Information Sheet – 06/16/2020 - Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 8.2

FR: Celli Coeville

DATE: June 11, 2020

RE: Revised Board Policy/Administrative Regulation, BP/AR 1312.3, Uniform Complaint Procedures, Consider for Adoption

Board Policy BP 1312.3, Uniform Complaint Procedures has been updated to add medical condition as a characteristic that is protected from discrimination. The updated board policy and administrative regulation reflect NEW LAW (SB 75, 2019) which extends the use of uniform complaint procedures (UCP) to complaints alleging noncompliance with the physical education instructional minutes requirement for grades 7-12, and add an item indicating the use of the UCP for complaints regarding health and safety in a license-exempt California State Preschool Program (CSPP) consistent with CDE's Federal Program Monitoring Instrument.

I've highlighted the proposed changes and indicated the differences in red font.

Recommended Action: Approve Revised, BP/AR 1312.3, Uniform Complaint Procedures

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

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 early resolution of complaints whenever possible. To resolve complaints which may require a more formal process, the Board adopts the uniform system of complaint processes specified in 5 CCR 4600-4670 and the accompanying administrative regulation.

Complaints Subject to UCP

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

1. Any complaint alleging district violation of applicable state or federal laws or regulations governing any program subject to the UCP which is offered by the district, including adult education programs; After School Education and Safety programs; agricultural career technical education; ~~American Indian education centers and early childhood education program assessments; bilingual education; California Peer Assistance and Review programs for teachers; state career technical and technical education, career technical, and technical training programs~~; federal career technical education; child care and development programs; child nutrition programs; compensatory education; consolidated categorical aid programs; ~~Economic Impact Aid;~~ the federal Every Student Succeeds Act; migrant education; Regional Occupational Centers and Programs; school safety plans; ~~special education programs~~; California State Preschool Programs; ~~Tobacco-Use Prevention Education programs~~; and any other district-implemented state categorical program that is not funded through the local control funding formula pursuant to Education Code 64000

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)
(cf. 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance)
~~*(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)*~~
(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 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)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

3. Any complaint alleging district noncompliance with the requirement to provide 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 noncompliance with requirements to provide a pregnant or parenting student the accommodations specified in Education Code 46015, including those related to the provision of parental leave, right of return to the school of previous enrollment or to an alternative education program, if desired, and possible enrollment in school for a fifth year of instruction to enable the student to complete state and Board-imposed graduation requirements (Education Code 46015)

5. Any complaint alleging district noncompliance 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)

6. Any complaint alleging district noncompliance with applicable requirements of Education Code 52060-52077 related to the implementation of the local control and accountability plan, including the development of a local control funding formula budget overview for parents/guardians (Education Code 52075)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

7. Any complaint alleging noncompliance with requirements related to the development of a school plan for student achievement or the establishment of a school site council, as required for the consolidated application for specified federal and/or state categorical funding (Education Code 64000-64001, 65000-65001)

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

8. Any complaint, by or on behalf of a student who is a foster youth as defined in Education Code 51225.2, alleging district noncompliance with any 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, district, or country; school or records 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)

9. Any complaint alleging district noncompliance with the physical education instructional minutes requirement ~~for students in elementary school~~ (Education Code 51210, 51222, 51223)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

10. Complaints regarding the noncompliance of a license-exempt California State Preschool Program (CSPP) with health and safety standards specified in Health and Safety Code 1596.7925 and related state regulations (Education Code 8235.5; Health and Safety Code 1596.7925)

~~10.~~ 11. 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

~~11.~~ 12. Any other complaint as specified in ~~a~~ district policy

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~~ for resolving a complaint in a manner that is acceptable to all parties. An ADR process such as mediation may be offered to resolve complaints that involve more than one student and no adult. However, mediation shall not be offered or used to resolve any complaint involving sexual assault or where there is a reasonable risk that a party to the mediation would feel compelled to participate. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the use of ADR is consistent with state and federal laws and regulations.

The district shall protect all complainants from retaliation. In investigating complaints, the confidentiality of the parties involved shall be protected as required by law. For any complaint

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the Superintendent or designee shall keep the identity of the complainant, and/or the subject of the complaint if 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 UCP is included in a UCP complaint, the district shall refer the non-UCP allegation to the appropriate staff or agency and shall investigate and, if appropriate, 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 requirements related to UCP, 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)

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

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Non-UCP Complaints

The following complaints shall not be subject to the district's UCP but shall be 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 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 fraud shall be referred to the Legal, Audits and Compliance Branch of the California Department of Education.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Any complaint alleging employment discrimination or harassment shall be investigated and resolved by the district in accordance with the procedures specified in AR 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment, including the right to file the complaint with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

