



**1431 S Main St
Willits, CA 95490**

Employee Handbook 2023-2024

WCS Phone: (707) 459-5506

WECS Phone: (707) 459-1400

School Websites:

www.willitscharter.org

www.willitselementarycharter.com

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

PLEASE READ THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND SUBMIT A SIGNED COPY OF THIS STATEMENT TO HUMAN RESOURCES.

EMPLOYEE NAME: _____

I ACKNOWLEDGE that I have received a copy of the Employee Handbook. I have read and understood the contents of the Handbook, and I agree to abide by its directions and procedures. I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions I might have about the policies in the Handbook. I understand that it is my responsibility to read and familiarize myself with the policies and procedures contained in the Handbook.

I UNDERSTAND that the statements contained in the Handbook are guidelines for employees concerning some of the School's policies and benefits, and are not intended to create any contractual or other legal obligations or to alter the at-will nature of my employment with the School. In the event I do have an employment contract which expressly alters the at-will relationship, I agree to the foregoing except with reference to an at-will employment status.

I UNDERSTAND that except for employment at-will status, any and all policies or practices can be changed at any time by the School.

I UNDERSTAND that other than the Charter School Association of Willits, no person has authority to enter into any agreement, express or implied, for employment for any specific period of time, or to make any agreement for employment other than at-will; only the Board has the authority to make any such agreement and then only in writing signed by the Board President.

Employee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please sign/date, tear out, and return to Ashley Rodriguez, Human Resources (WCS) or Charlene Bredder, Director and Human Resources (WECS).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

PLEASE READ THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND SUBMIT A SIGNED COPY OF THIS STATEMENT TO HUMAN RESOURCES.

EMPLOYEE NAME: _____

I ACKNOWLEDGE that I have received a copy of the Employee Handbook. I have read and understood the contents of the Handbook, and I agree to abide by its directions and procedures. I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions I might have about the policies in the Handbook. I understand that it is my responsibility to read and familiarize myself with the policies and procedures contained in the Handbook.

I UNDERSTAND that the statements contained in the Handbook are guidelines for employees concerning some of the School's policies and benefits, and are not intended to create any contractual or other legal obligations or to alter the at-will nature of my employment with the School. In the event I do have an employment contract which expressly alters the at-will relationship, I agree to the foregoing except with reference to an at-will employment status.

I UNDERSTAND that except for employment at-will status, any and all policies or practices can be changed at any time by the School.

I UNDERSTAND that other than the Charter School Association of Willits, no person has authority to enter into any agreement, express or implied, for employment for any specific period of time, or to make any agreement for employment other than at-will; only the Board has the authority to make any such agreement and then only in writing signed by the Board President.

Employee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please retain this copy for your records.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION TO HANDBOOK	6
MISSION STATEMENTS	7
CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT	7
Employment Applications	7
Equal Employment Opportunity Is Our Policy	7
Employment At-Will	8
Employment Contracts	9
Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting	9
First Aid and CPR Training	10
Criminal Background Checks	10
Certification and Licensure of Instructional Staff	10
Tuberculosis Testing	11
Immigration Compliance	11
Staff/Student Interaction Policy	12
Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment	15
Workplace Violence	19
Response to Threats of Homicide	20
Whistleblower Policy	21
Drug-Free Workplace	22
Confidential Information	22
Conflict of Interest	23
Smoking	23
THE WORKPLACE	23
Employee Classifications	23
Work Schedule	24
Meal and Rest Periods	24
Lactation Accommodation	24
Attendance and Punctuality	24
Time Sheets/Records	25
Use of Email, Voicemail and Internet Access	25
Personal Phone and Personal Cell Phone Use	28
Public Relations	29
Social Media	29
Personal Appearance/Standards of Dress	29
Health and Safety Policy	30
Security Protocols	31
Occupational Safety	31
Accident/Incident Reporting	31
Reporting Fires and Emergencies	32
COVID-19 Information	32

Relationships Between Employees	33
Standards of Conduct	33
Participation in After-School Programs/Activities	33
Company Property Inspections	33
Soliciting/Conducting Personal Business While on Duty	34
Use of Company Communication Equipment and Technology	34
Participation in Recreational or Social Activities	35
EMPLOYEE WAGES AND HEALTH BENEFITS	35
Payroll Withholdings	36
Overtime Pay	37
Make Up Time	37
Paydays	37
Expense Reimbursements	38
Wage Attachments and Garnishments	38
Medical Benefits	38
COBRA Benefits	38
PERSONNEL EVALUATION AND RECORD KEEPING	40
Employee Reviews and Observation	40
Response to Formal Observation and Review Findings	40
Personnel Files and Record Keeping Protocols	40
HOLIDAYS AND LEAVES	41
Holidays	42
Unpaid Leave of Absence	42
Sick Leave	43
Personal Necessity Leave	43
Family Care and Medical Leave	43
Pregnancy Disability Leave	49
Industrial Injury Leave (Workers' Compensation)	53
Military and Military Spousal Leave of Absence	54
Bereavement Leave	55
Jury Duty or Witness Leave	56
Voting Time Off	56
School Appearance and Activities Leave	56
Bone Marrow and Organ Donor Leave	56
Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Stalking Leave	57
Adult Literacy Leave	58
Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Leave	58
Volunteer Civil Service Leave	59
Returning From Leave of Absence	59

DISCIPLINE AND TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT	59
Rules of Conduct	59
Off-Duty Conduct	61
Termination of Employment	62
Title IX	62
Title IX Coordinator	62
Title IX Coordinator Job Description	62
INTERNAL COMPLAINT REVIEW	63
Open Door Policy	63
Internal Complaints	63
Policy for Complaints Against Employees	64
General Requirements	64
AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK	64
APPENDIX A - HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM	65
APPENDIX B - INTERNAL COMPLAINT FORM	67
APPENDIX C-USDA NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT	68

INTRODUCTION TO HANDBOOK

Welcome to WECS and WCS! We are so happy you have joined this team to educate our students. We regard this work with the utmost importance. Therefore, we have high expectations for professionalism and performance for each of our employees. All employees should treat all individuals, including students, parents, staff and family members with respect, and approach all situations as opportunities to learn.

This Handbook is designed to help employees get acquainted with Willits Charter School and Willits Elementary Charter School (hereinafter both referred to as the “School”). It explains some of our philosophies and beliefs, and describes some of our employment guidelines in general terms. Although this Handbook is not intended to be an exclusive or comprehensive policies and procedures manual, we hope that it will serve as a useful reference document for employees throughout their employment at the School. Employees should understand, however, that this Handbook is not intended to be a contract (express or implied), nor is it intended to otherwise create any legally enforceable obligations on the part of the School or its employees. In no way does the Handbook replace any official plan documents (e.g., health insurance, retirement plan, etc.) or insurance contracts, which will govern in all cases. This Handbook supersedes and replaces all previous personnel policies, practices, and guidelines.

Due to the fact that the School is a growing and changing organization, it reserves full discretion to add to, modify, or delete provisions of this Handbook, or the policies and procedures on which they may be based, at any time without advance notice. The School also reserves the right to interpret any of the provisions set forth in this Handbook in any manner it deems appropriate.

No supervisor or other representative of the School except for the WECS Director, WCS Education Director, or WCS Campus Director/Dean, with the approval of the Board of Directors, has the authority to enter into any employment or other agreement that modifies School policy. Any such modification *must* be in writing.

This Handbook is the property of the School, and it is intended for personal use and reference by employees of the School.

Employees must sign the acknowledgment form at the beginning of this Handbook, tear it out, and return it to Human Resources. This will provide the School with a record that each employee has received this Handbook.

MISSION STATEMENTS

WECS: The mission of Willits Elementary Charter School is to equip elementary students with the academic and social skills needed to become self-motivated, competent, life-long learners and productive citizens who respect themselves, others, community, diversity, and the environment.

WCS: The mission of Willits Charter School is to enable students in grades 6-12 to reach their fullest potential by providing them with a high-quality, personalized education in a safe and supportive environment. We strive to inspire students to embrace their curious, creative nature and be self-motivated, competent, life-long learners. We encourage students to become productive citizens who respect themselves, others, community, diversity, and the environment.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment Applications

We rely upon the accuracy of information contained in the employment application and the accuracy of other data presented throughout the hiring process and employment. Any misrepresentations, falsifications, or material omissions in any of this information or data may result in exclusion of the individual from further consideration for employment or, if the person has been hired, termination of employment.

Equal Employment Opportunity Is Our Policy

The School is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of the School to afford equal employment and advancement opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, creed, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), transgender identity whether the employee is transitioning or has transitioned, religion (including religious dress and grooming practices), ancestry or national origin (which includes, but is not limited to, national origin, groups and aspects of national origin, such as height, weight, accent, or language proficiency), marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, physical or mental disability, medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics), genetic information, sexual orientation, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions),

military and veteran status, reproductive health decision-making (including but not limited to a decision to use or access a particular drug, device or product or medical services for reproductive health), immigration/citizenship status or related protected activities (which includes undocumented individuals), protected medical and other protected leaves, domestic violence status, political affiliation, or any other consideration protected by federal, state, or local laws. These categories include a perception that the individual has any of these characteristics or is associated with a person who has (or is perceived to have) any of these characteristics. The School will ensure that applicants and employees are treated in all aspects of employment without unlawful discrimination because of these or any other protected basis. This policy extends to all employees and to all aspects of the employment relationship, including the hiring of new employees and the training, transfer, promotion, compensation and benefits of existing employees.

To comply with applicable laws ensuring equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, the School will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or an employee unless undue hardship would result.

Any applicant or employee who requires an accommodation in order to perform the essential functions of the job should contact a School representative with day-to-day personnel responsibilities and request such an accommodation. The individual with the disability should specify what accommodation he/she/they needs to perform the job. The School then will conduct an investigation to identify the barriers that interfere with the equal opportunity of the applicant or employee to perform their job. Although the need for accommodations is determined on a case-by-case basis, generally the School and the employee or applicant will engage in an interactive process with the employee's or applicant's health care provider(s) to confirm the existence of the condition, its limitations in the workplace, and possible reasonable accommodations, if any. The employee or candidate has an obligation to cooperate with the School in this process, which may include authorizing the School to communicate with their health care provider(s). The School will identify possible accommodations, if any, that will help eliminate the limitation. If the accommodation is reasonable and will not impose an undue hardship, the School will make the accommodation.

If you believe you have been subjected to discrimination, please follow the complaint procedure outlined in this handbook.

Employment At-Will

Except if stated expressly otherwise by an employment contract, it is the policy of the School that all employees are considered "at-will" employees of the School. Accordingly, either the School or the employee can terminate this relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause, and with or without advance notice.

Nothing contained in this Handbook, employment applications, School memoranda or other materials provided to employees in connection with their employment shall require the School to

have “cause” to terminate an employee or otherwise restrict the School’s right to release an employee from their at-will employment with the School. Statements of specific grounds for termination set forth in this Handbook or elsewhere are not all-inclusive and are not intended to restrict the School’s right to terminate at-will. No School representative, other than the Board of Directors or its designee, is authorized to modify this policy for any employee or to make any representations to employees or applicants concerning the terms or conditions of employment with the School that are not consistent with the School’s policy regarding “at will” employment.

This policy shall not be modified by any statements contained in this Handbook or employee applications, School memoranda, or any other materials provided to employees in connection with their employment. Further, none of those documents whether singly or combined, or any employment practices, shall create an express or implied contract of employment for a definite period, nor an express or implied contract concerning any terms or conditions of employment.

Employment Contracts

For those employees that have an employment contract, all employment contracts will have a term of one year and will be negotiated by the Director(s) and Business Manager and employee, approved by the Board of Directors, and signed by the Chair of the Board of Directors on an annual basis. Certificated teachers who have been continuously employed full time for 3 years will have the option of agreeing to a two year contract. Negotiation and approval of contracts for any school year should occur in the spring of the previous year. Such contracts may include proposed adjustments in wages or proposed adjustments in terms that may apply to subsequent year employment provided that subsequent year contracts are approved by the Board of Directors. Any proposed adjustments in wages or terms in a contract will not be binding on the next year’s contract.

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

California Penal Code section 11166 requires any child care custodian who has knowledge of, or observes, a child in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment whom he/she/they knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately, or as soon as practically possible, by telephone and to prepare and send a written report thereof within thirty-six (36) hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.

While each employee has the responsibility to ensure the reporting of any child they suspect is a victim of abuse, the employee is not to verify the suspicion or prove that abuse has occurred. It is extremely important that the School employees comply with the requirements of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA). No mandated reporter can be held civilly or criminally liable for any report required or authorized by CANRA.

Administration is available to answer any questions employees may have about their responsibilities under CANRA, or to assist an employee in making a report under CANRA. If an employee makes a report pursuant to CANRA without the School’s assistance, they are required

to notify the School of the report if it is based on incidents they observed or became aware of during the course and scope of their employment with the School.

The School will provide annual training on the mandated reporting requirements, using the online training module provided by the State Department of Social Services or other approved training, to employees who are mandated reporters. Mandated reporter training will also be provided to employees hired during the course of the school year. This training will include information that failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect, as required by Penal Code section 11166, is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six (6) months confinement in a county jail, or by a fine of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

All employees required to receive mandated reporter training must provide proof of completing the training within the first six (6) weeks of each school year or within the first six (6) weeks of that employee's employment.

By acknowledging receipt of this Handbook, employees acknowledge they are child care custodians and are certifying that they have knowledge of California Penal Code section 11166 and will comply with its provisions.

First Aid and CPR Training

All individuals working unsupervised with children or in a classroom setting (i.e. office staff, administration, credentialed teachers, coaches, and yard supervisors) must receive, renew, and maintain basic first-aid and CPR certification by the first day of school. Any employee required to be first aid certified and hired after the beginning of the school year will be required to provide proof of completion of both First Aid and CPR training prior to the first day of work.

For additional information on the training required, please contact Human Resources.

