

## **Series 4000: District Employment**

### **4100 Employee Rights and Responsibilities**

#### **4104 Employment Complaint Procedure**

This employment complaint procedure is designed to facilitate: (1) prompt notification of alleged unlawful discrimination, including unlawful Title VII sexual harassment, and retaliation; (2) a prompt and thorough investigation of good faith allegations; and (3) the implementation of appropriate corrective action, if necessary, to eliminate verified, unlawful discrimination and retaliation from the workplace.

##### **A. Initiating a Complaint**

1. A Board member, employee, or employment applicant who believes he/she has been the subject of unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment, or retaliation must timely file a complaint, preferably within 10 business days of the alleged or suspected violation or when the reporter obtained knowledge of the alleged or suspected violation, with:

JEAN GIBSON STURTRIDGE  
499 RANGE ROAD, MARYSVILLE, MI 48040  
(810) 455-4055  
[STURTRIDGE.JEAN@SCCRESA.ORG](mailto:STURTRIDGE.JEAN@SCCRESA.ORG)

Title IX sexual harassment complaints, including dual Title VII and Title IX harassment complaints that cannot be bifurcated, must be processed under Policy 3118.

2. A complaint against the Employment Compliance Officer(s) must be made to the Superintendent or President. A complaint against the Superintendent must be made to the President. A complaint against the President must be made to the Vice President.
3. A complaint of discrimination, including unlawful harassment, or retaliation, may be made verbally or in writing. The complaint will be memorialized on Form 4104-F.

##### **B. Investigation Procedures**

1. A written or verbal report (including an anonymous report) of discrimination, including unlawful harassment, or retaliation will be investigated promptly and thoroughly.
2. An impartial investigator will investigate the complaint and, if appropriate, notify law enforcement. A third-party investigator may be appointed to investigate the complaint. The investigator(s) should consult with legal counsel in appropriate cases.

3. The investigator(s) will determine the relevant and appropriate witnesses to be interviewed based on the allegations, Board policy, and the law, and use reasonable efforts to do so. In most cases, the Complainant(s) and the Respondent(s) will be interviewed. The investigator(s) should remind interviewees to maintain confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.
4. Complaints, evidence, witness statements, investigation notes, and findings will be maintained in a confidential manner and protected from disclosure to the extent permitted by law.
5. The preponderance of the evidence (i.e., more likely than not) standard of proof will be used to determine whether discrimination, including unlawful harassment, or retaliation occurred.
6. The investigator(s) may create an investigation report of factual conclusions and findings.
7. The outcome of the investigation will be reported to the Complainant(s) and the Respondent(s).

#### C. Remedies

The District will take prompt and appropriate remedial action to address substantiated instances of discrimination, including unlawful harassment, or retaliation. Remediation may include restorative practices, training, counseling, discipline, transfer, demotion, discharge, or other action as deemed appropriate.

#### D. False Complaint or False Statement

A person who knowingly files a false complaint or makes a materially false statement is subject to discipline, including discharge.

#### E. Unlawful Retaliation

Retaliation against an investigation participant is prohibited. Any person who unlawfully retaliates is subject to discipline, including discharge.

#### F. Appeal Process

A Complainant or Respondent who objects to the investigation process or findings must file a written appeal with the Superintendent within 10 business days after receiving the investigation outcome. The written appeal must cite specific objections to the investigation process or findings. If the Superintendent is the Respondent or Complainant, an appeal must be filed with the President. If the President is the Respondent or Complainant, an appeal must be filed with the Vice President.

An appeal will be forwarded to the Board or designee for consideration and action. The Board or designee, in consultation with legal counsel, will take

appropriate action, generally within 30 calendar days after receipt of the appeal. A Board officer will then notify the parties in writing of the appeal decision.

#### G. Reports to State or Federal Administrative Agencies

Any person who believes that he/she was the victim of discrimination, including unlawful harassment, or retaliation may file a complaint with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) at any time:

Michigan Department of Civil Rights Capitol Tower Building  
110 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 800  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone: 517-335-3165  
Fax: 517-241-0546  
TTY: 517-241-1965  
Email: MDCR-INFO@michigan.gov

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Patrick V. McNamara Building  
477 Michigan Avenue - Room 865  
Detroit, MI 48226  
Phone: 800-669-4000  
Fax: 313-226-4610  
TTY: 800-669-6820  
Email: info@eeoc.gov

An agency complaint may be filed before, during, or after a complaint is filed with the District, or a person may forego filing a complaint with the District and rely solely on the MDCR or EEOC. The District recommends that a person who has been subjected to discrimination, including unlawful harassment, or retaliation, also file a complaint with the District to ensure that the District can take steps to prevent further discrimination, including unlawful harassment, or retaliation and to discipline the Respondent, if appropriate. The MDCR and EEOC do not serve as an appellate body for District decisions. An investigation by the MDCR or EEOC will occur separately from any District investigation.

Legal authority: U.S. CONST. amend. XIV; 20 USC 1681 et seq.; 29 USC 701 et seq.; 42 USC 2000d et seq., 2000e et seq., 2000ff et seq., 6101 et seq., 12101 et seq.; 29 CFR 1630; 34 CFR 104, 106.8, 106.9, 110; MCL 15.261 et seq.; MCL 37.1101 et seq., 37.2101 et seq.

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