct; the identity, age, and sex of the individuals involved in and impacted by the conduct and the relationship between them; the number of persons engaged in the conduct and at whom the conduct was directed; the size of the school, location of the incidents, and context in which they occurred; and other incidents at the school involving different individuals.

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~~,~~. He/she 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 ~~resolve~~ 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.

Note: 5 CCR 4631 allows the district to dismiss a complaint when the complainant refuses to provide the investigator with relevant documents or otherwise obstructs the investigation. 5 CCR 4631 also provides that, if the district refuses to provide the investigator with access to records or other documents, the investigator may issue a finding in favor of the complainant. During the FPM process, CDE staff will check to ensure that both of these statements regarding the provision of access to information are included in the district's policy or procedures, as specified below.

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)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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)

Note: In determining the truth of any allegation, the district should apply the correct standard of proof to the situation. For example, with allegations of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying) or retaliation, OCR uses the "preponderance of the evidence" (more likely than not) standard. Any standard of proof that is more rigorous than required by law could subject a district to liability.

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

Note: Pursuant to 5 CCR 4631, the district's written decision must be sent to the complainant within 60 calendar days of receiving the complaint. Option 1 below is for districts that do not allow complainants to appeal the compliance officer's decision to the Governing Board. Option 2 is for districts that allow appeals to the Board, and it requires the compliance officer's decision within 30 calendar days so that the Board's decision can still be given within the 60-day time limit.

OPTION 1:

Unless extended by written agreement with the complainant, 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, within 60 calendar days of the district's receipt of the complaint. (5 CCR 4631)

OPTION 2:

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, 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. When required by law, the matter shall be considered in closed session. The Board may decide not to hear the complaint, in which case the compliance officer's decision shall be

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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)

Note: Pursuant to 5 CCR 4631, only a complainant has the right to receive a written report, and to file his/her complaint with the Board if dissatisfied with the compliance officer's decision. However, OCR has recommended that the same rights be extended to a respondent to a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, to ensure the process is equitable for all involved. Districts that selected Option 1 should delete reference to filing of a complaint with the Board in the following paragraph.

Final Written Decision

The district's decision on how it will resolve the complaint shall be in writing and shall be sent to the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

Note: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 USC 1232g; 34 CFR 99.1-99.67) protects student privacy, including student records containing details of the actions taken in response to a UCP complaint. However, pursuant to 20 USC 1221, FERPA may not "be construed to affect the applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act, or other statutes prohibiting discrimination, to any applicable program." In February 2015, the Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO), the federal agency which administers FERPA, released a letter concluding that FERPA permits a district to disclose to a student who was subjected to unlawful discrimination certain information about the sanctions imposed upon the offender when the sanctions directly relate to that student. Thus, if properly remedying the impact of discrimination would require disclosing to the alleged victim certain information on how the district disciplined the alleged student offender (e.g., an order that the alleged offender stay away from the alleged victim), FPCO interprets FERPA as allowing the district to disclose that information.

Note: Given the potential liability from improperly disclosing such information, districts are advised to consult with legal counsel when presented with a situation where a victim of unlawful discrimination requests information about sanctions imposed upon the offender.

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~~ who may be involved in implementing the decision or 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 district's decision to the alleged victim shall include information about any sanction to be imposed upon the respondent that relates directly to the alleged victim.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Note: Education Code 48985 requires that reports sent to parents/guardians be written in their primary language when 15 percent or more of a school's enrolled students speak a single primary language other than English. During the FPM process, CDE staff will check to ensure compliance with this requirement. Based on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, OCR requires districts to ensure meaningful access to all relevant UCP information for parents/guardians with limited English proficiency.

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.

Note: 5 CCR 4631 and guidance provided by OCR specify components that should be part of the district's decision. Inclusion of these items will help protect the district's position in case of an appeal to CDE, a complaint submitted to OCR, or if litigation is filed.

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~~ (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the disposition of the complaint shall include a determination for each allegation as to whether retaliation or unlawful discrimination has occurred.

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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

following:

a. ~~How~~ The manner in which 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~~ (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the ~~notice~~ decision 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~~ respondent

b. Individual remedies offered or provided to the subject of the ~~complaint~~ complainant or another person who was the subject of the complaint, but this information should not be shared with the respondent.