Criminal Background Checks

As required by law, all individuals working or volunteering unsupervised at the School will be required to submit to a criminal background investigation. No condition or activity will be permitted that may compromise the School's commitment that the safety and the well-being of students takes precedence over all other considerations. Conditions that preclude working at the School include conviction of a controlled substance or sex offense, or a serious or violent felony. Additionally, should an employee, during his/her employment with the School, be convicted of a controlled substance or sex offense, or serious or violent felony, the employee must immediately report such a conviction to the Director.

Certification and Licensure of Instructional Staff

The School's teachers are required to hold a current California Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit or other document equivalent to that which a teacher in other

public schools would be required to hold and may be required to meet certain federal requirements related to subject-matter expertise in order to meet federal requirements for “highly qualified teachers.” Non-credentialed teachers who have been continuously employed by the school since the 2019-2020 school year in the same non-core, non-college preparatory assignment must obtain the appropriate credential by July 1, 2025 (AB 1505). Paraprofessional staff may also be required to document that they meet federal requirements for paraprofessional staff. It is the responsibility and a condition of continued employment of all instructional staff, including teachers and paraprofessionals to provide, maintain and keep current such certificates, permits or other documentation to Human Resources no later than the close of business on the first day the employee reports for duty. If an instructional staff employee believes that he/she/they is assigned to teach in a subject in which he/she/they does not have subject matter competence, the employee should immediately report the same to the Director(s). Staff who are required to meet these state and federal certification, expertise, and related requirements must maintain such qualifications as a condition of employment at the School.

Tuberculosis Testing

All employees of the School must submit written proof from a physician of a risk assessment examination for tuberculosis (TB) within the last sixty (60) days or a TB test within the last 4 years. If TB risk factors are identified, a physician must conduct an examination to determine whether the employee is free of infectious TB. The examination for TB consists of an approved TB test, which, if positive, will be followed by an x-ray of the lungs, or in the absence of skin testing, an x-ray of the lungs. All employees will be required to undergo TB risk assessments and, if risk factors are found, the examination at least once every four (4) years. Volunteers may be required to undergo a TB examination as necessary. The TB risk assessment and, if indicated, the examination is a condition of initial employment with the School and the cost of the exam will be reimbursed after the first 3 months of employment, or in the case of 4 year renewal, be reimbursed by the school upon receipt.

Immigration Compliance

The School will comply with applicable immigration law, including the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and the Immigration Act of 1990. As a condition of employment, every individual must provide satisfactory evidence of his or her identity and legal authority to work in the United States. However, the School will not check the employment authorization status of current employees or applicants who were not offered positions with the School unless required to do so by law.

The School shall not discharge an employee or in any manner discriminate, retaliate, or take any adverse action (*e.g.*, threatening to report the suspected citizenship or immigration status of an employee or a member of the employee’s family) against any employee or applicant for employment because the employee or applicant exercised a right protected under applicable law. Further, the School shall not discriminate against any individual because he/she/they holds or presents a driver’s license issued per Vehicle Code § 12801.9 to persons who have not established their federally-authorized presence in the United States.

If you have any questions or need more information on immigration compliance issues, please contact Human Resources.

Staff/Student Interaction Policy

The School recognizes its responsibility to make and enforce all rules and regulations governing student and employee behavior to bring about the safest and most learning-conducive environment possible.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student.

For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to property.

For clarification purposes, the following examples are offered for direction and guidance of School personnel:

A. Examples of PERMITTED actions (NOT corporal punishment)

1. Stopping a student from fighting with another student;
2. Preventing a pupil from committing an act of vandalism;
3. Defending yourself from physical injury or assault by a student;
4. Forcing a pupil to give up a weapon or dangerous object;
5. Requiring an athletic team to participate in strenuous physical training activities designed to strengthen or condition team members or improve their coordination, agility, or physical skills;
6. Engaging in group calisthenics, team drills, or other physical education or voluntary recreational activities.

B. Examples of PROHIBITED actions (corporal punishment)

1. Hitting, shoving, pushing, or physically restraining a student as a means of control;
2. Making unruly students do push-ups, run laps, or perform other physical acts that cause pain or discomfort as a form of punishment;
3. Paddling, swatting, slapping, grabbing, pinching, kicking, or otherwise causing physical pain.

Boundaries: Acceptable and Unacceptable Staff/Student Behavior

This policy is intended to guide all School faculty and staff in conducting themselves in a way that reflects the high standards of behavior and professionalism required of school employees and to specify the boundaries between students and staff.

Although this policy gives specific, clear direction, it is each staff member's obligation to avoid situations that could prompt suspicion by parents, students, colleagues, or school leaders. One viable standard that can be quickly applied, when you are unsure if certain conduct is acceptable, is to ask yourself, "Would I be engaged in this conduct if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

For the purposes of this policy, the term "boundaries" is defined as acceptable professional behavior by staff members while interacting with a student. Trespassing the boundaries of a student/teacher relationship is deemed an abuse of power and a betrayal of public trust.

Some activities may seem innocent from a staff member's perspective, but can be perceived as flirtation or sexual insinuation from a student or parent point of view. The objective of the following lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors is not to restrain innocent, positive relationships between staff and students, but to prevent relationships that could lead to, or may be perceived as, sexual misconduct.

Staff must understand their own responsibility for ensuring that they do not cross the boundaries as written in this policy. Disagreeing with the wording or intent of the established boundaries will be considered irrelevant for disciplinary purposes. Thus, it is crucial that all employees learn this policy thoroughly and apply the lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors to their daily activities. Although sincere, competent interaction with students certainly fosters learning, student/staff interactions must have boundaries surrounding potential activities, locations and intentions.

Duty to Report Suspected Misconduct

When any employee becomes aware of another staff member having crossed the boundaries specified in this policy, he/she/they must speak to this staff member if the violation appears minor, or report the matter to school administrators. If the observed behavior appears significant, it is the duty of every staff member to immediately report it to an administrator. All reports shall be confidential. It is the duty of the administrator to investigate and thoroughly report the situation. Employees must also report to the administration any awareness or concern of student behavior that crosses boundaries or where a student appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors (Violations of this Policy)

- (a) Giving gifts to an individual student that are of a personal and intimate nature.
- (b) Kissing of any kind.
- (c) Any type of unnecessary physical contact with a student in a private situation.

- (d) Intentionally being alone with a student away from the school.
- (e) Making or participating in sexually inappropriate comments.
- (f) Sexual jokes.
- (g) Seeking emotional involvement with a student for your benefit.
- (h) Listening to or telling stories that are sexually oriented.
- (i) Listening to or telling stories that involve drugs or alcohol.
- (j) Discussing inappropriate personal troubles or intimate issues with a student in an attempt to gain their support and understanding.
- (k) Becoming involved with a student so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior.
- (l) Friending, following, or interacting with current students through personal social media accounts.

Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors without Parent and Supervisor Permission

(These behaviors should only be exercised when a staff member has parent and supervisor permission.)

- (a) Giving students a ride to/from school or school activities.
- (b) Being alone in a room with a student at school with the door closed.
- (c) Allowing students into your home.

Cautionary Staff/Student Behaviors

(These behaviors should only be exercised when a reasonable and prudent person, acting as an educator, is prevented from using a better practice or behavior. Staff members should inform their supervisor of the circumstance and occurrence prior to or immediately after the occurrence)

- (a) Remarks about the physical attributes or development of anyone.
- (b) Excessive attention toward a particular student.
- (c) Sending emails, text messages or letters to students if the content is not about school activities.

Acceptable and Recommended Staff/Student Behaviors

- (a) Getting parents' written consent for any after-school activity.
- (b) Obtaining formal approval to take students off school property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
- (c) Emails, text, phone and instant messages to students must be very professional and pertaining to school activities or classes (Communication should be limited to using school technology).
- (d) Keeping the door open when alone with a student.
- (e) Keeping reasonable space between you and your students.
- (f) Stopping and correcting students if they cross your own personal boundaries.

- (g) Keeping parents informed when a significant issue develops about a student.
- (h) Keeping after-class discussions with a student professional and brief.
- (i) Asking for advice from fellow staff or administrators if you find yourself in a difficult situation related to boundaries.
- (j) Involving your supervisor if conflict arises with the student.
- (k) Informing the Director (WECS) and Dean of Students (WCS) about situations that have the potential to become more severe.
- (l) Making detailed notes about an incident that could evolve into a more serious situation later.
- (m) Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of students or coworkers.
- (n) Asking another staff member to be present if you will be alone with any type of special needs student.
- (o) Asking another staff member to be present when you must be alone with a student after regular school hours.
- (p) Giving students praise and recognition without touching them.
- (q) Pats on the back, high fives and handshakes are acceptable.
- (r) Keeping your professional conduct a high priority.
- (s) Asking yourself if your actions are worth your job and career.

Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment

The School is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment. The School's policy prohibits unlawful harassment based upon race, color, creed, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), transgender identity whether or not the employee is transitioning or has transitioned, religion, marital status, registered domestic partner status, sex (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), reproductive health decision-making (including but not limited to a decision to use or access a particular drug, device or product or medical services for reproductive health), age, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics), genetic information, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws. These categories include a perception that the individual has any of these characteristics or is associated with a person who has (or is perceived to have) any of these characteristics.

The School will not condone or tolerate harassment of any type by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which the School does business. In addition, we prohibit abusive conduct/workplace bullying in the work environment. It is our mission to provide a professional work and learning environment free of harassment, discrimination and/or workplace bullying and that maintains equality, dignity, and respect for all. This policy protects all employees of the School as well as interns, volunteers, and potential employees (applicants). All employees of the School are required to abide by this policy, regardless of position or status, including supervisors, administration, and co-workers. In addition, this policy prohibits unlawful harassment by third parties, including students, parents, vendors or other third parties, who have workplace contact with our employees.

Conduct prohibited by these policies is unacceptable in the workplace and in any work-related setting outside the workplace, such as during business or field trips, meetings and business or school-related social events.

This policy applies to all employee actions and relationships, regardless of position or gender. The School will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

When the School receives allegations of misconduct, it will conduct a fair, timely and thorough investigation that provides all parties an appropriate process and reaches reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected. The Board (if the complaint is about administration) or the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS) or designee will investigate complaints appropriately under the circumstances and pursuant to the applicable procedures, and if necessary, take appropriate remedial measures to ensure effective resolution of any complaint.

Prohibited Unlawful Harassment

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments or slurs;
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement, or interfering with work because of sex, race or any other protected basis;
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment; or
- Disparate treatment based on any of the protected classes above.

Prohibited Unlawful Sexual Harassment

The School is committed to providing a workplace free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action, up to, and including dismissal, of the offending employee.

Sexual harassment consists of sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone from or in the work or educational setting, regardless of whether the conduct is motivated by sexual desire, when: (1) submission to the conduct is either made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic status, or progress; (2) an employment decision is based upon an individual's acceptance or rejection of that conduct; (3) that conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment; (4) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the educational institution. (CA Ed. Code § 212.5)

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an employee who has articulated a good faith concern about sexual harassment against him/her/them or against another individual.

All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment training within six (6) months of their

assumption of a supervisory position and will receive further training once every two (2) years thereafter. Such training will include information about the negative effects that abusive conduct has on both the victim of the conduct and others in the workplace, as well as methods to prevent abusive conduct undertaken with malice a reasonable person would find hostile, offensive, and unrelated to an employer's legitimate business interests. Supervisors shall also be trained on how to appropriately respond when the supervisor becomes aware that an employee is the target of unlawful harassment. Other staff will receive sexual harassment training and/or instruction concerning sexual harassment in the workplace as required by law.

Each employee has the responsibility to maintain a workplace free from any form of sexual harassment. Consequently, should any individual, in particular those with supervisory responsibilities, become aware of any conduct that may constitute sexual harassment or other prohibited behavior, immediate action should be taken to address such conduct. Any employee who believes they have been sexually harassed or has witnessed sexual harassment is encouraged to immediately report such harassment to the Director (WECS) or the Campus Director/Dean (WCS). See Appendix A for the "Harassment Complaint Form." See Appendix B for the general "Complaint Form."

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
 - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults and
 - Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, or poking another's body.

- Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:
 - Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience.
 - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an employee for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any employee to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or disparate treatment for rejecting sexual conduct.
 - Subjecting or threats of subjecting an employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making performance of the employee's job more difficult because of the employee's sex or gender.

- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere at the workplace by employees, such as:
 - Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing to work or possessing any such material to read, display or view at work.
 - Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the work environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic; and

- Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an employee by sex in an area of the workplace (other than restrooms or similar rooms).

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under this policy. Moreover, please note that while in most situations a personal relationship is a private matter, these relationships are not appropriate in a professional setting, particularly where one of the parties has management or supervisory responsibilities. As such, consensual relationships in the workplace may violate the School policy.

What is abusive conduct/workplace bullying?

Conduct of an employee in the workplace that a reasonable person would find hostile, threatening, intimidating, humiliating and unrelated to an employer's legitimate business interests. Examples may include:

- Use of derogatory remarks, insults and/or epithets;
- Verbal or physical conduct that sabotages or undermines a person's work performance that is threatening, humiliating or intimidating;
- Bullying, gossip, profanity, abusive conduct and negative comments are destructive to our School culture, create false rumors, disrupt school operations and interfere with the privacy of others.

What is Retaliation?

Retaliation against an individual for reporting or threatening to report harassment, discrimination or for participating in an investigation of a claim of such conduct is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination itself, will be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of retaliation should be reported immediately and will be promptly investigated and addressed.

As used in this policy, "retaliation" means taking any adverse employment action against an employee because the employee engaged in protected activity pursuant to this policy. Protected activity may include, but is not necessarily limited to, reporting or assisting in reporting suspected violations of this policy, cooperating or participating in investigations or proceedings arising out of a violation of this policy, or engaging in any other activity protected by applicable law.

