

Laurens County Ethics and Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Corruption Policy

The Federal Programs Director reviews ethics and fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption policies as it relates to:

- Title programs, including Title I, Part A (Disadvantaged Children),
- Title I, Part C (Migrant Education Program),
- Title I, Part D (Neglected and Delinquent),
- Title II, Part A (Teacher and Leader Quality),
- Title III (English Learners and Immigrant Students)),
- Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment),
- IDEA (Individual Education Act)
- and Title X, Part C (McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless)

with all staff through the District Compliance Directory program during the Fall each year. Staff are required to sign off electronically that they have read and understand all policies as related to Title programs. This electronic signature will document this has been completed. Standard 5: Public Funds and Property - An educator entrusted with public funds and property shall honor that trust with a high level of honesty, accuracy, and responsibility. Unethical conduct includes but is not limited to:

- Misusing public or school-related funds;
- Failing to account for funds collected from students or parents;
- Submitting fraudulent requests or documentation for reimbursement of expenses or for pay (including fraudulent or purchased degrees, documents, or coursework);
- Co-mingling public or school-related funds with personal funds or checking accounts; and
- Using school property without the approval of the local board of education/governing board or authorized designee.

The Laurens County School System takes the responsibility of properly managing federal funds seriously. Any individual who suspects that funds have been misused with any Title program, including Title I, Part A (Disadvantaged Children), Title I, Part C (Migrant Education Program), Title I, Part D (Neglected and Delinquent), Title II, Part A (Teacher and Leader Quality), Title III (English Learners and Immigrant Students), Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment), and Title X, Part C (McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless) should report the waste, fraud, abuse, or corruption using the following guidelines:

Purpose: To ensure the reporting of suspicion of fraudulent activity, the Laurens County Schools provides employees, clients, and providers with confidential channels for such reporting.

Definitions: Fraud: A false representation of a matter of fact, whether by words, by conduct, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed, that is used for the purpose of misappropriating property and/or monetary funds.

Statement of Administrative Regulations: The Laurens County Schools thoroughly and expeditiously investigates and reported cases of suspected fraud to determine if disciplinary, financial recovery and/or criminal action should be taken.

Confidentiality: All reports of suspected fraud must be handled under the strictest confidentiality. Only those directly involved in the investigation should be provided information regarding the allegation. Informants may remain anonymous but should be encouraged to cooperate with investigators and should provide as much detail and evidence of alleged fraudulent acts as possible.

(LCSS BOE Policy)

The School System ("System") shall not tolerate fraud of any kind and has an established system for the reporting of suspicious activities.

"Fraud" is defined as a false representation of a matter of fact, whether by words or by conduct, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed, that is used for the purpose of misappropriating property and/or monetary funds from federal, state, or local grants and funds.

Employees and parties maintaining a business relationship with the System who suspect fraud, whether it pertains to federal, state, or local programs, should report their concerns to the Superintendent or his/her designee. If fraud is suspected by the Superintendent, such allegations should be reported to the Chair of the Board of Education.

All reports of suspected fraud shall be handled under the strictest confidentiality allowed under the law. Informants may remain anonymous as allowed by law but are encouraged to cooperate with investigators and to provide as much detail and evidence of the alleged fraudulent act as possible.

Any and all reports of suspicious activity and/or suspected fraud will be investigated. Results of an investigation shall not be disclosed to or discussed with anyone other than those individuals with a legitimate need to know until the results become subject to public disclosure in accordance with state and/or federal law.