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~~, or health and safety violations in any license-exempt California State Preschool Program~~ shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures in AR 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures. (Education Code 8235.5, 35186)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination
8200-8498 Child care and development programs
8500-8538 Adult basic education
18100-18203 School libraries
32280-32289 School safety plan, uniform complaint procedures
~~*33380-33384 California Indian Education Centers*~~
35186 Williams uniform complaint procedures
~~*44500-44508 California Peer Assistance and Review Program for Teachers*~~
46015 Parental leave for students
48853-48853.5 Foster youth
48985 Notices in language other than English
49010-49014 Student fees
49060-49079 Student records, especially:
49069.5 Records of foster youth
49490-49590 Child nutrition programs
49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
51210 Courses of study grades 1-6
51223 Physical education, elementary schools
51225.1-51225.2 Foster youth, homeless children, former juvenile court school students, military-connected students, migrant students, and newly arrived immigrant students; course credits; graduation requirements
51226-51226.1 Career technical education
51228.1-51228.3 Course periods without educational content
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*~~
52300-52462 Career technical education
52500-52616.24 Adult schools
~~*54000-54029 Economic Impact Aid*~~
54400-54425 Compensatory education programs

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Legal Reference (continued):

54440-54445 Migrant education
54460-54529 Compensatory education programs
~~*56000-56865 Special education programs*~~
59000-59300 Special schools and centers
64000-64001 Consolidated application process; school plan for student achievement
65000-65001 School site councils

GOVERNMENT CODE
11135 Nondiscrimination in programs or activities funded by state
12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
1596.792 California Child Day Care Act; general provisions and definitions
1596.7925 California Child Day Care Act; health and safety regulations
~~*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 Applicability of uniform complaint procedures to complaints regarding students with disabilities*~~
4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures
4680-4687 Williams 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
6301-6576 Title I Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
6801-7014 Title III language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29
794 Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
2000d-2000e-17 Title VI and Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended
2000h-2-2000h-6 Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
6101-6107 Age Discrimination Act of 1975
12101-12213 Title II equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28
35.107 Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
100.3 Prohibition of discrimination on basis of race, color or national origin
104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504
106.8 Designation of responsible employee for Title IX

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

106.9 Notification of nondiscrimination on basis of sex
110.25 Notification of nondiscrimination on the basis of age
Management Resources:
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Uniform Complaint Procedure 2020-21Program Instrument
Sample UCP Board Policies and Procedures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS
Dear Colleague Letter, September 22, 2017
Dear Colleague Letter: Title IX Coordinators, April 2015
Legal Reference (continued):
Dear Colleague Letter: Responding to Bullying of Students with Disabilities, October 2014
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 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: https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: http://www.ed.gov/ocr
U.S. Department of Justice: http://www.justice.gov

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Except as the Governing Board may otherwise specifically provide in other district policies, these 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)

Compliance Officers

The district designates the individual(s), position(s), or unit(s) identified below as responsible for coordinating the district's response to complaints and for complying with state and federal civil rights laws. The individual(s), position(s), or unit(s) also serve as the compliance officer(s) specified in AR 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment responsible for handling complaints regarding unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying). The compliance officer(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
District Office
1219 Whispering Wind Drive
Tracy, CA 95377
209-836-3388
~~jbridges@jsdtracy.com~~ Superintendent@jsdtracy.com

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

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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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

(cf. 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 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 one or more interim measures. The interim measures 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)

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

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

The notice shall include:

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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

2. A statement that a complaint regarding student fees or the local control and accountability plan (LCAP) may be filed anonymously if the complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support the complaint

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)
(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

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

4. A statement that a complaint regarding student fees must be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred

5. A statement that the district will post a standardized notice of the educational rights of foster youth, homeless students, former juvenile court school students now enrolled in the district, children of military families, migrant students, and immigrant students enrolled in a newcomer program, as specified in Education Code 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, and 51225.2, and the complaint process

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)
(cf. 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students)
(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)

6. Identification of the responsible staff member(s), position(s), or unit(s) designated to receive complaints

7. A statement that complaints will be investigated in accordance with the district's UCP and a written decision will be sent to the complainant within 60 days from the receipt of the complaint, unless this time period is extended by written agreement of the complainant

8. A statement that the complainant has a right to appeal the district's decision to CDE by filing a written appeal, including a copy of the original complaint and the district's decision, within 15 days of receiving the district's decision

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

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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)
(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)

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

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

Filing of Complaints

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

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

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

1. A complaint alleging district violation of applicable state or federal law or regulations governing the programs specified in the accompanying Board policy (item #1 of the section "Complaints Subject to UCP") may be filed by any individual, public agency, or organization. (5 CCR 4630)

2. Any complaint alleging noncompliance with law regarding the prohibition against student fees, deposits, and charges or any requirement related to the LCAP may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence, or information leading to evidence, to support an allegation of noncompliance. A complaint about a violation of the prohibition against the charging of unlawful student fees may be filed with the principal of the school or with the Superintendent or designee. However, any such complaint shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred. (Education Code 49013, 52075; 5 CCR 4630)

3. A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) may be filed only by persons who allege that they have personally

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

suffered unlawful discrimination or who believe that an individual or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to unlawful discrimination. The complaint shall be initiated no later than six months from the date that the alleged unlawful discrimination occurred, or six months from the date that the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination. The time for filing may be extended for up to 90 days by the Superintendent or designee for good cause upon written request by the complainant setting forth the reasons for the extension. (5 CCR 4630)

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.

