



# Employee Handbook 2018-2019

PO Box 490, Santa Maria, CA 93456  
(805) 348-3333 • fax (805) 348-3334 • [www.FPCharter.org](http://www.FPCharter.org)



**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

**PLEASE READ THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND SUBMIT A SIGNED COPY OF THIS STATEMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

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 also understand that if I am ever unclear on any language, or policies and procedures in this Handbook, it is my responsibility to seek clarification from the School.

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 Board of the School, 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 the School, and retain this Handbook for your reference.**

## **Introduction**

This Handbook summarizes the Family Partnership Home Study Charter School's (hereinafter referred to as "FPCS" or the "School") personnel policies applicable to all employees. Please review these policies carefully. If you have any questions about the policies outlined in this Handbook, or if you have any other personnel related questions, whether related to policies specifically addressed in this Handbook, please consult your Coordinator.

This Handbook is intended only as a guide to the School's personnel policies, outlining and highlighting those policies and practices. It is not, therefore, intended to create any expectations of continued employment, or an employment contract, express or implied. Negotiable employment rights for all represented employees shall be governed by any applicable collective bargaining agreement. This Handbook supersedes any previously issued handbooks, policies, benefit statements and/or memoranda, whether written or verbal, including those that are inconsistent with the policies described herein.

The School reserves the right to alter, modify, amend, delete and/or supplement any employment policy or practice (including, but not limited to, areas involving hiring policies and procedures, general work place policies, hours of work, overtime and attendance, standards of conduct, employee benefits, employment evaluation and separation) with or without notice to you. However, only the Executive Director, with the written approval of the Governing Council may alter the at-will employment status of any of its employees.

Once you have reviewed this Handbook, please sign the two employee acknowledgement forms at the end of this Handbook, keep one for your files and provide the other to your Coordinator. This signed acknowledgement demonstrates to the School that you have read, understand and agree to comply with the policies outlined in the Handbook.

### **I. HIRING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

#### **A. Employment Status**

Unless expressly agreed upon in writing by you and the School, signed by you, the Executive Director AND approved in writing by the Governing Council, or unless specified in any applicable collective bargaining agreement, employment with the School is at-will. In either case, this Handbook does not in any way reflect a modification to this policy and does not constitute a contract of employment, either express or implied, between you and the School. Accordingly, unless otherwise identified in a specific employment agreement or any applicable collective bargaining agreement, either the employee or the School may terminate this relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause or advance notice. With regard the represented employees, employment rights shall be governed by any applicable collective bargaining agreement. If you are unsure of your employment status, please consult Human Resources.

Nothing contained in this Handbook, the employment application, School memoranda or other materials provided to any employee in connection with his/her employment, other than a signed, approved employment contract, shall require the School to have "cause" or reason to terminate

an employee or otherwise restrict the School's right to terminate an employee at any time for any reason. No School representative is authorized to modify this policy for any employee, unless in writing, signed by both the Executive Director AND approved in writing by the Governing Council.

## **B. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy**

The School is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of the School to afford equal employment and advancement opportunities to all qualified individuals without regard to:

- Race;
- Color;
- Gender (including gender identity, gender expression, transgender identity, whether or not the employee is transitioning or has transitioned);
- Sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and medical conditions related to such);
- Religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices);
- Marital/registered domestic partner status;
- Age (forty (40) and over);
- National origin or ancestry (including native language spoken, and possession of a driver's license issued to persons unable to provide their presence in the U.S. is authorized by federal law);
- Physical or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS);
- Medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics);
- Taking of a leave of absence pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"), Pregnancy Disability Leave ("PDL") law, Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"), the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"), or laws related to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking;
- Genetic information;
- Sexual orientation;
- Military and veteran status; or
- Any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws.

This policy extends to all job applicants and employees and to all aspects of the employment relationship, including the hiring of new employees and the training, transfer, promotion, discipline, termination, 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 his/her Coordinator and request such an accommodation. The individual with the disability should specify what accommodation he or she needs to perform the job. The Coordinator then will conduct an investigation to identify the barriers that interfere with the equal opportunity of the applicant or employee to perform his/her job. The Coordinator

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.

Any employee, who believes prohibited discrimination has occurred, should contact his/her direct supervisor or the Executive Director immediately. Reports will be investigated and appropriate corrective action will be taken.

### **C. 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 or she 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. Finally, in compliance with the Immigrant Worker Protection Act, the School shall not allow a federal immigration enforcement agent to enter any nonpublic areas of the School without a judicial warrant, or voluntarily give consent to an agent to access, review or obtain employee records without a subpoena or judicial warrant.

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

### **D. Employee Classification**

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 state and federal 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 state or federal 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 40 hours in a week.

**Part Time:** Part time employees are those employees who are scheduled to work less than 40 hours in a week. Part time employees shall work on an hourly basis.

**Probationary:** Probationary employees are those in their first three years of service. Refer to collective Bargaining agreement.

**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 10 months.

Part time employees who work less than thirty (30) hours per week 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.

#### **E. Relationships Between Employees**

While the School's policies do not permit discrimination based on an individual's marital status, the individual's relations 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.

An employee should not be in a supervisory role with another employee who is a relative (i.e., sibling, parent, spouse, domestic partner, etc.). Supervisors should avoid situations that result in actual or perceived conflicts of interest with supervised employees and situations of favoritism.

A supervisor should avoid forming special social relationships or dating employees under his or her direct supervision, or with other employees that would create actual or perceived conflicts of interest and situations of favoritism. If such 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.

#### **F. Certification and Licensure of Instructional Staff**

Each of the School's core academic teachers is 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." 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 the

Executive Director no later than the close of business on the first day the employee reports for duty. If an instructional staff employee believes that he or she is assigned to teach in a subject in which he or she does not have subject matter competence, the employee should immediately report the same to the Executive Director. 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.

### **G. 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. 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 borne by the applicant.

Food handlers may be required to have annual TB exams. Documentation of employee and volunteer compliance with TB risk assessments and examinations will be kept on file in the office. This requirement also includes contract food handlers, substitute teachers, and student teachers serving under the supervision of an educator. Any entity providing student services to the School will be contractually required to ensure that all contract workers have had TB testing that shows them to be free of active TB prior to conducting work with School students.

### **H. Criminal Background Checks**

As required by law, all individuals working or volunteering 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 to the safety and the well-being of students taking 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 Executive Director.

## **II. GENERAL WORKPLACE POLICIES**

### **A. Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation**

#### **1. Policy**

The School is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. The School's policy prohibits unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation based upon: race; color; gender (including gender identity, gender



expression, transgender identity, whether or not the employee is transitioning or has transitioned); sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions); religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices); marital/registered domestic partner status; age (forty (40) and over); national origin or ancestry (including native language spoken and possession of a driver's licence issued to persons unable to prove their presence in the U.S. is authorized by federal law); physical or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS); medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics), taking a leave of absence authorized by law; genetic information; sexual orientation; military and veteran status; or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws.

Employees, volunteers, unpaid interns, individuals in apprenticeship programs, and independent contractors shall not be harassed or discriminated or retaliated against based upon the characteristics noted above.

The School does not condone and will not tolerate unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation on the part of any employee, (including supervisors and managers) or third party (including independent contractors or other person with which the School does business). Supervisors and managers are to report any complaints of unlawful harassment to the Principal or the Executive Director.

When the School receives allegations of unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation, the Principal or designee will conduct a fair, timely and thorough investigation that provides all parties an appropriate process and reaches reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected. (If the complaint is against the Principal, the Executive Director or designee will investigate; if the complaint is against the Executive Director, the Governing Council or designee will investigate.) The investigation will be handled in as confidential a manner as possible, although complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Complainants and witnesses shall not be subject to retaliation for making complaints in good faith or participating in an investigation. The School is committed to remediating any instances where investigation findings demonstrate unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation has occurred.

## **2. 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.

## **3. 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 or physical conduct of a sexual nature, regardless of whether or not 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; (2) an employment decision is based upon an individual's acceptance or rejection of that conduct; and/or (3) that conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

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

All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation 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 address all legally required topics, including 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. Abusive conduct includes but is not limited to repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of derogatory remarks, insults, and epithets, verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating, or the gratuitous sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance. 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 Principal. See **Appendix A** for the "Harassment/Discrimination/Retaliation Complaint Form." See **Appendix B** for the general Internal "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.
- **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 FPCS policy.

#### **4. What to do if Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment Occurs**

**Internal Procedures:** Refer to Uniform Complaint Policies.

**School Level Investigation:** Each Coordinator has the responsibility to maintain a work place and educational environment free from any form of sexual or other unlawful harassment. Consequently, should a Coordinator become aware of any conduct that may constitute sexual harassment, discrimination or other prohibited behavior, immediate action will be taken to address and remediate such conduct.

Any employee who has experienced or is aware of a situation that is believed to be sexually or otherwise unlawfully harassing has a responsibility to report the situation immediately to his/her Coordinator. If the employee is not comfortable contacting his/her coordinator or if that individual is not available, the employee should contact the Executive Director at 625 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, CA. 93454 or by phone at (805) 348-3333 ext.1025. A Harassment Complaint Form may be obtained from the Director. The Director will conduct a prompt investigation and take appropriate corrective action where warranted. Complaints will be handled as discreetly as possible, consistent with the need to investigate effectively and promptly

resolve the matter. Complaints relating to discrimination other than employment discrimination must be filed within six months of the alleged discrimination or when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the alleged discrimination.

### **Governing Council Level Investigation:**

If the employee is not satisfied with the outcome of the school level investigation, the employee, in writing, should bring the matter to the attention of the President of the Governing Council at 625 S. McClelland, Suite A, Santa Maria, CA 9345, or PO Box, phone and fax listed on the cover.

If the parties mutually agree, the complainant and the Governing Council may resolve the matter through mediation or informally before a written complaint is filed. If mediation fails to resolve the matter, or the parties do not agree to mediate the matter, the formal complaint procedure identified below shall be followed.

If the complaint alleges wrongdoing involving discrimination, other than employment discrimination, or claims of failure to comply with applicable state or federal laws or regulations, the President of the Governing Council will complete an investigation where the complainant, his/her representative or both, and representatives of the School, have the opportunity to present the complaint and evidence or information leading to evidence to support the allegations of non-compliance with state or federal laws and/or regulations.

Refusal by the complainant to provide the investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, or to otherwise fail or refuse to cooperate in the investigation or engage in any other obstruction of the investigation, may result in the dismissal of the complaint because of lack of evidence to support the allegations.

Complaints will be handled as discreetly as possible, consistent with the need to investigate effectively and promptly resolve the matter. President of the Governing Council will be knowledgeable of the laws/programs that he/she is assigned to investigate.

Any employee found to have participated in improper harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including possible dismissal.

### **B. Professional Boundaries: 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.

#### **1. 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.

**2. 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.

### **3. Duty to Report Suspected Misconduct**

When any employee reasonably suspects or believes that another staff member may have crossed the boundaries specified in this policy, he or she must immediately report the matter to a school administrator. All reports shall be as confidential as possible under the circumstances. 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.

#### **Examples of Specific Behaviors**

The following examples are not an exhaustive list:

### **4. 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) Discussing inappropriate personal troubles or intimate issues with a student in an attempt to gain their support and understanding.
- (j) Becoming involved with a student so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior.

### **5. 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 in your home.

## **6. 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

## **7. 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 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 your Director 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.

## **C. 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 your Coordinator.

#### **D. Whistleblower Policy**

The School requires its directors, 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 directors, 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.

#### **E. 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 your Coordinator with your questions or concerns. If the situation is not resolved to your satisfaction, please contact the Executive Director, preferably in writing, who will further investigate the issue.

#### **F. Internal Complaint Review**

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 Executive Director or Governing Council to express their work-related concerns.



Specific complaints of unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation are addressed under the School's "Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation."

### **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 Executive Director or designee:

1. The complainant will bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Director 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 Executive Director or designee will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation;
3. If the complaint is about the Executive Director, the complainant may file his or her complaint in a signed writing to the President of the School's Governing Council, who will then confer with the Governing Council and may conduct a fact-finding or authorize a third party investigator on behalf of the Governing Council. The Governing Council President or investigator will report his or her findings to the Governing Council 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 consequence 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 Executive Director or Governing Council President (if the complaint concerns the 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, the Executive Director (or designee) shall abide by the following process:

1. The Executive 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 Executive Director (or designee) finds that a complaint against an employee is valid, the Executive Director (or designee) may take appropriate disciplinary action against the employee. As appropriate, the Executive Director (or designee) may also simply counsel/reprimand employees as to their conduct without initiating formal disciplinary measures.
3. The Executive Director's (or designee's) decision relating to the complaint shall be final unless it is appealed to the School's Governing Council. The decision of the Governing Council shall be final.

### **General Requirements**

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.
3. Resolution: The Governing Council (if a complaint is about the Director) or the Director 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

### **G. Drug and Alcohol-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. The use of drugs and alcohol by employees, whether on or off the job, jeopardizes these goals, since it adversely affects health and safety, security, productivity, and public confidence and trust. Drug or alcohol use in the workplace or during the performance of job duties is extremely harmful to employees and to other FPCS 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

### **H. Smoking**

All School buildings and facilities are non-smoking facilities.

### **I. Health, Safety and Security Policies**

## **Health and Safety**

The School is committed to providing and maintaining a healthy and safe work environment for all employees. Accordingly, the School has instituted an Injury and Illness Prevention Program designed to protect the health and safety of all personnel. Every employee will receive a copy of the Injury and Illness Prevention Program, which is kept by Human Resources and is available for your review.

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 their supervisor any potential health or safety hazards and all injuries or accidents.

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

## **Security Protocols**

The School has also developed guidelines to help maintain a secure workplace. Be aware of unknown persons loitering in parking areas, walkways, entrances, exits and service areas. Report any suspicious persons or activities to any security personnel or to your supervisor. Secure your desk or office at the end of the day. 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. Employees should immediately notify their supervisor when keys are missing or if security access codes, identification materials, or passes have been breached. The security of the facilities, as well as the welfare of our employees, depends upon the alertness and sensitivity of every individual to potential security risks.

## **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.

### **J. 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.

The School also reserves the right to inspect any vehicle, its trunk, glove compartment or any container therein that is parked on the School property or premises. The School reserves the right to deny entry to any person who refuses to cooperate with any inspections by the School. Any employee who fails to cooperate with inspections may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

### **K. Personal Business**

FPCS'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.

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.

## **L. Use of Company Communication Equipment and Technology**

All School owned communications equipment and technology, including computers, electronic mail systems, voicemail systems, internet access, software, telephone systems, document transmission systems and handheld data processing systems 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. Therefore, employees are required to provide to the IT Systems Administrator all passwords used in connection with the School's communications equipment and technology any time the employee's passwords are created or change. 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. Internet use, unless previously authorized, is for business purposes only. 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 e-mail 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 e-mail 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 a voicemail message 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.

Employees should not use personal devices or email accounts for School-related communications. Such communications should only take place using School-issued devices and via the employee's School email account. This is in response to a recent case regarding the subpoena of personal cell phones, emails, etc.

#### **M. Social Media**

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

- School equipment, including its computers and electronics systems, may not be used for these purposes;
- Student and employee confidentiality policies must be adhered to;
- 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 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 sexual harassment and retaliation

The School reserves the right to take disciplinary action against any employee whose blog violates this or other School policies.

#### **N. Participation in Recreational or Social Activities**

Employees may participate in 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.

#### **O. Personnel Files and Record Keeping Protocols**

At the time of your employment, a personnel file is established for each employee. It is each employee's responsibility to keep Human Resources and Administration advised of changes that

should be reflected in their personnel file. Such changes include: change in name, 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 the employee should the change affect their other records.

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

The School will restrict disclosure of personnel files to authorized individuals within the School. A request for information contained in the personnel file must be directed to the Executive Director. Only the Executive Director 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.

Credible 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 credible, unsubstantiated or a determination was made that discipline was not warranted.

#### **P. Professional Growth**

Authorization for courses(s), conferences and workshops must be approved by the Director or designee administrator for advancement on the salary schedule.

Salary advancement will not be approved if any school funds are used to take the course/workshop/conference, travel reimbursement registration, etc.

Verification of all courses must be submitted to the school by September 15th of the year in which advancement is sought.

Credit for upper division courses, workshops and conferences must be directly related to the Advisor's teaching assignment. (Lower division units will be considered if it enables the teacher to obtain a supplemental credential. Lower division units will also be considered for a teacher who needs assistance in an area of deficiency, or for a reassignment).

Official enrollment and grade slips may be used for verification for ninety days. An official transcript must be received by the school to verify completion course(s).

Repetition of workshops, courses and conferences will not be accepted. Progressive courses, etc. will only be accepted for salary advancement.

Consideration for salary advancement for the next fiscal year notification from the teacher must be submitted to school office by May 15th. Any request after May 15th will not be considered. The Director or designee shall:

1. Advise teachers of school and state professional growth requirements.
2. Identify growth needs of the school.
3. Assist in defining the teacher's goals and objectives for professional growth.
4. Approve all plans prior to their implementation and upon completion.

The Director or designee shall provide all teachers with the names and work locations of the school's designated professional growth advisors. (5 CCR 80556)

### **III. HOURS OF WORK, OVERTIME AND ATTENDANCE**

#### **A. Work Hours and Schedules**

The School's normal working hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or as agreed upon in applicable collective bargaining agreement. (currently 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.). The work schedule for full-time non-exempt employees is normally (forty) 40 hours per week. Your supervisor will assign your work schedule. Exempt employees are also generally expected to be present during business hours and to commit whatever additional time is necessary to satisfactorily complete all job requirements.

#### **B. Overtime**

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 in writing by the Executive Director. 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.



### **C. Work Breaks**

Non-exempt employees working at least five (5) hours are provided with a thirty (30) minute meal period, to be taken approximately in the middle of the workday but by no later than the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> hour of work. 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 School mutually consent to the waiver in writing.

Non-exempt employees are also provided with a 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. Employees are prohibited from combining meal and rest period time.

An employee's supervisor must be aware of and approve scheduled meal and rest periods. