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Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) Annual Notice for 2022-2023

For students, employees, parents/guardians, school advisory committee members, and other interested parties.

MWA has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs.

MWA shall investigate and seek to resolve complaints using policies and procedures known as the Uniform Complaint Procedure (“UCP”) adopted by our local board for the following types of complaints:

1. Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying complaints may be based on actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, gender expression, gender identity, gender, genetic information, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, disability, nationality, national origin, immigration status, citizenship, race or ethnicity, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or on a person’s association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, in any MWA program or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance.
2. Complaints alleging a violation of state and/or federal law or regulation governing the following programs:
 - Adult Education
 - Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs
 - Migrant Education
 - Career Technical and Technical Education and Training Programs
 - Child Care and Developmental Programs
 - Foster and Homeless Youth Services
 - Every Student Succeeds Act / No Child Left Behind Act Programs
 - Safety Planning Requirements
 - Pregnant, Parenting or Lactating students
 - Former Juvenile Court School students
 - Students from Military Families
 - Migratory students
3. Complaints alleging noncompliance with laws relating to student fees may be filed pursuant to the local UCP. A student enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a student fee for participation in an educational activity. A student fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
 - A fee charged to a student as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
 - A security deposit, or other payment, that a student is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
 - A purchase that a student is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to student fees may be filed with the Compliance Officer or the Assistant Principal of MWA.

4. Complaints alleging noncompliance with the requirements governing the Local Control Funding Formula (“LCFF”) or Local Control and Accountability Plans (“LCAP”) under Education Code sections 47606.5 and 47607.3, as applicable. If MWA adopts a School Plan for Student Achievement (“SPSA”) in addition to its LCAP, complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of the SPSA under Education Code sections 64000, 64001, 65000, and 65001 shall also fall under the UCP.

5. Complaints alleging noncompliance regarding child nutrition programs established pursuant to Education Code sections 49490-49590 are governed by Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (“C.F.R.”) sections 210.19(a)(4), 215.1(a), 220.13(c), 225.11(b), 226.6(n), and 250.15(d) and Title 5, California Code of Regulations (“C.C.R.”) sections 15580 - 15584.

6. Complaints alleging noncompliance regarding special education programs established pursuant to Education Code sections 56000-56865 and 59000-59300 are governed by the procedures set forth in 5 C.C.R. sections 3200-3205 and 34 C.F.R. sections 300.151-300.153.

7. Complaints other than complaints relating to student fees must be filed in writing with the following compliance officer:

Elizabeth Martinez, Chief of Staff
4123 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806
(510) 262-1511, compliance@mwacademy.org

8. Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, must be filed within six months from the date the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, occurred or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. All other complaints under the UCP shall be filed not later than one (1) year from the date the alleged violation occurred. For complaints relating to the LCAP, the date of the alleged violation is the date on which MWA’s Board of Directors approved the LCAP or the annual update was adopted by Charter School.

Only complaints regarding pupil fees or LCAP compliance may be filed anonymously and only if the anonymous complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees or LCAP.

Complaints will be investigated and a written decision or report will be sent to the complainant within 60 days from the receipt of the complaint. This 60-day time period may be extended by written agreement of the complainant. The compliance officer responsible for investigating the complaint shall conduct and complete the investigation in accordance with California regulations and in accordance with MWA’s UCP Policy.

The complainant has a right to appeal MWA’s decision to the California Department of Education (CDE) by filing a written appeal within 30 calendar days of the date of the MWA’s written Decision, except if MWA has used its UCP to address a complaint that is not subject to the UCP requirements. The appeal must include a copy of the complaint filed with MWA, a copy of MWA’s decision, and the complainant must specify and explain the basis for the appeal of the decision, including at least one of the following:

1. MWA failed to follow its complaint procedures.
2. Relative to the allegations of the complaint, MWA’s decision lacks material findings of fact necessary to reach a conclusion of law.
3. The material findings of fact in MWA’s decision are not supported by substantial evidence.

4. The legal conclusion in MWA's decision is inconsistent with the law.
5. In a case in which MWA's decision found noncompliance, the corrective actions fail to provide a proper remedy.

A complainant who appeals MWA's decision on a UCP complaint to the CDE shall receive a written appeal decision within sixty (60) calendar days of the CDE's receipt of the appeal, unless extended by written agreement with the complainant or the CDE documents exceptional circumstances and informs the complainant.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the CDE's appeal Decision pursuant to 5 C.C.R. section 4633(f)(2) or (3), either party may request reconsideration by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction ("SSPI") or the SSPI's designee. The request for reconsideration shall specify and explain the reason(s) for contesting the findings of fact, conclusions of law, or corrective actions in the CDE's appeal Decision.

If a UCP complaint is filed directly with the CDE and the CDE determines that it merits direct intervention, the CDE shall complete an investigation and provide a written decision to the complainant within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of the complaint, unless the parties have agreed to extend the timeline or the CDE documents exceptional circumstances and informs the complainant.

If MWA finds merit in a UCP complaint, or the CDE finds merit in an appeal, MWA shall take corrective actions consistent with the requirements of existing law that will provide a remedy to the affected student and/or parent/guardian as applicable.

Civil law remedies may be available under state or federal discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying laws, if applicable. In appropriate cases, an appeal may be filed pursuant to Education Code Section 262.3. A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of MWA's complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders. For unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints arising under state law, however, a complainant must wait until sixty (60) calendar days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if the MWA has appropriately, and in a timely manner, apprised the complainant of the complainant's right to file a complaint in accordance with 5 CCR § 4622.

A copy of the full UCP is available free of charge in the middle school and upper school Front Offices. For further information on any part of the UCP, including filing a complaint or requesting a copy of the UCP, please contact the front office or the compliance officer listed above. The [UCP Form](#) is included below.