

## **DE Fraud Prevention and Investigation**

(See DFAC and KN)

All employees, board members, consultants, vendors, contractors, and other parties maintaining a business relationship with the district shall act with due diligence in duties involving the district's fiscal resources. The superintendent shall develop internal controls that aid in the prevention and detection of fraud, financial impropriety, or irregularity.

### **Reporting Fraud**

An employee who suspects fraud, impropriety, or irregularity shall promptly report those suspicions to the immediate supervisor and/or the superintendent. If the superintendent is the subject of the complaint, reports shall be made to the board president or the board's legal counsel. The superintendent shall generally have primary responsibility for any investigations, in coordination with legal counsel and other internal or external departments and agencies as appropriate. If the superintendent is the subject of the report of fraud, impropriety, or irregularity, the board shall retain control over the investigation or may designate its legal counsel or another investigator to act on behalf of the board in investigating the matter and reporting any findings back to the board in accordance with policy KN.

### **Whistleblowers**

The district encourages complaints, reports, or inquiries about illegal practices or violations of district policies, including illegal or improper conduct by the district, its leadership, or by others on its behalf. Reports may include, but not be limited to, financial improprieties, accounting, or audit matters, ethical violations, or other similar illegal or improper practices or policies. The district prohibits retaliation by or on behalf of the district against staff members who make good faith complaints, reports, or inquiries under this policy or for participation in a review or investigation under this policy. This protection extends to those whose allegations are made in good faith but prove to be mistaken. The district reserves the right to discipline persons who make bad faith, knowingly false, or vexatious complaints, reports, or inquiries or who otherwise abuse this policy.

Complaints, reports, or inquiries may be made under this policy on a confidential or anonymous basis. They should describe in detail the specific facts demonstrating the bases for the complaints, reports, or inquiries. They should be directed to the superintendent unless otherwise provided above. If the superintendent is implicated in the complaint, report, or inquiry, it should be directed to the board or its legal counsel. The district will conduct a prompt review or investigation in accordance with policy KN. The district may be unable to fully evaluate a vague or general complaint, report, or inquiry that is made anonymously.

An employee who reports evidence of gross misconduct relating to a federal grant or contract shall have the protections afforded in policy DFAC.

**BOE Approval January 15, 2025**