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

Mediation

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

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

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

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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

subsequent steps specified in this administrative regulation.

Investigation of Complaint

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

remedy in favor of the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

Timeline for Final Decision

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, the complainant may, within five business days, file the 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 final.

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session ~~Purposes and Agendas~~)
~~(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)~~

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)

For any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying), the respondent shall be informed of any extension of the timeline agreed to by the complainant, shall be sent the district's final written decision, and, in the same manner as the complainant, may file a complaint with the Board if dissatisfied with the decision.

Final Written Decision

For all complaints, the district's final written 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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

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 (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 following:

a. 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 (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the decision may, as required by law, include:

a. The corrective actions imposed on the respondent

b. Individual remedies offered or provided to the 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

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

recurrence

6. Notice of the complainant's and respondent's right to appeal the district's decision to CDE within 15 calendar days, 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.

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 who may be involved in implementing the decision or are affected by the complaint, as long as the privacy of the parties is protected. In a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying), notice of the 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.

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

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

1. The complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the district's complaint procedures, including seeking assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys, 60 calendar days after the filing of an appeal with CDE. (Education Code 262.3)

2. The 60 days moratorium does not apply to complaints seeking injunctive relief in state courts or to discrimination complaints based on federal law. (Education Code 262.3)

3. Complaints alleging discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender, disability, or age may also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights at www.ed.gov/ocr within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

Corrective Actions

When a complaint is found to have merit, the compliance officer shall adopt any appropriate corrective action permitted by law. Appropriate corrective actions that focus on the larger school

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

or district environment may include, but are not limited to, actions to reinforce district policies; training for faculty, staff, and students; updates to school policies; or school climate surveys.

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

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

1. Counseling

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

2. Academic support

3. Health services

4. Assignment of an escort to allow the victim to move safely about campus

5. Information regarding available resources and how to report similar incidents or retaliation

6. Separation of the victim from any other individuals involved, provided the separation does not penalize the victim

7. Restorative justice

8. Follow-up inquiries to ensure that the conduct has stopped and there has been no retaliation

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

1. Transfer from a class or school as permitted by law

2. Parent/guardian conference

3. Education regarding the impact of the conduct on others

4. Positive behavior support

5. Referral to a student success team

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

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

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

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

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

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

(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

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

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

However, if a complaint alleging noncompliance with the laws regarding student fees, deposits, and other charges, physical education instructional minutes ~~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, 51222, 51223, 52075)

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

Appeals to the California Department of Education

Any complainant who is dissatisfied with the district's final written decision on a complaint regarding any specified federal or state educational program subject to UCP may file an appeal

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

in writing with CDE within 15 calendar days of receiving the district's decision. (5 CCR 4632)

The complainant shall specify the basis for the appeal of the decision and how the facts of the district's decision are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied. The appeal shall be 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)

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, the respondent, in the same manner as the complainant, may file an appeal with CDE.

Upon notification by CDE that the district's decision has been appealed, the Superintendent or designee shall forward the following documents to 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 UCP

7. Other relevant information requested by CDE

Health and Safety Complaints in California State Preschool Program

In each license-exempt CSPP classroom, a notice shall be posted notifying parents/guardians, students, and teachers of the health and safety requirements of Title 5 regulations that apply to CSPP programs pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1596.7925 and the location at which to obtain a form to file any complaint alleging noncompliance with those requirements. (Education Code 8235.5)

Any complaint regarding specified health or safety issues in a license-exempt CSPP program shall be filed with the preschool program administrator or designee, and may be filed anonymously. The complaint form shall specify the location for filing the complaint and shall contain a space to indicate whether the complainant desires a response to the complaint. If it is

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

determined that the complaint is beyond the authority of the preschool program administrator, the matter shall be forwarded to the Superintendent or designee in a timely manner, not to exceed 10 working days, for resolution. (Education Code 8235.5)

Investigation of a complaint regarding health or safety issues in a license-exempt CSPP program shall begin within 10 days of receipt of the complaint. (Education Code 8235.5)

The preschool administrator or designee shall remedy a valid complaint within a reasonable time period not to exceed 30 working days from the date the complaint was received. If the complainant has indicated on the complaint form a desire to receive a response to the complaint, the preschool administrator or Superintendent's designee shall report the resolution of the complaint to the complainant within 45 working days of the initial filing of the complaint. If the preschool administrator makes this report, the information shall be reported at the same time to the Superintendent or designee. If a complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of a complaint, the complainant has the right to describe the complaint to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting. (Education Code 8235.5)

A complainant may file a written appeal of the district's decision to CDE in accordance with 5 CCR 4632. (Education Code 8235.5)

Any such appeal shall be filed within 30 days of receiving the decision.

On a quarterly basis, the Superintendent or designee shall report summarized data on the nature and resolution of all CSPP health and safety complaints, including the number of complaints by general subject area with the number of resolved and unresolved complaints, to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting and to the County Superintendent of Schools.