As used in this policy, an "adverse employment action" means conduct or an action that materially affects the terms and conditions of the employee's employment status or is reasonably likely to deter the employee from engaging in further protected activity. Adverse employment actions may include, but are not limited to, the following: demotion; suspension; reduction in pay; denial of a merit salary increase; failure to hire or consider for hire; refusing to promote or consider for promotion because of reporting a violation of this policy; harassing another employee for filing a complaint; denying employment opportunities because of making a complaint or for cooperating in an investigation; changing an employee's work assignments for identifying harassment or other forms of discrimination in the workplace; treating an employee

differently such as denying an accommodation; not talking to an employee (the “cold shoulder”) when otherwise required by job duties; or otherwise excluding the employee from job-related activities because of engagement in activities protected under this policy.

Any retaliatory adverse action because of a protected activity will not be tolerated. If an employee believes they have been subjected to, has witnessed, or has knowledge of retaliation in violation of this policy, please follow the complaint procedure outlined below.

Complainants and witnesses under these policies will be protected from further harassment and will not be retaliated against in any aspect of their employment due to their participation in an investigation, filing of a complaint, or reporting harassment.

The School will investigate complaints promptly and provide a written report of the investigation and decision as soon as practicable. The investigation will be handled in as confidential a manner as possible consistent with a full, fair, and proper investigation. The School is committed to remediating any instances where investigation findings demonstrate unlawful harassment has occurred.

Workplace Violence

The School takes the safety and security of its employees seriously. The School does not tolerate acts or threats of physical violence, including but not limited to intimidation, harassment and/or coercion, that involve or affect the School or that occur, or are likely to occur, on School property. You should report any act or threat of violence immediately to the Director (WECS) or Directors (WCS).

Examples of workplace violence include, but are not limited to, the following:

- All threats or acts of violence occurring on the School’s premises, regardless of the relationship between the School and the parties involved.
- All threats or acts of violence occurring off the Schools’ premises involving someone who is acting in the capacity of a representative of the School.

Specific examples of conduct, which may be considered threats or acts of violence, include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Hitting or shoving an individual
- Threatening an individual or their family, friends, associates, or property with harm
- Intentional destruction or threatening to destroy School property
- Making harassing or threatening phone calls
- Harassing surveillance or stalking (following or watching someone)
- Unauthorized possession or inappropriate use of firearms or weapons

The School’s prohibition against threats and acts of violence applies to all persons involved in the School’s operation, including but not limited to all personnel, contract, unpaid interns, volunteers and temporary workers and anyone else, including parents on School property.

Violations of this policy by any individual on School property will lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination and/or legal action as appropriate. All employees are encouraged to report incidents of threats or acts of physical violence of which they are aware to their supervisors or to the Director(s).

If an employee becomes aware of an imminent act of violence, a threat of imminent violence, or actual violence, emergency assistance must be sought immediately. In such situations, the employee should contact the law enforcement authorities by dialing 911. Immediately after contacting the law enforcement authorities, the employee must report the incident to the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS).

Employees should immediately inform their supervisor or the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS) about any workplace security hazards. If these individuals are not available, the employee should immediately inform any other member of the administration so that appropriate action can be taken.

There will be no retaliation against any employee who brings a complaint in good faith under the Violence in the Workplace Policy or who honestly assists in investigating such a complaint, even if the investigation produces insufficient evidence that there has been a violation, or if the charges cannot be proven. However, disciplinary action may be taken against employees who, in bad faith, make false or frivolous accusations.

In certain circumstances, the School may seek a workplace violence restraining order on behalf of one or more employees in furtherance of its commitment to providing a workplace that is free from acts of violence or threats of violence.

Response to Threats of Homicide

Any school employee interacting with students in Grades 6-12, inclusive, who observes a threat or a perceived threat that a student is going to “commit a homicidal act related to school or school activity” is required to immediately report such threat to local law enforcement. (CA Ed. Code, § 49393) Any report of a homicidal threat must include any evidence associated with the threat or perceived threat. If two or more school employees observe the same concerning conduct, a report by one of the employees is sufficient to meet the obligation of all the employees.

A “threat or perceived threat” is defined by law as: “any writing or action of a pupil that creates a reasonable suspicion that the pupil is preparing to commit a homicidal act related to a school or school activity.” (CA Ed. Code, § 49393(e)) A threat or perceived threat may be based on a student’s “possession, use, or depictions of firearms, ammunition, shooting, or targets in association with infliction of physical harm, destruction, or death in a social media post, journal, class note, or other media associated with the pupil. A threat or perceived threat may also be based on “a warning by a parent, pupil, or other individual.”

This reporting requirement applies to all school officials, including all classified and certificated staff, and board members whose official duties bring them into contact with middle school and

high school students on a regular basis.

To report an immediate threat, call 911.

The Willits Police Department can be reached by phone at 707-459-6122.

Once a report is made, the law requires that local law enforcement, with support of the school, immediately conduct an investigation and assessment of the reported threat. If justified by reasonable suspicion, law enforcement will conduct a search of the school site. (CA Ed. Code, § 49394)

By acknowledging receipt of this Handbook, school employees that work with students in Grades 6-12 certify that they have knowledge of the requirement to report homicidal threats or perceived threats and attest that they will comply with its provisions.

Whistleblower Policy

The School requires its administrators, officers, employees, and volunteers to observe high standards of ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities within the School. As representatives of the School, such individuals must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling all responsibilities and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of this policy is to create an ethical and open work environment, to ensure that the School has a governance and accountability structure that supports its mission, and to encourage and enable directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School to raise serious concerns about the occurrence of illegal or unethical actions within the School before turning to outside parties for resolution.

All administrators, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School have a responsibility to report any action or suspected action taken within the School that is illegal, unethical or violates any adopted policy of the School, or local rule or regulation. Anyone reporting a violation must act in good faith, without malice to the School or any individual at the School and have reasonable grounds for believing that the information shared in the report indicates that a violation has occurred. A person who makes a report does not have to prove that a violation has occurred. However, any report which the reporter has made maliciously or any report which the reporter has good reason to believe is false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense. No one who in good faith reports a violation, or who, in good faith, cooperates in the investigation of a violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment action. Further, no one who in good faith discloses, who may disclose, or who the School believes disclosed or may disclose, information regarding alleged violations to a person with authority over the employee or another employee who had responsibility for investigating, discovering or correcting the purported violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment action.

The School is committed to maintaining a workplace where employees are free to raise good faith concerns regarding certain business practices, specifically: (1) reporting suspected violations of law, including but not limited to federal laws and regulations; (2) providing truthful information in connection with an inquiry or investigation by a court, agency, law enforcement,

or other governmental body; and (3) identifying potential violations of the School's policy, specifically the policies contained in the School's Employee Handbook.

An employee who wishes to report a suspected violation of law or School policy may do so by contacting the board of trustees.

The School expressly prohibits any form of retaliation, including harassment, intimidation, adverse employment actions, or any other form of retaliation, against employees who raise suspected violations of law, cooperate in inquiries or investigations, or identify potential violations of the School. Any employee who engages in retaliation will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

Any employee who believes that they have been subjected to any form of retaliation as a result of reporting a suspected violation of law or policy should immediately report the retaliation to one of the following: the Director (WECS) and the Campus Director/Dean (WCS) and/or the President of the Board of Trustees. Any supervisor, manager, or Human Resources staff that receives complaints of retaliation must immediately inform the Director (WECS) and the Campus Director/Dean (WCS) and the President of the Board of Trustees.

Reports of suspected violations of law or policy and reports of retaliation will be investigated promptly and in a manner intended to protect confidentiality to the extent possible, consistent with a full and fair investigation. Information will be disclosed only as it is necessary to complete the investigation and resolve the matter. The Director(s) and a member of the Board of Trustees will conduct the investigation or designate other internal or external parties to conduct the investigation. The investigating parties may notify the concerned individuals of their findings as appropriate.

Drug-Free Workplace

The School is committed to providing a drug and alcohol free workplace and to promoting safety in the workplace, employee health and well-being, customer confidence and a work environment that is conducive to attaining high work standards. Drug or alcohol use in the workplace or during the performance of job duties is extremely harmful to workers and to other School stakeholders.

The bringing to the workplace, possession or use of intoxicating beverages or drugs on any School premises or during the performance of work duties is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Confidential Information

All information relating to students, personal information, schools attended, addresses, contact numbers and progress information is confidential in nature, and may not be shared with or distributed to unauthorized parties. All records concerning special education pupils shall be kept

strictly confidential and maintained in separate files. Failure to maintain confidentiality may result in disciplinary action, up to and including release from at-will employment.

Conflict of Interest

All employees must avoid situations involving actual or potential conflict of interest. An employee involved in any relationships or situations which may constitute a conflict of interest should immediately and fully disclose the relevant circumstances to the Director, or the Board of Directors, for a determination about whether a potential or actual conflict exists. If an actual or potential conflict is determined, the School may take whatever corrective action appears appropriate according to the circumstances. Failure to disclose facts shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

Smoking

The School facilities and all school grounds are a no smoking area. This includes e-cigarettes and vape devices.

THE WORKPLACE

Employee Classifications

The School's employees are classified in the following categories: Exempt, non-exempt, and full-time, part-time or temporary.

Exempt: Exempt employees are those employees with job assignments that meet exemption tests under applicable law making them exempt from overtime pay requirements. Exempt employees are compensated on a salary basis, not pursuant to overtime pay requirements.

Non-Exempt: Non-exempt employees are those employees with job assignments that do not meet exemption tests under applicable law. Thus, these employees are paid overtime wages for overtime worked in accordance with the law.

Full-Time: Full time employees are those employees who are scheduled to work at least thirty (30) hours in a week.

Part-Time: Part time employees are those employees who are scheduled to work less than thirty (30) hours in a week.

Temporary: Temporary employees are those employees who are hired for a limited time period, or for a specific project, and usually are not employed more than 3 months. Part-time and temporary employees are not entitled to benefits provided by the School. Independent contractors, consultants and leased employees (i.e., those working for an employment agency) are not employees of the School and are not eligible for benefits provided by the School. If you have any questions about your classification, please consult with Human Resources.

Work Schedule

School hours for full-time teachers are eight hours and begin at 8 a.m. during normal school days. In-school hours for part-time teachers will be set as described in each individual's contract or as arranged by administration. Administration will determine all staff break-times. Core teachers are expected to attend faculty/staff meetings.

Meal and Rest Periods

Non-exempt employees working at least five (5) hours are provided with an unpaid thirty (30) minute meal period, to be taken approximately in the middle of the workday. An employee may waive this meal period if the day's work will be completed in no more than six (6) hours, provided the employee and The School mutually consent to the waiver.

Non-exempt employees are also provided with a paid ten (10) minute rest period for every four (4) hours worked which should be scheduled towards the middle of the four (4) hour work period as practicable. An employee's supervisor must be aware of and approve scheduled meal and rest periods. The supervisor may schedule employee meal and rest periods.

Employees are expected to observe assigned working hours and the time allowed for meal and rest periods. Employees may leave the premises during rest and meal periods.

Lactation Accommodation

The School accommodates lactating employees by providing a reasonable amount of break time to any employee who desires to express breast milk for an infant child. The break time shall, if possible, run concurrently with any break time already provided to the employee. Any break time provided to express breast milk that does not run concurrently with break time already provided to non-exempt employees shall be unpaid.

The School will make reasonable efforts to provide employees who need a lactation accommodation with the use of a room or other private location that is located close to the employee's work area. Employees with private offices will be required to use their offices to express breast milk. Employees who desire lactation accommodations should contact their supervisor to request accommodations.

Attendance and Punctuality

The presence or absence of each employee is of critical importance to the successful operation of the School. Employees are expected to adhere to regular attendance and to be punctual. If you find it necessary to be absent or late, you are expected to arrange it in advance with the Director (WECS) or the Campus Director/Dean (WCS). If it is not possible to arrange your absence or tardiness in advance, you must notify the Director (WECS) or the Campus Director/Dean (WCS) no later than one-half hour before the start of your workday. If you are absent from work longer

than one day, you are expected to keep the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS) sufficiently informed of your situation.

Excessive absenteeism and tardiness will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. An absence or tardiness without notification will lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

If you fail to come to work for three (3) consecutive workdays without authorization, the School will presume that you have voluntarily terminated your position with the School at the close of business on the third missed day.

Time Sheets/Records

By law, the School is obligated to keep accurate records of the time worked by non-exempt employees. Such employees shall be required to utilize the School's timesheet system.

Non-exempt employees must accurately write in and out of their shifts, as this is the only way the payroll department knows how many hours each employee has worked and how much each employee is owed. The time card indicates when the employee arrived and when the employee departed. All non-exempt employees must write in and out for arrival and departure, along with absences like doctor or dentist appointments. All employees are required to keep the office advised of their departures from and returns to the school premises during the workday.

Non-exempt employees are solely responsible for ensuring accurate information on their time cards and remembering to record time worked. If an employee forgets to mark their time card or makes an error on the time card, the employee must contact the Human Resources to make the correction and such correction must be initialed by both the employee and Administration.

No one may record hours worked on another's worksheet. Any employee who tampers with his/her/their own time card, or another employee's time card, may be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and including release from at-will employment with the School.

Use of Email, Voicemail and Internet Access

The Communication Systems are the property of the School and have been provided for use in conducting School business. All communications and information transmitted by, received from, created, or stored in its Communication Systems are the School's records and property of the School. The Communication Systems are to be used for school purposes only. The School will permit employees to use its electronic mail, voicemail systems and Internet access subject to the following:

1. Minimal personal use as long as it does not interfere with timely job performance and is consistent with law and appropriate protocols.
2. The email system and Internet access is not to be used in any way that may be disruptive,

offensive to others, or harmful to morale. For example, sexually explicit images, ethnic slurs, racial epithets, or anything else that may be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religious beliefs or political beliefs may not be displayed or transmitted.

3. Employees should not attempt to gain access to another employee's personal file or email or voicemail messages without the latter's express permission.
4. School staff will not enter an employee's personal email files or voicemail unless there is a business need to do so. The School retains a copy of all passwords; passwords unknown to the School may not be used. System security features, including passwords and delete functions, do not neutralize the School's ability to access any message at any time. Employees must be aware that the possibility of such access always exists.

