



## PERSONNEL – CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES

### **BOARD POLICY – PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

BP 4119.21

The County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools expect SBCEO employees to maintain the highest ethical standards, behave professionally, follow SBCEO policies and regulations, abide by state and federal laws, and exercise good judgment when interacting with students and other members of the school community. Employees shall engage in conduct that enhances the integrity of the SBCEO, advances the goals of the SBCEO's educational programs, and contributes to a positive school climate.

The County Superintendent encourages SBCEO employees to accept as guiding principles the professional standards and codes of ethics adopted by educational or professional associations to which they may belong.

Each employee is expected to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill the employee's responsibilities and to contribute to the learning and achievement of SBCEO students.

#### **Inappropriate Conduct**

Inappropriate employee conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Engaging in any conduct that endangers students, staff, or others, including, but not limited to, physical violence, threats of violence, or possession of a firearm or other weapon
2. Engaging in harassing or discriminatory behavior towards students, parents/guardians, staff, or community members, or failing or refusing to intervene when an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against a student is observed
3. Physically abusing, sexually abusing, neglecting, or otherwise willfully harming or injuring a child
4. Engaging in inappropriate socialization or fraternization with a student or soliciting, encouraging, or maintaining an inappropriate written, verbal, or physical relationship with a student
5. Possessing or viewing any pornography on school grounds, or possessing or viewing child pornography or other imagery portraying children in a sexualized manner at any time

6. Using profane, obscene, or abusive language against students, parents/guardians, staff, or community members
7. Willfully disrupting SBCEO or school operations by loud or unreasonable noise or other action
8. Using tobacco, alcohol, or an illegal or unauthorized substance, or possessing or distributing any controlled substance, while in the workplace, on SBCEO or affiliated district property, or at a school-sponsored activity
9. Being dishonest with students, parents/guardians, staff, or members of the public, including, but not limited to, falsifying information in employment records or other school records
10. Divulging confidential information about students, SBCEO employees, or SBCEO operations to persons or entities not authorized to receive the information
11. Using SBCEO equipment or other SBCEO resources for the employee's own commercial purposes or for political activities
12. Using SBCEO equipment or communications devices for personal purposes while on duty, except in an emergency, during scheduled work breaks, or for personal necessity  
  
Employees shall be notified that computer files and all electronic communications, including, but not limited to, email and voice mail, are not private. To ensure proper use, the County Superintendent or designee may monitor employee usage of SBCEO technological resources at any time without the employee's consent.
13. Causing damage to or engaging in theft of property belonging to students, staff, or the SBCEO
14. Wearing inappropriate attire

### **Reports of Misconduct**

An employee who observes or has evidence of another employee's inappropriate conduct shall immediately report such conduct to the program manager or County Superintendent or designee. An employee who has knowledge of or suspects child abuse or neglect shall file a report pursuant to the SBCEO's child abuse reporting procedures as detailed in AR 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting.

Any reports of employee misconduct shall be promptly investigated. Any employee who is found to have engaged in inappropriate conduct in violation of law or Board policy shall be subject to disciplinary action and, in the case of a certificated employee, may be subject to a report to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The County

Superintendent or designee shall notify local law enforcement as appropriate.

An employee who has knowledge of but fails to report inappropriate employee conduct may also be subject to discipline.

The SBCEO prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a complaint against an employee or reports an employee's inappropriate conduct. Any employee who retaliates against any such complainant, reporter, or other participant in the SBCEO's complaint process shall be subject to discipline.

## Notifications

The section(s) of 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)

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### 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.

### Management Resources

Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
Publication  
Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
Publication  
Council of Chief State School Officers  
Publication  
National Education Association Publication  
Website  
Website  
Website  
Website  
Website  
Website  
Website  
Website  
Website  
WestEd Publication

### Description

California Standards for the Teaching Profession, 2009  
California Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, February 2014  
Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, 2015  
Code of Ethics of the Education Profession, 1975  
[WestEd](#)  
[CSBA](#)  
[Council of Chief State School Officers](#)  
[Commission on Teacher Credentialing](#)  
[California Teachers Association](#)  
[California School Employees Association](#)  
[California Federation of Teachers](#)  
[California Department of Education](#)  
[Association of California School Administrators](#)  
Moving Leadership Standards into Everyday Work: Descriptions of Practice, 2003

### State

5 CCR 80303  
5 CCR 80331-80338  
Ed. Code 200-262.4  
Ed. Code 44050  
Ed. Code 44242.5  
Ed. Code 48980  
Pen. Code 11164-11174.4

### Description

Reports of change in employment status, alleged misconduct  
Rules of conduct for professional educators  
[Educational equity; prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex](#)  
Employee code of conduct; interaction with students  
Reports and review of alleged misconduct  
Parent/Guardian notifications  
Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARD:

February 2, 2023