# LAKE ELSINORE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: Lake Elsinore Unified School District Substitute Employees

From: Richard Peterson
Director, Personnel Support Services

Date: November 18, 2019

Re: Professional Conduct Requirements

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This correspondence is a reminder from the Lake Elsinore Unified School District administration that all employees are expected – and required – to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Specifically, Board Policy ("BP") 4419.21 requires that all District employees do the following:

> Maintain the highest ethical standards, exhibit professional behavior, follow district policies and regulations, abide by state and federal laws, and exercise good judgment when interacting with students and other members of the school community. Employee conduct should enhance the integrity of the district, advance the goals of the district's educational programs, and contribute to a positive school climate.

District employees are also prohibited from engaging in any behavior that endangers students or staff. District employees are prohibited from engaging in any harassing or discriminatory behavior towards students, staff, or other community members. (*See* BP 4419.21.) Notably, the District also prohibits any discriminatory or harassing behavior towards students and/or staff that occurs off campus or outside of school -related or school-sponsored activities but has an impact or creates a hostile environment at school. Any employee who permits or engages in such prohibited discrimination, including discriminatory harassment and/or bullying, shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Please be advised that District employees are also required to abide by federal and state laws enacted to prevent discrimination, harassment, and bullying. The District will not tolerate any behavior towards students or staff members that constitutes discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of any statutorily protected class including but not limited to race, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, sex, disability and/or religion. As such, the District expects all employees to demonstrate the highest level of respect and decorum to all students, staff, and community members at all times.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this memorandum, please contact Richard Peterson, Director of Personnel Support Services, at richard.peterson@leusd.k12.ca.us.

For more information and legal references on this topic, please refer to our district website at https://www.leusd.k12.ca.us/ (Departments/Services » Department Directory » Personnel Support Services).

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**Lake Elsinore USD BP 4119.21 Professional Standards**

The Governing Board expects district employees to maintain the highest ethical standards, exhibit professional behavior, follow district policies and regulations, abide by state and federal laws, and exercise good judgment when interacting with students and other members of the school community. Employee conduct should enhance the integrity of the district, advance the goals of the district's educational programs, and contribute to a positive school climate.

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)
(cf. 4119.1/4219.1/4319.1 - Civil and Legal Rights)
(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

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

(cf. 2111 - Superintendent Governance Standards)
(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

Each employee should make a commitment to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill his/her responsibilities and should focus on his/her contribution to the learning and achievement of district students.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)
(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

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

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)

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

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

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 district 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 or at a school-sponsored activity

(cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-Free Schools)
(cf. 4020 - Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace)
(cf. 4112.41/4212.41/4312.41 - Employee Drug Testing)
(cf. 4112.42/4212.42/4312.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers)

9. Dishonesty with students, parents/guardians, staff, or members of the public, including, but not limited to, falsification of information in employment records or other school records

10. Divulging confidential information about students, district employees, or district operations to persons not authorized to receive the information

(cf. 3580 - District Records)
(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

11. Using district equipment or other district resources for the employee's own commercial purposes or for political activities

(cf. 4119.25/4219.25/4319.25 - Political Activities of Employees)

12. Using district 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 Superintendent or designee may monitor employee usage of district technological resources at any time without the employee's consent.

(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)

13. Causing damage to or engaging in theft of property belonging to students, staff, or the district

14. Wearing inappropriate attire

(cf. 4119.22/4219.22/4319.22 - Dress and Grooming)

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

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 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 Superintendent or designee shall notify local law enforcement as appropriate.

(cf. 4117.4 - Dismissal)
(cf. 4117.7 - Employment Status Reports)
(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

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

The district 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 district's complaint process shall be subject to discipline.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination
44242.5 Reports and review of alleged misconduct
PENAL CODE
11164-11174.4 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
80303 Reports of dismissal, resignation and other terminations for alleged misconduct
80331-80338 Rules of conduct for professional educators
Management Resources:
COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING PUBLICATIONS
California Standards for the Teaching Profession, 2009
COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS PUBLICATIONS
Educational Leadership Policy Standards: ISLLC 2008, 2008
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS
Code of Ethics of the Education Profession, 1975
WESTED PUBLICATIONS
Moving Leadership Standards into Everyday Work: Descriptions of Practice, 2003
WESTED AND ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PUBLICATIONS
California Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, 2001
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
Association of California School Administrators: http://www.acsa.org
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
California Federation of Teachers: http://www.cft.org
California School Employees Association: http://www.csea.com
California Teachers Association: http://www.cta.org
Commission on Teacher Credentialing: http://www.ctc.ca.gov
Council of Chief State School Officers: http://www.ccsso.org
WestEd: http://www.WestEd.org