Professional Standards

The Governing Board desires to provide a safe and positive school environment that promotes the learning, engagement, safety, and well-being of district students. The Board expects district employees to maintain the highest ethical standards, behave professionally, 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. Employees shall engage in conduct that enhances the integrity of the district; advances the goals of the district's educational programs; encourages student learning, engagement, and success; and contributes to a safe and 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.

Each employee is expected to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill the employee's professional responsibilities and to contribute to the learning and achievement of district students.

Inappropriate Conduct

The Board prohibits inappropriate conduct between employees, adult volunteers, and district contractors and among and between adults employed, volunteering, or under contract with the district. (Education Code 32100)

Inappropriate employee conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Engaging in any conduct that endangers or threatens to endanger students, staff, or others, including, but not limited to, physical violence, threats of violence, or possession of a firearm or other weapon
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
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, on district property, or at a school-sponsored activity
9. Being dishonest with students, parents/guardians, staff, or members of the public, including, but not limited to, falsifying information in employment records or other school records
10. Divulging confidential information about students, district employees, or district operations to persons or entities not authorized to receive the information
11. Using district equipment or other district resources for the employee's own commercial purposes or for political activities

12. Using district equipment or communication 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.

13. Causing damage to or engaging in theft of property belonging to students, staff, or the district
14. Wearing inappropriate attire
15. Other conduct prohibited in Board Policy 4119.24/4219.24/4319.24 - Maintaining Appropriate Adult-Student Interactions

Reports of Misconduct

An employee who observes or has evidence of another employee's inappropriate conduct shall immediately report such conduct to the principal, Superintendent, or designee. An employee who has knowledge of or suspects child abuse or 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.

Any reports of employee misconduct shall be promptly investigated by the Superintendent or designee. 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.

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.

Notifications

The section(s) of the district's employee code of conduct addressing interactions with students shall be provided to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year and shall be posted on school and/or district websites. (Education Code 44050)

State	Description
5 CCR 80300	Committee of credentials; definitions
5 CCR 80303	Reports of change in employment status; alleged misconduct
5 CCR 80331-80338	Rules of conduct for professional educators
Bus. Code 25608	Alcohol on school property; use in connection with instruction
Ed. Code 200-262.4	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 32100	Professional boundaries between adults and students and the safety of learning environments
Ed. Code 44010	Sex offense; definition
Ed. Code 44011	Controlled substance offense; definition
Ed. Code 44050	Employee code of conduct; interaction with students
Ed. Code 44420-44440	Revocation and suspension of credentials
Ed. Code 44811	Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities
Ed. Code 44932	Grounds for dismissal of permanent employees
Ed. Code 44939.5	Certificated applicant screening
Ed. Code 48980	Parent/Guardian notifications
Ed. Code 49060-49070	Student records
H&S Code 104559	Tobacco use prohibition
Pen. Code 11164-11174.4	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act
Pen. Code 270-273.76	Abandonment and neglect of children
Pen. Code 311-312.7	Obscene matter

Federal	Description
20 USC 1232g	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
34 CFR 99.1-99.8	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act