

Personnel

Civil and Legal Rights

The Governing Board believes that the personal life of an employee is not an appropriate concern of the district, except as it may directly relate to the employee's performance of his/her duties.

An employee's religious or political activities, or lack thereof, shall not be grounds for any discrimination or disciplinary action by the district, provided that these activities do not violate law, Board policy, or administrative regulation.

A teacher shall have the right to refuse to submit to any evaluation or survey conducted by the district concerning personal values, attitudes, and beliefs; sexual orientation; political affiliations or opinions; critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the teacher has a family relationship; or religious affiliations or beliefs. (Education Code [49091.24](#))

Employees do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy with regards to district property under an employee's control including, but not limited to, desks, classrooms, offices, file cabinets, computers, or phones. As necessary to protect the health, welfare, or safety of students and staff, school officials may search such items in order to uncover evidence that the employee is violating the law, Board policy, administrative regulation, or other rules of the district or school.

Whistleblower Protection

An employee shall have the right to disclose to a Board member, a school administrator, a member of the County Board of Education, County Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent of Public Instruction any improper governmental activity by the district or a district employee that violates state or federal law, is economically wasteful, or involves gross misconduct, incompetency, or inefficiency. When the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of state or federal statute or a violation or noncompliance with a state or federal rule or regulation, he/she has the right to disclose such information to a government or law enforcement agency or to refuse to participate in any such activity. (Education Code [44112](#), [44113](#); Labor Code [1102.5](#))

The Superintendent or designee shall prominently display in lettering larger than size 14 point type a list of employees' rights and responsibilities under the whistleblower laws, including the telephone number of the whistleblower hotline maintained by the office of the California Attorney General. (Labor Code [1102.8](#))

No employee shall use or attempt to use his/her official authority or influence to intimidate, threaten, coerce, or command another employee for the purpose of interfering with that employee's right to disclose improper governmental activity. (Education Code [44113](#))

An employee who has disclosed improper governmental activity and believes that he/she has subsequently been subjected to acts or attempted acts of reprisal shall file a written complaint in accordance with the district's complaint procedures. After filing a complaint with the district, he/she may also file a copy of the complaint with local law enforcement in accordance with Education Code [44114](#).

Protection Against Liability

No employee shall be liable for harm caused by his/her act or omission when acting within the scope of employment or district responsibilities. For the protection against liability to apply, the act or omission must be in conformity with federal, state, and local laws and must be in furtherance of an effort to control, discipline, expel, or suspend a student, or to maintain order or control in the classroom or school. (20 USC [6736](#))

The protection against liability shall not apply when: (20 USC [6736](#))

1. The employee acted with willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, recklessness, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the harmed person's right to safety.
2. The employee caused harm by operating a motor vehicle or other vehicle requiring license or insurance.
3. The employee was not properly licensed, if required, by state law for such activities.
4. The employee was found by a court to have violated a federal or state civil rights law.
5. The employee was under the influence of alcohol or any drug at the time of the misconduct.
6. The misconduct constituted a crime of violence pursuant to 18 USC 16 or an act of terrorism for which the employee has been convicted in a court.
7. The misconduct involved a sexual offense for which the employee has been convicted in a court.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[200-262.4](#) Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex

[7050-7058](#) Political activities of school officers and employees

[44040](#) Discrimination based on employee's appearance before certain boards or committees

[44110-44114](#) Reporting by school employees of improper governmental activity

[49091.24](#) Teacher rights to refuse evaluation/survey of personal life

CIVIL CODE

51 Unruh Civil Rights Act

GOVERNMENT CODE

[815.3](#) Intentional torts

[820-823](#) Tort Claims Act

[825.6](#) Indemnification of public entity

[3540.1](#) Public employment definitions

[3543.5](#) Interference with employee's rights prohibited

[12940-12951](#) Discrimination prohibited; unlawful practices

LABOR CODE

[1102.5-1106](#) Whistleblower protections

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18

16 Crime of violence defined

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

[6731-6738](#) Teacher liability protection

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

[2000d-2000d-7](#) Title VI, Civil Rights Act

[2000e-2000e-17](#) Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended

[2000h-2000h-6](#) Title IX, 1972 Education Act Amendments

[12101-12213](#) Americans with Disabilities Act

COURT DECISIONS

Garcetti v. Ceballos, (2006) 543 U.S. 1186

O'Conner v. Ortega, (1987) 480 U.S. 709

New Jersey v. T.L.O., (1985) 468 U.S. 325