MERCED COUNTY
Office of Education
Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools
632 WEST 13TH STREET | MERCED, CA 95341 | (209) 381-6600 | WWW.MCOE.ORG

Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP)
Annual Notice
2025–26

Merced County Office of Education
September 2025

For students, employees, parents/guardians, school and district advisory committee members, private school officials, and other interested parties

The Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) annually notifies our students, employees, parents or guardians of its students, the district advisory committee, school advisory committees, appropriate private school officials, and other interested parties of our Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) process. The UCP Annual Notice is available on our website.

We are primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, including those related to unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying against any protected group, and all programs and activities that are subject to the UCP.

Programs and Activities Subject to the UCP

- Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Pupils
- Adult Education
- After School Education and Safety
- Agricultural Career Technical Education
- Career Technical and Technical Education and Career Technical and Technical Training Programs
- Child Care and Development Programs
- Compensatory Education

Approved by Cabinet/Board on 1.8.2025

- Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs
- Course Periods without Educational Content
- Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against any protected group as identified under California *Education Code* (*EC*) sections 200 and 220 and *Government Code* Section 11135, including any actual or perceived characteristic as set forth in *Penal Code* Section 422.55, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution, as defined in *EC* Section 210.3, that is funded directly by, or that receives or benefits from, any state financial assistance.
- Educational and graduation requirements for pupils in foster care, pupils who are homeless, pupils from military families, pupils formerly in Juvenile Court now enrolled in a school district, pupils who are migratory, and pupils participating in a newcomer program.
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Instructional Materials and Curriculum Diversity
- Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP)
- Migrant Education
- Physical Education Instructional Minutes
- Pupil Fees
- Reasonable Accommodations to a Lactating Pupil
- Regional Occupational Centers and Programs
- School Plans for Student Achievement
- Schoolsite Councils
- State Preschool
- State Preschool Health and Safety Issues in LEAs Exempt from Licensing
- And any other state or federal educational program the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) or designee deems appropriate.

Approved by Cabinet/Board on 1.8.2025

Filing a UCP Complaint

A UCP complaint shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred.

For complaints relating to Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP), the date of the alleged violation is the date when the reviewing authority approves the LCAP or annual update that was adopted by our agency.

A pupil enrolled in any of our public schools shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity.

A pupil fee complaint may be filed with the principal of a school or our superintendent or their designee.

A pupil fee or LCAP complaint may be filed anonymously, that is, without an identifying signature, if the complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance.

Contact Information

Complaints within the scope of the UCP are to be filed with the person responsible for processing complaints:

Deputy Superintendent
632 West 13th Street
Merced, CA 95341
(209) 381-6627

The above contact is knowledgeable about the laws and programs that they are assigned to investigate in MCOE.

Responsibilities of the Merced County Office of Education

We shall post a standardized notice, in addition to this notice, with educational and graduation requirements for pupils in foster care, pupils who are homeless, pupils from military families, pupils formerly in Juvenile Court now enrolled in a school district, pupils who are migratory, and pupils participating in a newcomer program.

We advise complainants of the opportunity to appeal an Investigation Report of complaints regarding programs within the scope of the UCP to the California Department of Education (CDE).

We advise complainants of civil law remedies, including injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders that may be available under state or federal discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying laws, if applicable.

Approved by Cabinet/Board on 1.8.2025

Copies of our UCP procedures shall be available free of charge.

For UCP Complaints Regarding State Preschool Health and Safety Issues Pursuant to Section 1596.7925 of the California *Health and Safety Code* (*HSC*)

In order to identify appropriate subjects of state preschool health and safety issues pursuant to Section 1596.7925 of the California *Health and Safety Code* (*HSC*) a notice shall be posted in each California state preschool program classroom in each school in our agency.

The notice is in addition to this UCP annual notice and addresses parents, guardians, pupils, and teachers of (1) the health and safety requirements under *California Code of Regulations*, Title 5 (5 *CCR*) that apply to California state preschool programs pursuant to *HSC* Section 1596.7925, and (2) the location at which to obtain a form to file a complaint.

Approved by Cabinet/Board on 1.8.2025