



PERSONNEL – CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES

BOARD POLICY – MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE ADULT-STUDENT INTERACTIONS BP 4119.24

The County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools desire to provide a positive school environment that protects the safety and well-being of SBCEO students. The County Superintendent expects all adults with whom students may interact at school or in school-related activities, including employees, independent contractors, and volunteers, to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards in their interactions with students both within and outside the educational setting. Such adults shall not engage in unlawful or inappropriate interactions with students and shall avoid boundary-blurring behaviors that undermine trust in the adult-student relationship and lead to the appearance of impropriety.

Employees are prohibited from entering into or attempting to form a romantic or sexual relationship with any student or engaging in sexual harassment of a student, including sexual advances, flirtations, requests for sexual favors, inappropriate comments about a student's body or appearance, or other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Adults shall not intrude on a student's physical or emotional boundaries unless necessary in an emergency or to serve a legitimate purpose related to instruction, counseling, student health, or student or staff safety.

Any employee who has been identified as mandated reporter, who observes or has knowledge of another employee's violation of this policy shall report the information to the County Superintendent or designee or appropriate agency for investigation pursuant to the applicable complaint procedures. Other adults with knowledge of any violation of this policy are encouraged to report the violation to the County Superintendent or designee. The County Superintendent or designee shall protect anyone who reports a violation from retaliation. Immediate intervention shall be implemented when necessary to protect student safety or the integrity of the investigation.

Employees who engage in any conduct in violation of this policy, including retaliation against a person who reports the violation or participates in the complaint process, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal. Any other adult who violates this policy may be barred from school grounds and activities in accordance with law. The County Superintendent or designee may also notify law enforcement as appropriate. The SBCEO's employee code of conduct addressing interactions with students shall be provided to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year and shall be posted on school and/or SBCEO web sites. (Education Code 44050)

Inappropriate Conduct

Employees shall remain vigilant of their position of authority and not abuse it when relating with students. Examples of employee conduct that can undermine professional adult-student interactions or create the appearance of impropriety include, but are not limited to:

1. Initiating inappropriate physical contact
2. Being alone with a student outside of the view of others
3. Visiting a student's home or inviting a student to visit the employee's home without parent/guardian consent
4. Maintaining personal contact with a student that has no legitimate educational purpose, by phone, letter, electronic communications, or other means, without including the student's parent/guardian or the program manager

When communicating electronically with students, employees shall use SBCEO equipment or technological resources when available. Employees shall not communicate with students through any medium that is designed to eliminate records of the communications. The County Superintendent or designee may monitor employee usage of SBCEO technology at any time without advance notice or consent.

5. Creating or participating in social networking sites for communication with students, other than those created by the SBCEO, without the prior written approval of the program manager or designee
6. Inviting or accepting requests from students, or former students who are minors, to connect on personal social networking sites (e.g., "friending" or "following" on social media), unless the site is dedicated to school business
7. Singling out a particular student for personal attention and friendship, including giving gifts and/or nicknames to individual students
8. Addressing a student in an overly familiar manner, such as by using a term of endearment
9. Socializing or spending time with students outside of school-sponsored events, except as participants in community activities
10. Sending or accompanying students on personal errands unrelated to any legitimate educational purpose
11. Transporting a student in a personal vehicle without prior authorization

12. Encouraging students to confide their personal or family problems and/or relationships

13. Disclosing personal, family, or other private matters to students or sharing personal secrets with students

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the County Superintendent of Schools or designee to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State

5 CCR 80303
5 CCR 80304
Ed. Code 44030.5
Ed. Code 44050
Ed. Code 44242.5
Ed. Code 44940
Ed. Code 48980
Pen. Code 11164-11174.3

Description

Reports of change in employment status, alleged misconduct
Notice of sexual misconduct
Reporting change in employment status due to alleged misconduct
Employee code of conduct; interaction with students
Reports and review of alleged misconduct
Compulsory leave of absence for certificated persons
Parent/Guardian notifications
Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARD:
REVISED:

February 2, 2023