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

6. Notice of the complainant's and respondent'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.

Note: During the FPM process, CDE staff will expect to see a statement detailing a complainant's right to pursue civil law remedies (i.e., action in a court of law) in addition to or in conjunction with the right to pursue administrative remedies from CDE.

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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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~~,~~ or unlawful discrimination~~,~~ (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), appropriate ~~corrective actions that focus on the victim~~ 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

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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

For complaints involving retaliation, 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 co-curricular activities or other privileges as permitted by law

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

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

Note: Generally, when a complaint is found to have merit, an appropriate remedy is provided to the complainant or other affected person. However, in certain instances, the law may require a remedy to be provided to all affected persons, not just the complainant or subject of the complaint. For example, pursuant to Education Code 49013 and 5 CCR 4600, if the district, or CDE on appeal, finds merit in the complaint alleging noncompliance with the law regarding student fees and charges, the district is required to provide a remedy to all affected students and parents/guardians, as specified below. The same requirement applies to allegations of noncompliance with the LCAP requirements, pursuant to Education Code 52075, and to noncompliance with required instructional minutes for elementary students' physical education, pursuant to Education Code 51223. Districts that do not maintain elementary schools should delete reference to physical education from the following paragraph.

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

If a complaint alleging noncompliance with the laws regarding student fees, deposits, and other

charges, physical education instructional minutes for students in elementary schools, 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, 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 withone one year prior to the filing of the complaint. ~~such remedies, where applicable, shall include reasonable efforts to ensure full reimbursement to affected students and parents/guardians.~~ (Education Code 49013; 5 CCR 4600)

Appeals to the California Department of Education

Note: 5 CCR 4632-4633 provide that any complainant may appeal the district's decision to CDE, as provided below. Pursuant to Education Code 49013, the district is mandated to adopt procedures that include the right to appeal to CDE, in accordance with 5 CCR 4632, when a complainant is dissatisfied with the district's decision on his/her complaint alleging noncompliance with the law that prohibits districts from requiring students to pay fees, deposits, or charges for their participation in educational activities. Such procedures are also mandated by Education Code 52075 with regard to complaints alleging noncompliance with requirements related to the LCAP.

Note: Authority to appeal the district's decision is also available to a complainant who alleges noncompliance with laws regarding (1) the provision of reasonable accommodation to a lactating student; (2) the educational rights of foster youth, homeless students, former juvenile court school students, and children of military families; (3) the assignment of a high school student to a course without educational content; and (4) the required instructional minutes for elementary students' physical education, as specified in items #3 and #6-9 of the accompanying Board policy.

Any complainant who is dissatisfied with the district's final written decision of a complaint regarding any specified federal or state educational program subject to the UCP may file an appeal in writing with the CDE within 15 calendar days of receiving the district's decision. (Education Code 222, 48853, 48853.5, 49013, 49069.5, 51223, 51225.1, 51225.2, 51228.3, 52075; 5 CCR 4632)

Note: Although not required pursuant to 5 CCR 4631-4633, OCR recommends that the right to appeal the district's decision to CDE be extended to the respondent to an allegation of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) to ensure fairness for all parties involved. The following paragraphs reflect OCR's recommendation.

When a respondent in any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying) is dissatisfied with the district's final written decision, he/she, in the same manner as the complainant, may file an appeal with CDE.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

The complainant or respondent shall specify the basis for the appeal of the decision and ~~whether~~ how the facts of the district's decison are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied. The appeal shall be ~~accompanied by~~ sent to CDE with a copy of the original locally filed complaint and a copy of the district's decision in that complaint. (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 written 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

Note: CDE may directly intervene in a complaint without waiting for action by the district when certain conditions exist, including the following: (1) the complaint alleges failure to comply with the UCP, including failure to follow the required timelines and failure to implement the final written decision; (2) the complainant requires anonymity due to the possibility of retaliation and would suffer immediate and irreparable harm if a complaint was filed and the complainant was named; (3) the complainant alleges that he/she would suffer immediate and irreparable harm as a result of an application of a districtwide policy that is in conflict with state or federal law and that filing a complaint would be futile; (4) the complainant alleges failure to comply with the due process procedures established pursuant to special education law and regulation to implement a due process hearing order; (5) the complainant alleges facts that indicate that one or more students may be in immediate physical danger or that the health, safety, or welfare of one or more students is threatened; or (6) the complainant alleges failure to follow a student's individualized education program.