No Expectation of Privacy

The School has the right, but not the duty, to monitor any and all of the aspects of its Communication Systems, including, without limitation, reviewing documents created and stored on its Communication Systems, deleting any matter stored in its system (including, without limitation, its email and word processing systems), monitoring sites visited by employees on the Internet, monitoring chat and news groups, reviewing material downloaded or uploaded by users to the Internet, and reviewing email, voicemails and instant messages sent and received by users. Further, the School may exercise its right to monitor its Communications Systems for any reason and without the permission of any employee. Employee use of the School's Communication Systems constitutes consent to all the terms and conditions of this policy.

Even if employees use a password to access the Communication Systems (or any aspect thereof), the confidentiality of any message stored in, created, received, or sent from the School's Communication Systems is not assured. Use of passwords or other security measures does not in any way diminish the School's right to monitor and access materials on its Communication Systems, or create any privacy rights of employees in the messages and files on the system. Any password used by employees must be revealed upon request to the School for any reason that the School, in its discretion, deems appropriate. Further, employees should be aware that deletion of any email messages, voicemails or files would not truly eliminate the messages from the system. All email messages, voicemails and other files may be stored on a central back-up system in the normal course of data management.

Employees have no expectation of privacy in anything they view, create, store, send or receive on the Communication Systems.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, even though the School has the right to retrieve, read and delete any information viewed, created, sent, received or stored on its Communication Systems, email messages should still be treated as confidential by other employees and accessed only by the intended recipient. Employees are not authorized to retrieve or read any email messages that are

not sent to them or by them. Any exception to this policy must receive the prior approval of the administration.

Professional Use of Communication Systems Required

Employees are reminded to be courteous to other users of the system and always to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Emails and other text communications, in particular, are sometimes misdirected or forwarded and may be viewed by persons other than the intended recipient. Users should write email communications with no less care, judgment and responsibility than they would use for letters or internal memoranda written on the School's letterhead.

Offensive and Inappropriate Material

The School's policy against discrimination and harassment, sexual or otherwise, applies fully to the School's Communication Systems, and any violation of that policy is grounds for discipline up to and including discharge. Therefore, no Email messages should be created, sent, or received if they contain intimidating, hostile, or offensive material concerning race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or any other characteristic protected by law. Further, material that is fraudulent, harassing, abusive, embarrassing, sexually explicit, profane, obscene, intimidating, defamatory, unlawful, inappropriate, or offensive (including offensive material concerning sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law) may not be downloaded from the Internet or displayed or stored in the school's computers. Employees encountering or receiving this kind of material should immediately report the incident to the director and to the technology coordinator.

The School may (but is not required) to use software to identify inappropriate or sexually explicit Internet sites. Such sites may be blocked from access by the School networks. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the School is not responsible for material viewed or downloaded by users from the Internet. The Internet is a worldwide network of computers that contains millions of pages of information. Users are cautioned that many of these pages include offensive, sexually explicit, and inappropriate material. Even innocuous search requests may lead to sites with highly offensive content. In addition, having an email address on the Internet may lead to receipt of unsolicited email containing offensive content. Users accessing the Internet do so at their own risk. Employees who encounter inappropriate or sexually explicit material while browsing on the Internet should immediately disconnect from the site, regardless of whether the site was subject to the School's blocking software.

Games and Entertainment Software

Employees may not use a School Internet connection to download games or other entertainment software, or to play games over the Internet.

Personal Business

The School's facilities for handling mail and telephone calls are designed to accommodate

School business. Employees should have personal mail directed to their home address and limit personal telephone calls to an absolute minimum. Personal calls should not be made outside the immediate dialing area. Do not use School material, time or equipment for personal projects.

Maintenance and Security of the System

Employees must not deliberately perform acts that waste resources or unfairly monopolize resources to the exclusion of others. These acts include, but are not limited to, sending mass mailings or chain letters, spending excessive amounts of time on the Internet, playing games, streaming video or audio files, engaging in online chat groups, printing excessive copies of documents, or otherwise creating unnecessary network traffic. Because audio, video and picture files require significant storage space, files of this or any other sort may not be downloaded unless they are business-related.

To ensure security and to avoid the spread of viruses, employees accessing the Internet through a computer attached to the School's network must do so through an approved Internet firewall. Accessing the Internet directly by modem is strictly prohibited unless the computer you are using is not connected to the School's network.

Files obtained from sources outside the School, including disks brought from home; including files downloaded from the Internet, news groups, bulletin boards, or other online services; files attached to email; and files provided by students, parents or vendors, may contain dangerous computer viruses that may damage the School's computer network. Employees should never download files from the Internet, accept email attachments from outsiders, or use disks from non-School sources, without first scanning the material with School-approved virus checking software. If you suspect that a virus has been introduced into the School network, notify technology personnel immediately.

Violations of the Email, Voicemail, and Internet Use Policy

Violations of this policy will be taken seriously and may result in disciplinary action, including possible termination, and civil and criminal liability.

Amendment and Modification of the Email, Voicemail, and Internet Use Policy

The School reserves the right to modify this policy at any time, with or without notice. The School may require employees to acknowledge and comply with a separate Acceptable Use Policy for Internet and Network Resources.

Personal Phone and Personal Cell Phone Use

Personal phone calls should not be made or received during working hours. Any such calls must be made during employee breaks. Friends and relatives should be discouraged from calling during business hours unless there is an emergency.

Cell phones should be placed out of sight and completely silenced to avoid disruption to the

learning environment, unless use of the phone is necessary for approved academic, safety, or business purposes. The School will not be responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or other personal property.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, employees may, in the event of an “emergency condition,” access their mobile device or other communications device for seeking emergency assistance, assessing the safety of the situation, or communicating with a person to verify their safety. For purposes of this policy, an “emergency condition” is defined as:

- Conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons or property at the workplace or worksite caused by natural forces or a criminal act; or
- An order to evacuate a workplace, a worksite, a worker’s home, or the school of a worker’s child due to natural disaster or a criminal act.

Public Relations

The success of a charter school depends upon the quality of the relationship among the School, its employees, students, parents and the general public. The public impression of the School and its interest in our school will be formed in part, by the School employees. Our employees are our ambassadors. The more goodwill an employee promotes, the more employees, students, parents and the general public will respect and appreciate the employee, the School and our school’s services.

Below are several things employees can do to help leave people with a good impression of the School.

These are the building blocks for our continued success:

- Communicate with parents regularly
- Act competently and deal with others in a courteous and respectful manner
- Communicate pleasantly and respectfully with other employees at all times
- Follow up on requests and questions promptly, provide business-like replies to inquiries and requests, and perform all duties in an orderly manner
- Respond to email and voicemail within 24 hours during the workweek
- Take great pride in your work and enjoy doing your very best

Social Media

If an employee decides to post information on the Internet (i.e., personal blog, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.) that discusses any aspect of his/her workplace activities, the following restrictions apply:

- School equipment, including School computers and electronics systems, may not be used for these purposes;
- Student and employee confidentiality policies must be strictly followed;

- Employees must make clear that the views expressed in their blogs are their own and not those of the School;
- Employees may not use the School's logos, trademarks and/or copyrighted material and are not authorized to speak on the School's behalf;
- Employees are not authorized to publish any confidential or proprietary information maintained by the School;
- Employees are prohibited from making discriminatory, defamatory, libelous or slanderous comments when discussing the School, the employee's supervisors, co-workers and competitors;
- Employees must comply with all School policies, including, but not limited to, rules against unlawful harassment and retaliation.

The School reserves the right to take disciplinary action against any employee whose Internet postings violate this or other School policies.

Personal Appearance/Standards of Dress

School employees serve as role models to the School's students. All employees should therefore maintain professional standards of dress and grooming. Just as overall attitude and instructional competency contribute to a productive learning environment, so do appropriate dress and grooming.

Employees are encouraged to wear clothing that will add dignity to the educational profession, will present an image consistent with their job responsibilities, and will not interfere with the learning process. Accordingly, all employees shall adhere to the following standards of dress:

- 1) Clothing and jewelry must be safe and appropriate to the educational environment. All clothing must be clean and in good repair.
- 2) Slacks and shorts are to be worn on the waist with no portion of an undergarment showing. Shorts should be modest in length.
- 3) All tops must be appropriate to the work environment, and should be clean, neat, and provide proper coverage.
- 4) Clothing or jewelry with logos that depict and/or promote gangs (as defined in CA. Ed. Code § 35183), drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, violence, illegal activities, profanity, or obscenity are not permitted.
- 5) Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times.

Health and Safety Policy

The School is committed to providing and maintaining a healthy and safe work environment for all employees.

Employees are required to know and comply with the School's General Safety Rules and to follow safe and healthy work practices at all times. Employees are required to report immediately to the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS) any potential health or safety hazards, and all injuries or accidents.

In compliance with Proposition 65, the School will inform employees of any known exposure to a chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

Security Protocols

The School has developed guidelines to help maintain a secure workplace. Be aware of unknown persons loitering in parking areas, walkways, entrances and exits and service areas. Report any suspicious persons or activities to the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WECS). Employee desk or office should be secured at the end of the day. When an employee is called away from his or her work area for an extended length of time, valuable or personal articles should not be left around a workstation that may be accessible. The security of facilities as well as the welfare of employees depends upon the alertness and sensitivity of every individual to potential security risks. Employees should immediately notify the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS) when keys are missing or if security access codes or passes have been breached.

Occupational Safety

The School is committed to the safety of its employees, vendors, contractors and the public and to providing a clear safety goal for management.

The prevention of accidents is the responsibility of every School supervisor. It is also the duty of all employees to accept and promote the established safety regulations and procedures. Every effort will be made to provide adequate safety training. If an employee is ever in doubt how to perform a job or task safely, assistance should be requested. Unsafe conditions must be reported immediately.

It is the policy of the School that accident prevention shall be considered of primary importance in all phases of operation and administration. The School's management is required to provide safe and healthy working conditions for all employees and to establish and require the use of safe practices at all times.

Failure to comply with or enforce School safety and health rules, practices and procedures could result in disciplinary action up to and including possible termination.

Accident/Incident Reporting

It is the duty of every employee to immediately or as soon as is practical report any accident or injury occurring during work or on School premises so that arrangements can be made for

medical or first aid treatment, as well as for investigation and follow-up purposes.

Reporting Fires and Emergencies

It is the duty of every employee to know how to report fires and other emergencies quickly and accurately. Employees should report any such emergency by calling management. In addition, all employees should know the local emergency numbers such as 911.

COVID-19 Information

The School will continue to follow public health K-12 guidance for COVID-19 risk mitigation and Cal/OSHA notification requirements for staff who are exposed to COVID-19 in the 2023-2024 school year. Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Infection Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations are in effect until February 3, 2025. Until at least December 31, 2023, the School is required to report to our claims administrator all positive COVID cases for employees that have been on campus within the 14 days prior to the date of testing positive. (SB1159)

California Department of Public Health strongly recommends that all eligible individuals get vaccinated against COVID-19 and remain up-to-date to protect themselves and reduce transmission of the virus. Masks, particularly high-quality and well-fitting masks remain a highly effective tool in mitigating the transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. The School will have masks available for any employee seeking one.

Employees are encouraged to follow important health and hygiene practices including washing hands frequently and using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. All classrooms shall be provided with hand sanitizer and additional hand sanitizer will be available in the school offices.

All employees with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, should self-isolate, wear a well-fitting mask, and test as soon as possible to determine infection status. Antigen tests are available at no cost for school employees in the school offices and employees may test during paid time. If the test is negative, employees should consider continuing self-isolation and retesting in 1-2 days.

A person who tests positive for COVID-19 or has a positive diagnosis from a licensed health care provider is considered a COVID-19 case. All staff who test positive for COVID-19 must notify the Director (WECS) or the Campus Director/Dean (WCS) and isolate at home through at least Day 5. Day zero is the day the case's symptoms began or the day they took a COVID-19 test if they did not have any symptoms.

Employees can return to work on or after Day 6 when:

- Their symptoms are gone or mild and improving AND
- They have not had a fever in 24 hours and have not used fever-reducing medication.

Employees who test positive for COVID-19 must wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days.

Relationships Between Employees

While the School's policies do not permit discrimination based on an individual's marital status, the individual's relation to another School employee, or his or her lawful off-duty conduct, some situations can create conflicts of interest requiring the School to take the employee's relationship with another employee into account.

A supervisor should avoid forming special social relationships or dating employees under his/her/their direct supervision, or with other employees that would create actual or perceived conflicts of interest and situations of favoritism. If such a relationship arises, both employees should notify the School so that appropriate measures can be taken to prevent conflicts of interest or favoritism.

The School reserves the right to take appropriate action if employee relationships interfere with the safety, morale or security of the School, or if the relationships create an actual or perceived conflict of interest or favoritism.

Standards of Conduct

The School's rules of conduct are based on mutual respect, common courtesy, sound judgment, responsibility, professionalism and business accountability. Personal and professional integrity is, of course, expected of all employees. The School may terminate or suspend the employment of any employee or engage in any other disciplinary actions (e.g. suspension without pay, demotion, etc.), if the School determines that the employee has failed to fulfill the duties and responsibilities and/or has failed to demonstrate the responsibility outlined in these policies and the job description.

Participation in After-School Programs/Activities

Teachers are expected to participate in school programs which may be held outside school hours. These include staff meetings, parent-teacher-student conferences, parent meetings, field trips, open house nights and other events. Teachers are expected to contribute to the monthly teacher report presented at each meeting of the Board of Directors and encouraged to attend board meetings to ensure on-going communication between the Board of Directors and teaching staff.

Employees are encouraged to attend school functions and events. When acting as a chaperone or advisor, your most important responsibility is to supervise students. It is nearly impossible to both supervise and participate. When participating is appropriate, it is essential to remember the boundaries, physical and emotional, that must be established and maintained.

Company Property Inspections

The School is committed to providing a work environment that is safe and free of illegal drugs, alcohol, firearms, explosives and other improper materials. Additionally, the School provides property and facilities to its employees to carry out business on behalf of the School.

Accordingly, employees do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy when using any School property or facilities. In accordance with these policies, all School facilities and property, including all items contained therein, may be inspected by the School at any time, with or without prior notice to the employee. School property includes all desks, storage areas, work stations, lockers, file cabinets, computers, telephone systems, email systems and other storage devices.

Soliciting/Conducting Personal Business While on Duty

Employees are not permitted to conduct personal business or solicit personal business for any cause or organization while on-duty, or when the employee being solicited is supposed to be working. This prohibition includes distributing literature and other material. Distribution of materials is also against the School's policy if it interferes with access to facility premises, if it results in litter or is conducted in areas where other employees are working. Solicitation during non-work time, e.g., paid breaks, lunch periods or other such non-work periods, is permissible. Entry on the School premises by non-employees is not permitted, unless related to official School business. Solicitation or distribution of written materials by non-employees is strictly prohibited.

Use of Company Communication Equipment and Technology

All School-owned communications equipment and technology remain the property of the School and are provided to the employee to carry out business on behalf of the School, unless previously authorized for non-business use. Employees have no expectation of privacy in any communications made using School owned equipment and technology. Communications (including any attached message or data) made using School owned communications equipment and technology are subject to review, inspection and monitoring by the School.

Additionally, the School uses technology protection measures that protect against Internet access (by both minors and adults) to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography and/or with respect to use by minors, images harmful to minors. These measures may include, but are not limited to, installing a blocking system to block specific internet sites, setting Internet browsers to block access to adult sites, using a filtering system that will filter all Internet traffic and report potential instances of misuse and using a spam filter.

Passwords used in connection with the School's communications equipment and technology are intended to restrict unauthorized use only, not to restrict access of authorized School employees. In addition, employees are required to safeguard their passwords to limit unauthorized use of computers by minors in accordance with the Student Internet Use Policy and Agreement. Employees that do not safeguard their passwords from unauthorized student use, or that allow a student to access computers in violation of the Student Internet Use Policy and Agreement, will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

All employees using the internet through the School's communications equipment and technology must respect all copyright laws. Employees are not permitted to copy, retrieve,

modify or forward copyrighted materials unless authorized by law or with express written permission of the owner of the copyright. Employees are not permitted to use the School's communications equipment and technology to view visual images that are obscene, child pornography and/or images harmful to minors.

The email system and Internet access is not to be used in any way that may be disruptive, harassing or offensive to others, illegal or harmful to morale. For example, sexually explicit images, ethnic slurs, racial epithets or anything else that may be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, religious beliefs or political beliefs may not be displayed or transmitted. The Email system and Internet access is not to be used in any manner that is against the policies of the School, contrary to the best interest of the School or for personal gain or profit of the employee against the interests of the School. Employees must not use the School's communications equipment and technology for the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding students.

Employees should not attempt to gain access to another employee's email files or voicemail messages without the latter's express permission. Each employee is responsible for the content of the messages sent out using his/her School issued equipment. It is strictly prohibited to use another employee's computer to send messages to create the appearance that they are from that employee, unless that employee expressly authorizes such use.

Participation in Recreational or Social Activities

Employees may participate in recreational or social activities sponsored by or supported by the School. Participation in such activities is strictly voluntary. As such, employees have no obligation to participate in recreational or social activities and no employee has work-related duties requiring such participation. An employee's participation in social and recreational activities is at the employee's own risk and the School disclaims any and all liability arising out of the employee's participation in these activities.

EMPLOYEE WAGES AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Payroll Withholdings

As required by law, the School shall withhold Federal Income Tax, State Income Tax, Social Security (FICA) and State Disability Insurance from each employee's pay as follows:

1. Federal Income Tax Withholding: The amount varies with the number of exemptions the employee claims and the gross pay amount.
2. State Income Tax Withholding: The same factors which apply to federal withholdings apply to state withholdings.

3. Social Security (FICA): The Federal Insurance Contribution Act requires that a certain percentage of employee earnings be deducted and forwarded to the federal government, together with an equal amount contributed by the School.
4. State Disability Insurance (SDI): This state fund is used to provide benefits to those out of work because of illness or disability.

Every deduction from an employee's paycheck is explained on the check voucher. If an employee does not understand the deductions, he/she/they should ask Human Resources to explain them.

Employees may change the number of withholding allowances claimed for Federal Income Tax purposes at any time by filling out a new W-4 form and submitting it to Human Resources. The office maintains a supply of these forms.

All Federal, State, and Social Security taxes will be automatically deducted from paychecks. Federal Withholding Tax deduction is determined by the employee's W-4 form. The W-4 form should be completed upon hire and it is the employee's responsibility to report any changes in filing status to Human Resources and to fill out a new W-4 form.

At the end of the calendar year, a "withholding statement" (W-2) will be prepared and forwarded to each employee for use in connection with preparation of income tax returns. The W-2 shows Social Security information, taxes withheld and total wages.

Overtime Pay

Whether an employee is exempt from or subject to overtime pay will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will be indicated in the employee's job description. Generally, teachers and administrators are exempt. Non-exempt employees may be required to work beyond the regularly scheduled workday or workweek as necessary. Only actual hours worked in a given workday or workweek can apply in calculating overtime for non-exempt employees. The School will attempt to distribute overtime evenly and accommodate individual schedules. All overtime work must be previously authorized by the Director (WECS) or the Campus Director/Dean (WCS). The School provides compensation for all overtime hours worked by non-exempt employees in accordance with state and federal law as follows:

For employees subject to overtime, all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday or forty (40) hours in one workweek shall be treated as overtime. Compensation for hours in excess of forty (40) for the workweek or in excess of eight (8) and not more than twelve (12) for the workday, and for the first eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive day in one workweek, shall be paid at a rate of one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Compensation for hours in excess of twelve (12) in one workday and an excess of eight (8) on the seventh consecutive workday of the workweek shall be paid at double the regular rate of pay.

Exempt employees may have to work hours beyond their normal schedules as work demands require. No overtime compensation will be paid to these exempt employees.

Make-Up Time

You may request in writing that you be able to make up work time that is or would be lost as a result of a personal obligation. The hours of that make-up work may only be performed in the same workweek in which the work time was lost and must not exceed eight (8) hours of work in one day or forty (40) hours of work in one (1) week. You shall provide a signed written request for each occasion that you make a request to make up work time and authorization is at the option of the School. Make up time is not encouraged.

Paydays

The two paydays for all employees are scheduled for no later than the 10th and 26th day of each month. If an employee observes any error in his/her/their check, it should be reported immediately to Human Resources. For non-exempt employees, each paycheck will include earnings for all actual work hours performed through the end of the payroll period. Exempt employees will be paid in equal amounts for each pay period. The two payroll periods occur from the 1st through the 15th and the 16th through the end of the month.

Policies regarding non-contracted classified employees:

- Non-contracted employees will be required to attend staff meetings upon the administration's request and will be paid accordingly.
- Elective teachers will be paid for one hour of prep time for every four hours taught.
- Field trip pay for timesheet employees: Employees who volunteer for an all-day field trip shall be reimbursed for the day at the certificated substitute daily rate (\$200/day in 2023-2024) instead of an hourly rate.

You should promptly notify Human Resources if you have a question regarding the calculations of your paycheck; any corrections will be noted and will appear on the following payroll.

Expense Reimbursements

The School will reimburse employees for reasonably necessary expenses incurred in the furtherance of School business. In order to be eligible for reimbursement, employees must follow the protocol set forth in the School's policy regarding expenditures. Any personal expenses over \$100 must be pre-approved by the Business Manager or a Director. Reimbursement requests must be recorded in the Requisition Book and approved by administration. All reimbursement requests must be submitted with original receipts to the Business Manager.

Wage Attachments and Garnishments

Under normal circumstances, the School will not assist creditors in the collection of personal debts from its employees. However, creditors may resort to certain legal procedures such as garnishments, levies or judgments that require the School, by law, to withhold part of an employee's earnings in their favor.

Employees are strongly encouraged to avoid such wage attachments and garnishments. If the School is presented a second garnishment request concerning an employee, the Director will discuss the situation with the employee.

Medical Benefits

Eligibility

The School will provide health, dental, vision and life insurance coverage for current staff members based on reasonable cost as determined by the Board of Directors. The School will pay the cost of such coverage for full-time employees (30 hours or more per week). The School will not pay health insurance costs for family members but employees may add family members at their own expense as a pre-tax deduction from their paycheck. No staff member will receive paid health benefits beyond their term of employment, however, employees will be notified when their paid benefits will terminate and that they have the option of continued coverage at their own cost (COBRA).

Employees who go from part-time to full-time employment become eligible for full benefits on the first day of the month following the effective date of the change.

When Coverage Starts

Your coverage will begin on the first day of employment or if hired mid-month it will start on the first day of the next month. Your enrollment form must be submitted to Human Resources as soon as possible. This form serves as a request for coverage, and authorizes any payroll deductions necessary to pay for your coverage.

COBRA Benefits

Continuation of Medical and Dental

WHEN COVERAGE UNDER THE SCHOOL'S HEALTH PLAN ENDS, EMPLOYEES OR THEIR DEPENDENTS MAY CONTINUE COVERAGE IN SOME SITUATIONS.

When coverage under the School's medical and/or dental plans ends, employees or their dependents can continue coverage for eighteen (18) or thirty-six (36) months, depending upon the reason benefits ended. To continue coverage, an employee must pay the full cost of coverage

– the employee contribution and the School’s previous contribution, plus a possible administrative charge.

Medical coverage for an employee, his/her/their spouse, and eligible dependent children can continue under COBRA for up to eighteen (18) months if coverage ends because:

- Employment ends, voluntarily or involuntarily, for any reason other than gross misconduct; or
- Hours of employment are reduced below the amount required to be considered a full-time employee or part-time, making an employee ineligible for the plan.

This eighteen (18) month period may be extended an additional eleven (11) months in cases of disability subject to certain requirements. This eighteen (18) month period may also be extended an additional eighteen (18) months if other events (such as a divorce or death) occur, subject to certain requirements.

An employee’s spouse and eligible dependents can continue their health coverage for up to thirty-six (36) months if coverage ends because:

- The employee dies while covered by the plan;
- The employee and his/her spouse become divorced or legally separated;
- The employee becomes eligible for Medicare coverage, but his/her spouse has not yet reach age sixty-five (65); or
- The employee’s dependent child reaches an age which makes him or her ineligible for coverage under the plan.

Rights similar to those described above may apply to retirees, spouses and dependents if the employer commences a bankruptcy proceeding and those individuals lose coverage.

The School will notify employees or their dependents if coverage ends due to termination or a reduction in work hours. If an employee becomes eligible for Medicare, divorced or legally separated, dies, or when a dependent child no longer meets the eligibility requirements, the employee or a family member are responsible for notifying the School within thirty (30) days of the event. The School will then notify the employee or his/her/their dependents of the employee’s rights.

Health coverage continuation must be elected within sixty (60) days after receiving notice of the end of coverage, or within sixty (60) days after the event causing the loss, whichever is later.

There are certain circumstances under which coverage will end automatically. This happens if:

- Premiums for continued coverage are not paid within thirty (30) days of the due date;
- The employee (or his/her spouse or child) become covered under another group health plan which does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any pre-existing condition the employee (or the employee's spouse or child, as applicable) may have;
- The School stops providing group health benefits;
- The employee (or the employee's spouse or child) become entitled to Medicare; or
- The employee extended coverage for up to twenty-nine (29) months due to disability and there has been a final determination that the employee is no longer disabled.

PERSONNEL EVALUATION AND RECORD KEEPING

Employee Reviews and Observation

All employees shall be reviewed annually or semi-annually by the Director(s). The purpose of these reviews is to identify strengths (noting particularly good work), recognize areas for improvement and skill development, encourage growth, and develop strategies within a supportive team. An evaluation form will be reviewed by the staff and approved by the Board of Directors. This form will include performance-based questions about the employee (i.e., Does this teacher model respectful behavior? Is this teacher prepared for class each day? etc.).

Members of the Board of Directors, the Director(s), and other staff shall be permitted to conduct informal observations of teaching staff and other staff at any time.

Response to Formal Observation and Review Findings

All employees shall have the right to make their own written comments in response to the observations or review findings within two weeks of receipt. This response will be attached to the observation and/or evaluation and kept in the employee's Confidential Personnel File.

Personnel Files and Record Keeping Protocols

At the time of employment, a personnel file is established for you. Please keep Human Resources advised of changes that should be reflected in your personnel file. Such changes include: change in address, telephone number, marital status, number of dependents and person(s) to notify in case of emergency. Prompt notification of these changes is essential and will enable the School to contact you should the change affect your other records.

You have the right to inspect certain documents in your personnel file, as provided by law, in the presence of a School representative, at a mutually convenient time. You also have the right to obtain a copy of your personnel file as provided by law. You may add your comments to any

disputed item in the file. The School will restrict disclosure of your personnel file to authorized individuals within the School. A request for information contained in the personnel file must be directed to the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WECS). Only the Director(s) or designee is authorized to release information about current or former employees. Disclosure of information to outside sources will be limited. However, the School will cooperate with requests from authorized law enforcement or local, state or federal agencies conducting official investigations or as otherwise legally required.

Creditable complaints of substantiated investigations into or discipline for egregious misconduct will not be expunged from an employee's personnel file unless the complaint is heard by an arbitrator, administrative law judge, or the Board and the complaint is deemed to be false, not creditable, unsubstantiated or a determination was made that discipline was not warranted.

HOLIDAYS AND LEAVES

Holidays

The School calendar reflects any and all holidays observed by the School. The following holidays are generally observed by public entities, including public schools:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
- President's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving
- Friday after Thanksgiving
- Day before Christmas
- Christmas Day
- Juneteenth Day

Other days during the school year, such as days during the School's calendared breaks, shall be unpaid time for all non-exempt employees in active status. Recognized religious holidays may be taken off by an employee whose religion requires observance of the particular day. Employees must request the day off in advance by written notice to the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WECS). The employee will be paid if the religious holiday is taken as an earned paid leave day (i.e. personal necessity day, etc., as applicable). The employee will not be paid if the religious holiday is taken as a personal leave of absence day. Employees on any leave of absence do not earn holiday pay.

Unpaid Leave of Absence

The School recognizes that special situations may arise where an employee must leave his or her job temporarily. At its discretion, the School may grant employees leaves of absence. Any unpaid leave of absence must be approved in advance by the School.

The granting of a leave of absence always presumes the employee will return to active work by a designated date or within a specific period.

If you are currently covered, medical, and dental coverage will remain in force during a worker's compensation leave of absence provided the employee pays the premiums. Whether you are required to pay your own premiums will depend upon the length of your leave of absence. During a family/medical leave, your medical and dental benefits will remain in force. Benefits are terminated the day any other type of leave begins.

Sick Leave

To help prevent loss of earnings that may be caused by accident or illness, or by other emergencies, the School offers paid sick leave to its employees. Sick leave may be taken to receive preventive care (including annual physicals or flu shots) or to diagnose, treat, or care for an existing health condition. Employees may also use sick leave to assist a family member (i.e., children, parents, spouses/domestic partners, grandparents, grandchildren, or siblings) who must receive preventative care or a diagnosis, treatment, or care for an existing health condition. Employees may also take paid sick leave to receive medical care or other assistance to address instances of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Paid sick leave is available to all School employees who work at least thirty (30) days within the span of a single calendar year from the commencement of employment. All eligible employees shall be credited with a maximum twenty-four (24) hours of sick leave per work year. Sick leave shall accrue at the rate of 1 hour for every 30 hours worked. Employees cannot use paid sick leave until the ninetieth (90th) calendar day following the employee's start date. Employees must put in writing on their timesheet that they wish to use their sick leave time. Non-exempt timesheet employees will be allowed to rollover unused hours to the following year, with an annual cap of 48 hours.

Full-time staff shall earn sick leave at the rate of 10 days (80 hours) per school year. Sick leave days may be accrued for a total of up to 20 days (160 hours) for the third and fourth year of service and a maximum total of 30 days (240 hours) for the fifth year and each year thereafter. Use beyond accrual will result in withholding from final paychecks. However, the School does not pay employees in lieu of unused sick leave. All unused accrued sick leave will be counted as service days upon retirement.

If you are absent longer than three (3) days due to illness, medical evidence of your illness and/or medical certification of your fitness to return to work satisfactory to the School may be required before the School honors any sick pay requests. The School will not tolerate abuse or misuse of

sick leave privilege. If the School suspects abuse of sick leave, the School may require a medical certification from an employee verifying the employee's absence.

Once an employee has exhausted sick leave, the employee may continue on an unpaid medical leave depending upon the facts and circumstances of the employee's basis for leave beyond accrued sick leave. Employee requests for unpaid medical leave must be approved in advance by the School.

Personal Necessity Leave

An employee may elect to use up to four (4) days of accumulated sick leave in any school year for purposes of personal necessity (**PN**) including any of the following specific reasons:

- Death or serious illness of a member of his/her/their immediate family.
- Accident involving his/her/their person or property or the person or property of a member of his/her immediate family.
- Appearance in court as a litigant, or as a witness under official order.
- Adoption of a child.
- The birth of a child making it necessary for an employee who is the parent of the child to be absent during work hours.
- Business matters which cannot reasonably be conducted outside the workday.

Employees must request personal necessity leave at least one (1) day in advance unless an emergency situation occurs. Personal necessity days are not vacation days, do not accrue year to year, and will not be paid out if unused upon separation from employment.

Family Care and Medical Leave

This policy explains how the School complies with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") and the California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"), both of which require the School to permit each eligible employee to take up to twelve (12) workweeks (or twenty-six (26) workweeks where indicated) of FMLA leave in any twelve (12) month period for the purposes enumerated below. For purposes of this policy, all leave taken under FMLA or CFRA will be referred to as "FMLA leave."

- Employee Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for FMLA leave, the employee must have been employed by the School for a total of at least twelve (12) months and must have worked at least 1,250 hours during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding commencement of the FMLA leave.

- Events That May Entitle an Employee To FMLA Leave

The twelve (12) week (or twenty-six (26) workweeks where indicated) FMLA allowance includes any time taken (with or without pay) for any of the following reasons:

1. To care for the employee's newborn child or a child placed with the employee for adoption or foster care. Leaves for this purpose must conclude twelve (12) months after the birth, adoption, or placement. If both parents are employed by the School, they will be entitled to a combined total of twelve (12) weeks of leave for this purpose.
2. Because of the employee's own serious health condition (including a serious health condition resulting from an on-the-job illness or injury) that makes the employee unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of his or her job (other than a disability caused by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, which is covered by the School's separate pregnancy disability policy).
 - a. A "serious health condition" is an illness, injury (including, but not limited to, on-the-job injuries), impairment, or physical or mental condition of the employee or a child, parent, or spouse of the employee that involves either inpatient care or continuing treatment, including, but not limited to, treatment for substance abuse.
 - b. "Inpatient care" means a stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential health care facility, any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care, or any period of incapacity. A person is considered an "inpatient" when a health care facility formally admits him/her to the facility with the expectation that he/she will remain at least overnight and occupy a bed, even if it later develops that such person can be discharged or transferred to another facility and does not actually remain overnight.
 - c. "Incapacity" means the inability to work, attend school, or perform other regular daily activities due to a serious health condition, its treatment, or the recovery that it requires.
 - d. "Continuing treatment" means ongoing medical treatment or supervision by a health care provider.
3. To care for a spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent with a serious health condition or military service-related injury. When an employee is providing care to a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin who is a covered Armed Forces service member with a serious injury or illness, the employee may take a maximum of twenty-six (26) weeks of FMLA leave in a single twelve (12) -month period to provide said care.
4. For any "qualifying exigency" because the employee is the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of an individual on active military duty, or an individual notified of an impending call or order to active duty, in the Armed Forces.

- Amount of FMLA Leave Which May Be Taken

1. FMLA leave can be taken in one (1) or more periods, but may not exceed twelve (12) workweeks total for any purpose in any twelve (12) month period, as described below, for any one, or combination of the above-described situations. “Twelve workweeks” means the equivalent of twelve (12) of the employee’s normally scheduled workweeks. For a full-time employee who works five (5) eight-hour days per week, “twelve workweeks” means sixty (60) working and/or paid eight (8) hour days.
2. In addition to the twelve (12) workweeks of FMLA leave that may be taken, an employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered Armed Forces service member shall also be entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of FMLA leave during a twelve (12) month period to care for the service member.
3. The “twelve month period” in which twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave may be taken is the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of any FMLA leave.
4. If a holiday falls within a week taken as FMLA leave, the week is nevertheless counted as a week of FMLA leave. If, however, the School’s business activity has temporarily ceased for some reason and employees are generally not expected to report for work for one or more weeks, such as the Winter Break, Spring Break, or Summer Vacation, the days the School’s activities have ceased do not count against the employee’s FMLA leave entitlement. Similarly, if an employee uses FMLA leave in increments of less than one (1) week, the fact that a holiday may occur within a week in which an employee partially takes leave does not count against the employee’s CFRA entitlement unless the employee was otherwise scheduled and expected to work during the holiday.

- Pay during FMLA Leave

1. An employee on FMLA leave because of his/her/their own serious health condition must use all accrued paid sick leave at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid FMLA leave period. If an employee is receiving a partial wage replacement benefit during the FMLA leave, the School and the employee may agree to have School-provided paid leave, such as sick time, supplement the partial wage replacement benefit unless otherwise prohibited by law.
2. An employee on FMLA leave for child care or to care for a spouse, domestic partner, parent, or child with a serious health condition may use any or all accrued sick leave at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid FMLA leave.

3. If an employee has exhausted his/her/their sick leave, leave taken under FMLA shall be unpaid leave.
4. The receipt of sick leave pay or State Disability Insurance benefits will not extend the length of the FMLA leave. Sick pay accrues during any period of unpaid FMLA leave only until the end of the month in which unpaid leave began.

- Health Benefits During FMLA

The provisions of the School's various employee benefit plans govern continuing eligibility during FMLA leave, and these provisions may change from time to time. The health benefits of employees on FMLA leave will be paid by the School during the leave at the same level and under the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been continuously employed during the leave period. When a request for FMLA leave is granted, the School will give the employee written confirmation of the arrangements made for the payment of insurance premiums during the leave period.

If an employee is required to pay premiums for any part of his/her/their group health coverage, the School will provide the employee with advance written notice of the terms and conditions under which premium payments must be made.

The School may recover the health benefit costs paid on behalf of an employee during his/her/their FMLA leave if:

1. The employee fails to return from leave after the period of leave to which the employee is entitled has expired. An employee is deemed to have "failed to return from leave" if he/she works less than thirty (30) days after returning from FMLA leave; and
2. The employee's failure to return from leave is for a reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that entitles the employee to FMLA leave, or other circumstances beyond the control of the employee.

- Impact of FMLA upon Seniority

An employee on FMLA leave remains an employee and the leave will not constitute a break in service. An employee who returns from FMLA leave will return with the same seniority he/she/they had when the leave commenced.

- FMLA Medical Certifications

1. An employee requesting FMLA leave because of his/her/their own or a relative's serious health condition must provide medical certification from the appropriate health care provider on a form supplied by the School. Absent extenuating

circumstances, failure to provide the required certification in a timely manner (within fifteen (15) days of the School's request for certification) may result in denial of the leave request until such certification is provided.

2. The School will notify the employee in writing if the certification is incomplete or insufficient, and will advise the employee what additional information is necessary in order to make the certification complete and sufficient. The School may contact the employee's health care provider to authenticate or clarify information in a deficient certification if the employee is unable to cure the deficiency.
 3. If the School has reason to doubt the medical certification supporting a leave because of the employee's own serious health condition, the School may request a second opinion by a health care provider of its choice (paid for by the School). If the second opinion differs from the first one, the School will pay for a third, mutually agreeable, health care provider to provide a final and binding opinion.
 4. Re-certifications are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the health care provider. Failure to submit required re-certifications can result in termination of the leave.
- Procedures for Requesting and Scheduling FMLA Leave
 1. An employee should request FMLA leave by completing a Request for Leave form and submitting it to the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS). An employee asking for a Request for Leave form will be given a copy of the School's then-current FMLA leave policy.
 2. Employees should provide not less than thirty (30) days' notice for foreseeable childbirth, placement, or any planned medical treatment for the employee or his/her spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent. Failure to provide such notice is grounds for denial of a leave request, except if the need for FMLA leave was an emergency or was otherwise unforeseeable.
 3. Where possible, employees must make a reasonable effort to schedule foreseeable planned medical treatments so as not to unduly disrupt the School's operations.
 4. If FMLA leave is taken because of the employee's own serious health condition or the serious health condition of the employee's spouse, domestic partner, parent or child, the leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary, as determined by the health care provider of the person with the serious health condition.
 5. If FMLA leave is taken because of the birth of the employee's child or the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, the minimum

duration of leave is two (2) weeks, except that the School will grant a request for FMLA leave for this purpose of at least one day but less than two (2) weeks' duration on any two (2) occasions.

6. If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for the employee or a family member, the employee may be transferred temporarily to an available alternative position for which he/she/they is qualified that has equivalent pay and benefits and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.
 7. The School will respond to an FMLA leave request no later than five (5) days of receiving the request. If an FMLA leave request is granted, the School will notify the employee in writing that the leave will be counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. This notice will explain the employee's obligations and the consequences of failing to satisfy them.
- Returning to Work after FMLA
 1. Upon timely return at the expiration of the FMLA leave period, an employee (other than a "key" employee whose reinstatement would cause serious and grievous injury to the School's operations) is entitled to the same or a comparable position with the same or similar duties and virtually identical pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment unless the same position and any comparable position(s) have ceased to exist because of legitimate business reasons unrelated to the employee's FMLA leave.
 2. When a request for FMLA leave is granted to an employee (other than a "key" employee), the School will give the employee a written guarantee of reinstatement at the termination of the leave (with the limitations explained above).
 3. Before an employee will be permitted to return from FMLA leave taken because of his/her own serious health condition, the employee must obtain a certification from his/her health care provider that he/she is able to resume work.
 4. If an employee can return to work with limitations, the School will evaluate those limitations and, if possible, will accommodate the employee as required by law. If accommodation cannot be made, the employee will be medically separated from the School.
 - Limitations on Reinstatement after FMLA
 1. The School may refuse to reinstate a "key" employee if the refusal is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous injury to the School's operations. A "key" employee is an exempt salaried employee who is among the highest paid 10% of

the School's employees within seventy-five (75) miles of the employee's worksite.

2. A "key" employee will be advised in writing at the time of a request for, or if earlier, at the time of commencement of, FMLA leave, that he/she qualifies as a "key" employee and the potential consequences with respect to reinstatement and maintenance of health benefits if the School determines that substantial and grievous injury to the School's operations will result if the employee is reinstated from FMLA leave. At the time it determines that refusal is necessary, the School will notify the "key" employee in writing (by certified mail) of its intent to refuse reinstatement and will explain the basis for finding that the employee's reinstatement would cause the School to suffer substantial and grievous injury. If the School realizes after the leave has commenced that refusal of reinstatement is necessary, it will give the employee at least ten (10) days to return to work following the notice of its intent to refuse reinstatement.

- Employment during FMLA Leave

No employee, including employees on FMLA leave, may accept employment with any other employer without the School's written permission. An employee who accepts such employment without the School's written permission will be deemed to have resigned from employment at the School.

Pregnancy Disability Leave

This policy explains how the School complies with the California Pregnancy Disability Act, which requires the School to give each pregnant employee an unpaid leave of absence of up to four (4) months per pregnancy, as needed, for the period(s) of time the employee is actually disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

- Employee Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for pregnancy disability leave, the employee must be disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition and must provide appropriate medical certification concerning the disability.

- Events That May Entitle an Employee to Pregnancy Disability Leave

The four (4) -month pregnancy disability leave allowance includes any time taken (with or without pay) for any of the following reasons:

1. The employee is unable to work at all or is unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of their job without undue risk to themselves, the successful completion of their pregnancy, or to other persons because of pregnancy or

childbirth, or because of any medically recognized physical or mental condition that is related to pregnancy or childbirth (including severe morning sickness); or

2. The employee needs to take time off for prenatal care.

- Duration of Pregnancy Disability Leave

Pregnancy disability leave may be taken in one or more periods, but not to exceed four months total. “Four months” means the number of days the employee would normally work within four months. For a full-time employee who works five (5) eight (8) hour days per week, four (4) months means 693 hours of leave (40 hours per week times 17 1/3 weeks).

For employees who work more or less than forty (40) hours per week, or who work on variable work schedules, the number of working days that constitutes four (4) months is calculated on a pro rata or proportional basis. For example, for an employee who works twenty (20) hours per week, “four months” means 346.5 hours of leave entitlement (20 hours per week times 17 1/3 weeks). For an employee who normally works forty-eight (48) hours per week, “four months” means 832 hours of leave entitlement (48 hours per week times 17 1/3 weeks).

At the end or depletion of an employee’s pregnancy disability leave, an employee who has a physical or mental disability (which may or may not be due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions) may be entitled to reasonable accommodation. Entitlement to additional leave must be determined on a case-by case basis, taking into account a number of considerations such as whether an extended leave is likely to be effective in allowing the employee to return to work at the end of the leave, with or without further reasonable accommodation, and whether or not additional leave would create an undue hardship for the School. The School is not required to provide an indefinite leave of absence as a reasonable accommodation.

Pregnancy disability leave does not count against the leave which may be available as Family Care and Medical Leave.

- Pay during Pregnancy Disability Leave

1. The receipt of sick leave pay, or state disability insurance benefits, will not extend the length of pregnancy disability leave.

2. Sick pay accrues during any period of unpaid pregnancy disability leave only until the end of the month in which the unpaid leave began.

- Health Benefits during Pregnancy Disability Leave

The School shall provide continued health insurance coverage while an employee is on pregnancy disability leave consistent with applicable law. The continuation of health benefits is for a maximum of four (4) months in a twelve (12) -month period. The School can recover premiums that it already paid on behalf of an employee if both of the following conditions are met:

1. The employee fails to return from leave after the designated leave period expires.
2. The employee's failure to return from leave is for a reason other than the following:
 - The employee is taking leave under the California Family Rights Act.
 - There is a continuation, recurrence or onset of a health condition that entitles the employee to pregnancy disability leave.
 - There is a non-pregnancy related medical condition requiring further leave.
 - Any other circumstance beyond the control of the employee.

- Pregnancy Disability Leave Impact upon Seniority

An employee on pregnancy disability leave remains an employee of the School and a leave will not constitute a break in service. When an employee returns from pregnancy disability leave, they will return with the same seniority they had when the leave commenced.

- Pregnancy Disability Leave Medical Certifications

An employee requesting a pregnancy disability leave must provide medical certification from their healthcare provider on a form supplied by the School. Failure to provide the required certification in a timely manner (within fifteen (15) days of the leave request) may result in a denial of the leave request until such certification is provided.

Re-certifications are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the health care provider. Failure to submit required re-certifications can result in termination of the leave.

- Requesting and Scheduling Pregnancy Disability Leave

1. An employee should request pregnancy disability leave by completing a Request for Leave form and submitting it to the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS) or Human Resources. An employee asking for a Request

for Leave form will be referred to the School's then current pregnancy disability leave policy.

2. Employees should provide not less than thirty(30) days or as soon of notice as is practicable, if the need for the leave is foreseeable. Failure to provide such notice is grounds for denial of the leave request, except if the need for pregnancy disability leave was an emergency and was otherwise unforeseeable.
 3. Where possible, employees must make a reasonable effort to schedule foreseeable planned medical treatments so as not to unduly disrupt the School's operations.
 4. Pregnancy disability leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically advisable, as determined by the employee's healthcare provider.
 5. If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee may be transferred temporarily to an available alternative position for which he/she/they is qualified that has equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.
 6. In most cases, the School will respond to a pregnancy disability leave request within two (2) days of acquiring knowledge that the leave qualifies as pregnancy disability and, in any event, within ten (10) days of receiving the request. If a pregnancy disability leave request is granted, the School will notify the employee in writing and leave will be counted against the employee's pregnancy disability leave entitlement. This notice will explain the employee's obligations and the consequences of failing to satisfy them.
- Returning to Work after Pregnancy Disability Leave
 1. Upon timely return at the expiration of the pregnancy disability leave period, an employee is entitled to the same position unless the employee would not otherwise have been employed in the same position at the time reinstatement is requested. If the employee is not reinstated to the same position, they must be reinstated to a comparable position unless one of the following is applicable:
 - a. The employer would not have offered a comparable position to the employee if they would have been continuously at work during the pregnancy disability leave.
 - b. There is no comparable position available, to which the employee is either qualified or entitled, on the employee's scheduled date of reinstatement or within sixty (60) calendar days thereafter. The School will take reasonable

steps to provide notice to the employee if and when comparable positions become available during the sixty (60) day period.

A “comparable” position is a position that involves the same or similar duties and responsibilities and is virtually identical to the employee’s original position in terms of pay, benefits, and working conditions.

2. When a request for pregnancy disability leave is granted to an employee, the School will give the employee a written guarantee of reinstatement at the end of the leave (with the limitations explained above).
3. In accordance with the School policy, before an employee will be permitted to return from a pregnancy disability leave of three (3) days or more, the employee may be required to obtain a certification from their health care provider that they are able to resume work.
4. If the employee can return to work with limitations, the School will evaluate those limitations and, if possible, will accommodate the employee as required by law. If accommodation cannot be made, the employee will be medically separated from the School.

- **Employment during Pregnancy Disability Leave**

No employee, including employees on pregnancy disability leave, may accept employment with any other employer without the School’s written permission. An employee who accepts such employment without written permission will be deemed to have resigned from employment.

Industrial Injury Leave (Workers’ Compensation)

The School, in accordance with State law, provides insurance coverage for employees in case of work-related injuries. The workers’ compensation benefits provided to injured employees may include:

- Medical care;
- Cash benefits, tax-free to replace lost wages; and
- Vocational rehabilitation to help qualified injured employees return to suitable employment.

To ensure you receive any worker’s compensation benefits to which you may be entitled, you will need to:

- Immediately report any work-related injury to the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS);
- Seek medical treatment and follow-up care if required;

- Complete a written Employee's Claim Form (DWC Form 1) and return it to the Director (WECS) and the Campus Director/Dean (WCS); and
- Provide the School with a certification from your health care provider regarding the need for workers' compensation disability leave as well as your eventual ability to return to work from the leave.

It is the School's policy that when there is a job-related injury, the first priority is to insure that the injured employee receives appropriate medical attention. The School, with the help of its insurance carrier, has selected medical centers to meet this need. Each medical center was selected for its ability to meet anticipated needs with high quality medical service and a location that is convenient to the School's operation.

- If an employee is injured on the job, he/she/they are to go or be taken to the approved medical center for treatment. If injuries are such that they require the use of emergency medical systems (EMS) such as an ambulance, the choice by the EMS personnel for the most appropriate medical center or hospital for treatment will be recognized as an approved center.
- All accidents and injuries must be reported to the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS) and to the individual responsible for reporting to the School's insurance carrier (Business Manager). Failure by an employee to report a work-related injury by the end of their shift could result in loss of insurance coverage for the employee. An employee may choose to be treated by their personal physician at their own expense, but they are still required to go to the School's approved medical center for evaluation. All job-related injuries must be reported to the appropriate State Workers' Compensation Bureau and the insurance carrier.
- When there is a job-related injury that results in lost time, the employee must have a medical release from the School's approved medical facility before returning to work.

Military and Military Spousal Leave of Absence

The School shall grant a military leave of absence to any employee who must be absent from work due to service in the uniformed services in accordance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act of 1994 ("USERRA"). All employees requesting military leave must provide advance written notice of the need for such leave, unless prevented from doing so by military necessity or if providing notice would be impossible or unreasonable.

If military leave is for thirty (30) or fewer days, the School shall continue the employee's health benefits. For service of more than thirty (30) days, employees shall be permitted to continue their health benefits at their option through COBRA. Employees are entitled to use accrued personal necessity leave or paid time off as wage replacement during time served, provided such personal necessity leave accrued prior to the leave.

Except for employees serving in the National Guard, the School will reinstate those employees returning from military leave to their same position or one of comparable seniority, status, and pay if they have a certificate of satisfactory completion of service and apply within ninety (90) days after release from active duty or within such extended period, if any, as required by law. For those employees serving in the National Guard, if he/she/they left a full-time position, the employee must apply for reemployment within forty (40) days of being released from active duty, and if he/she/they left part-time employment, the employee must apply for reemployment within five (5) days of being released from active duty.

An employee who was absent from work while fulfilling his or her covered service obligation under the USERRA or California law shall be credited, upon his or her return to the School, with the hours of service that would have been performed but for the period of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA-covered service. Exceptions to this policy will occur wherever necessary to comply with applicable laws.

The School shall grant up to ten (10) days of unpaid leave to employees who work more than twenty (20) hours per week and who are spouses of deployed military servicemen and servicewomen. The leave may be taken when the military spouse is on leave from deployment during a time of military conflict. To be eligible for leave, an employee must provide the School with (1) notice of intention to take military spousal leave within two (2) business days of receiving official notice that the employee's military spouse will be on leave from deployment, and (2) documentation certifying that the employee's military spouse will be on leave from deployment during the time that the employee requests leave.

Bereavement Leave

Employees who have been employed for at least 30 days are entitled to take five (5) days of bereavement leave due to a death in the immediate family (parent, spouse, son/daughter, sister/brother, parents-in-law, son/daughter-in-law, grandparents, and grandchild). Employees may use available sick leave, vacation, personal leave, or other types of paid leave they have accrued to receive pay during bereavement leave. Bereavement pay will not be used in computing overtime pay. Bereavement leave does not need to be taken all at once but must be completed during the three months after the death of the person for whom you are taking leave.

Jury Duty or Witness Leave

All employees who receive a notice of jury/witness duty must notify their supervisor as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made to cover the absence. In addition, employees must provide a copy of the official jury/witness duty notice to their supervisor. Employees must report for work whenever the court schedule permits. Either the School or the employee may request an excuse from jury/witness duty if, in the School's judgment, the employee's absence would create serious operational difficulties. The School encourages employees to request a deferral to a non-school period of time.

Non-exempt employees who are called for jury/witness duty will be provided time off with three days of pay if the employee asked for a deferral and if they provide proof of jury duty service. Exempt employees will receive their regular salary unless they do not work any hours during the course of a workweek. In the event that an exempt employee must serve as a witness within the course and scope of his or her employment with the School, the School will provide time off with pay.

Voting Time Off

If an employee does not have sufficient time outside of working hours to vote in an official state-sanctioned election, the employee may take off enough working time to vote. Such time off shall be taken at the beginning or the end of the regular working shift, whichever allows for more free time and the time taken off shall be combined with the voting time available outside of working hours to a maximum of two (2) hours combined. Under these circumstances, an employee will be allowed a maximum of two (2) hours of time off during an election day without loss of pay. When possible, an employee requesting time off to vote shall give the Director at least two (2) days notice.

School Appearance and Activities Leave

As required by law, the School will permit an employee who is a parent or guardian (including a stepparent, foster parent, or grandparent) of school children, from kindergarten through grade twelve (12), or a child enrolled with a licensed child care provider, up to forty (40) hours of unpaid time off per child per school year (up to eight (8) hours in any calendar month of the school year) to participate in activities of a child's school or child care. If more than one parent or guardian is an employee of the School, the employee that first provides the leave request will be given the requested time off. Where necessary, additional time off will also be permitted where the school requires the employee(s) appearance.

The employee requesting school leave must provide reasonable advance notice of the planned absence. The employee must use accrued but unused sick time to be paid during the absence.

When requesting time off for school activities, the employee must provide verification of participation in an activity as soon as practicable. When requesting time off for a required appearance, the employee(s) must provide a copy of the notice from the child's school requesting the presence of the employee.

Bone Marrow and Organ Donor Leave

As required by law, eligible employees who require time off to donate bone marrow to another person may receive up to five (5) workdays off in a 12-month period. Eligible employees who require time off to donate an organ to another person may receive up to thirty (30) workdays off in a 12-month period.

To be eligible for bone marrow or organ donation leave (“Donor Leave”), the employee must have been employed by the School for at least ninety (90) days immediately preceding the Donor Leave.

An employee requesting Donor Leave must provide written verification to the School that they are a donor and that there is a medical necessity for the donation of the organ or bone marrow.

An employee must first use their earned but unused sick leave for bone marrow donation and two (2) week’s worth of earned but unused sick leave for organ donation. If the employee has an insufficient number of sick days available, the leave will be considered unpaid.

Employees returning from Donor Leave will be reinstated to the position held before the leave began, or to a position with equivalent status, benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. The School may refuse to reinstate an employee if the reason is unrelated to taking a Donor Leave. A Donor Leave is not permitted to be taken concurrently with an FMLA/CFRA Leave.

Domestic Violence Leave/Sexual Assault /Stalking Leave

If you are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, you may take time off to obtain or attempt to obtain judicial relief, such as obtaining restraining orders, to help ensure your health, safety or welfare or that of your child(ren). Employees may use available PN days. Otherwise, the time off is unpaid. All employees can take time off from work to get medical attention or services from a domestic violence shelter, program, or rape crisis center, or receive psychological counseling or safety planning related to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victim’s leave for medical treatment does not exceed or add to the unpaid leave time that FMLA/CFRA allows.

You must give the School reasonable notice unless advance notice is not feasible, and provide certification that you are seeking such assistance.

Certification may be sufficiently provided by any of the following:

- A police report indicating that you were a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking;
- A court order protecting or separating you from the perpetrator of an act of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, or other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that you appeared in court; or,
- Documentation from a medical professional, domestic violence advocate, health care provider, or counselor that you are undergoing treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse resulting in victimization from an act of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

Employees have the right to ask the School for help or changes in their workplace to make sure they are safe at work. The School will work with its employees to see what changes can be made. Changes in the workplace may include putting in locks, changing shifts or phone numbers, transferring or reassigning the employee, or help with keeping a record of what happened to the employee. The School may ask the affected employee for a signed statement certifying that this request is for a proper purpose and may also request proof showing the need for an accommodation.

The School will, to the extent allowed by law, maintain the confidentiality of an employee requesting leave under this provision. The School will not discharge, discriminate or retaliate against an employee who exercises their rights under this law.

The School is committed to ensuring employees are not treated differently or retaliated against because of any of the following:

- The employee is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- The employee asked for time off to get help.
- The employee asked the School for help or changes in the workplace to ensure safety at work.

If any employee believes that he/she/they has experienced retaliation or discrimination as a result of conduct protected by this policy, the employee may file a complaint with his or her supervisor and/or the Labor Commissioner's Office.

For more information, contact the Labor Commissioner's Office by phone at 213-897-6595 or visit a local office by finding the nearest one on the website: www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/DistrictOffices.htm.

The Labor Commissioner's Office provides an interpreter at no cost to the employee, if needed.

Adult Literacy Leave

Pursuant to California law, the School will reasonably accommodate any eligible employee who seeks to enroll in an adult literacy education program, provided that the accommodation does not impose an undue hardship on the School. The School does not provide paid time off for participation in an adult literacy education. However, you may utilize accrued PN days if you want compensation for this time off. If you do not have accrued PN days available, you will be permitted to take the time off without pay.

Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Leave

The School will reasonably accommodate any employee who volunteers to enter an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program, if the reasonable accommodation does not impose an undue hardship on the School. Reasonable accommodation includes time off without pay and adjusting

work hours. You may use accrued and unused PN Days or paid sick leave. All reasonable measures to safeguard your privacy will be maintained.

This policy in no way restricts the School's right to discipline an employee, up to and including termination of employment, for violation of School's Drug and Alcohol Policy.

Volunteer Civil Service Leave

In California, no employee shall receive discipline for taking time off to perform emergency duty as a volunteer firefighter, reserve peace officer, or emergency rescue personnel. If you are participating in this kind of emergency duty, please alert your supervisor so that he/she/they may be aware of the fact that you may have to take unpaid time off for emergency duty. In the event that you need to take time off for emergency duty, please alert your supervisor before doing so whenever possible.

Emergency Duty is unpaid. You may choose to use your accrued PN Days if you wish to receive compensation for this time off, but you are not required to do so.

If you feel you have been treated unfairly as a result of taking or requesting Emergency Duty, you should contact your supervisor or any other manager, as appropriate.

Returning From Leave of Absence

Employees cannot return from a medical leave of absence without first providing a sufficient doctor's return to work authorization.

When business considerations require, the job of an employee on leave may be filled by a temporary or regular replacement. An employee should give the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS) thirty (30) days' notice before returning from leave. Whenever the School is notified of an employee's intent to return from a leave, the School will attempt to place the employee in his former position or in a comparable position with regard to salary and other terms and conditions for which the employee is qualified. However, re-employment cannot always be guaranteed. If you need further information regarding Leaves of Absence, be sure to consult Human Resources.

DISCIPLINE AND TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Rules of Conduct

The following conduct is prohibited and will not be tolerated by the School. This list of prohibited conduct is illustrative only and applies to all employees of the School; other types of conduct that threaten security, personal safety, employee welfare and the School's operations also may be prohibited. Further, the specification of this list of conduct in no way alters the at-will employment relationship as to at-will employees of the School. If an employee is working under

a contract with the School which grants procedural rights prior to termination, the procedural terms in the contract shall apply.

1. Insubordination - refusing to perform a task or duty assigned within reason or act in accordance with instructions provided by an employee's manager or proper authority.
2. Inefficiency - including deliberate restriction of output, carelessness or unnecessary wastes of time or material, neglect of job, duties or responsibilities.
3. Unauthorized soliciting, collecting of contributions, distribution of literature, written or printed matter is strictly prohibited on School property by non-employees and by employees. This rule does not cover periods of time when employees are off their jobs, such as lunch periods and break times. However, employees properly off their jobs are prohibited from such activity with other employees who are performing their work tasks.
4. Damaging, defacing, unauthorized removal, destruction or theft of another employee's property or of School property.
5. Fighting or instigating a fight on School premises.
6. Violations of the drug and alcohol policy.
7. Using or possessing firearms, weapons or explosives of any kind on School premises.
8. Gambling on School premises.
9. Tampering with or falsifying any report or record including, but not limited to, personnel, absentee, sickness or production reports or records, specifically including applications for employment and time cards.
10. Recording the time card, when applicable, of another employee or permitting or arranging for another employee to record your time card.
11. Use of profane, abusive or threatening language in conversations with other employees and/or intimidating or interfering with other employees.
12. Conducting personal business during business hours and/or unauthorized use of telephone lines for personal calls.
13. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness excused or unexcused.
14. Posting any notices on School premises without prior written approval of management, unless posting is on a School bulletin board designated for employee postings.
15. Immoral or indecent conduct.
16. Conviction of a criminal act.
17. Engaging in sabotage or espionage (industrial or otherwise).
18. Violations of the sexual harassment policy.
19. Failure to report a job-related accident to the employee's manager or failure to take or follow prescribed tests, procedures or treatment.
20. Sleeping during work hours.
21. Release of confidential information without authorization.
22. Any other conduct detrimental to other employees or the School's interests or its efficient operations.
23. Refusal to speak to supervisors or other employees.

24. Dishonesty.
25. Failure to possess or maintain the credential/certificate required of the position.

For employees who possess an employment contract which provides for other than at-will employment, the procedures and process for termination during the contract shall be specified in the contract.

Off-Duty Conduct

While the School does not seek to interfere with the off-duty and personal conduct of its employees, certain types of off-duty conduct may interfere with the School's legitimate business interests. For this reason, employees are expected to conduct their personal affairs in a manner that does not adversely affect the School or its own integrity, reputation, or credibility. Illegal or immoral off-duty conduct by an employee that adversely affects the School's legitimate business interests or the employee's ability to perform his or her work will not be tolerated.

While employed by the School, employees are expected to devote their energies to their jobs with the School. For this reason, second jobs are strongly discouraged. The following types of additional employment elsewhere are strictly prohibited:

- Additional employment that conflicts with an employee's work schedule, duties, and responsibilities at our School.
- Additional employment that creates a conflict of interest or is incompatible with the employee's position with our School.
- Additional employment that impairs or has a detrimental effect on the employee's work performance with our School.
- Additional employment that requires the employee to conduct work or related activities on the School's property during the employer's working hours or using our School's facilities and/or equipment; and
- Additional employment that directly or indirectly competes with the business or the interests of our School.

Employees who wish to engage in additional employment that may create a real or apparent conflict of interest must submit a written request to the School explaining the details of the additional employment. If the additional employment is authorized, the School assumes no responsibility for it. The School shall not provide workers' compensation coverage or any other benefit for injuries occurring from or arising out of additional employment. Authorization to engage in additional employment can be revoked at any time.

Termination of Employment

Should it become necessary for you to terminate your at-will employment with the School, please notify the Director (WECS) or Campus Director/Dean (WCS) regarding your intention as far in advance as possible. At least two (2) weeks notice is expected whenever possible.

When you terminate your at-will employment, if you are participating in the medical and/or dental plan, you will be provided information on your rights under COBRA.

TITLE IX

Title IX remains a critical federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including sexual harassment) in our schools. It protects male and female students and employees in any educational entity that receives federal funds. In addition, Title IX protects transgender students and students who do not conform to sex stereotypes. State law also prohibits discrimination based on gender (sex), gender expression, gender identity, and sexual orientation. The preamble to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states that:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Title IX Coordinator

Sarah France
1431 S. Main Street
Willits, CA 95490
707-459-5506
sfrance@willitscharter.net

Title IX Coordinator Job Description

The Title IX Coordinator must notify applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students, employees, and all professional agreements with the recipient, of the name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the employee or employee designated as the Title IX Coordinator pursuant to this paragraph. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed above for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address, listed for the Title IX Coordinator.

INTERNAL COMPLAINT REVIEW

Open Door Policy

The School wishes to provide the most positive and productive work environment possible. To that end, it has an open door policy where it welcomes your questions, suggestions or complaints relating to your job, conditions of employment, the School or the treatment you are receiving. Other than in situations involving harassment (as outlined and described above), please contact the Director(s) with your questions or concerns. If the situation is not resolved to your satisfaction, please contact the Board President preferably in writing, who will further investigate the issue.

The purpose of the “Internal Complaint Review Policy” is to afford all employees of the School the opportunity to seek internal resolution of their work-related concerns. All employees have free access to the Director(s) or Board of Directors to express their work-related concerns.

Specific complaints of unlawful harassment are addressed under the School’s “Policy Against Unlawful Harassment.”

Internal Complaints

(Complaints by Employees Against Employees)

This section of the policy is for use when a School employee raises a complaint or concern about a co-worker.

If reasonably possible, internal complaints should be resolved at the lowest possible level, including attempts to discuss/resolve concerns with the immediate supervisor. However, in the event an informal resolution may not be achieved or is not appropriate, the following steps will be followed by the Director(s) or designee:

1. The complainant will bring the matter to the attention of the Director(s) as soon as possible after attempts to resolve the complaint with the immediate supervisor have failed or if not appropriate; and
2. The complainant will reduce his or her complaint to writing, indicating all known and relevant facts. The Director(s) or designee will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation;
3. If the complaint is about a Director, the complainant may file his or her complaint in a signed writing to the President of the Board of Directors of the School, who will then confer with the Board and may conduct a fact-finding or authorize a third party investigator on behalf of the Board. The Board President or investigator will report his or her findings to the Board for review and action, if necessary.

This policy cannot guarantee that every problem will be resolved to the employee’s satisfaction.

However, the School values each employee's ability to express concerns and the need for resolution without fear of adverse consequences to employment.

Policy for Complaints Against Employees

(Complaints by Third Parties Against Employees)

This section of the policy is for use when a non-employee raises a complaint or concern about a School employee.

If complaints cannot be resolved informally, complainants may file a written complaint with the office of the Director(s) or Board President (if the complaint concerns a Director) as soon as possible after the events that give rise to the complainant's concerns. The written complaint should set forth in detail the factual basis for the complaint.

In processing the complaint, Director (or designee) shall abide by the following process:

1. The Director or designee shall use his or her best efforts to talk with the parties identified in the complaint and to ascertain the facts relating to the complaint.
2. In the event that the Director (or designee) finds that a complaint against an employee is valid, the Director (or designee) may take appropriate disciplinary action against the employee. As appropriate, the Director (or designee) may also simply counsel/reprimand employees as to their conduct without initiating formal disciplinary measures.
3. The Director's (or designee's) decision relating to the complaint shall be final unless it is appealed to the Board of Directors of the School. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

General Requirements Regarding Complaints

1. **Confidentiality**: All complainants will be notified that information obtained from the complainants and thereafter gathered will be maintained in a manner as confidential as possible, but in some circumstances absolute confidentiality cannot be assured.
2. **Non-Retaliation**: All complainants will be advised that they will be protected against retaliation as a result of the filing of any complaints or participation in any complaint process.

AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

This Employee Handbook contains the employment policies and practices of the School in effect at the time of publication. The School reserves the right to amend, delete or otherwise modify this Handbook at any time provided that such modifications are in writing and duly approved by the employer. Any written changes to the Handbook will be distributed to all employees. No oral statements can in any way alter the provisions of this Handbook.

APPENDIX A

HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM

It is the policy of the School that all of its employees be free from harassment. This form is provided for you to report what you believe to be harassment, so that the School may investigate and take appropriate disciplinary or other action when the facts show that there has been harassment.

If you are an employee of the School, you may file this form with the Director (WECS), Campus Director/Dean (WCS), Human Resources, or Board President.

Please review the School's policies concerning harassment for a definition of harassment and a description of the types of conduct that are considered to be harassment.

The School will undertake every effort to handle the investigation of your complaint in a confidential manner. In that regard, the School will disclose the contents of your complaint only to those persons having a need to know. For example, to conduct its investigation, the School will need to disclose portions of your factual allegations to potential witnesses, including anyone you have identified as having knowledge of the facts on which you are basing your complaint, as well as the alleged harasser.

In signing this form below, you authorize the School to disclose to others the information you have provided herein, and information you may provide in the future. Please note that the more detailed information you provide, the more likely it is that the School will be able to address your complaint to your satisfaction.

Charges of harassment are taken very seriously by the School both because of the harm caused to the person harassed, and because of the potential sanctions that may be taken against the harasser. It is therefore very important that you report the facts as accurately and completely as possible and that you cooperate fully with the person or persons designated to investigate your complaint.

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s):

Name of Person(s) you believe sexually harassed you or someone else:

List any witnesses that were present:

Where did the incident(s) occur?

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I acknowledge that I have read and that I understand the above statements. I hereby authorize the School to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation.

I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Complainant

Date:

Print Name

Received by: _____

Date:

APPENDIX B
COMPLAINT FORM

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s): _____

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against:

List any witnesses that were present:

Where did the incident(s) occur?

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I hereby authorize the School to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand providing false information could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Signature of Complainant

Date: _____

Print Name

To be completed by School:

Received by: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX C

USDA NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint \(https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint\)](https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.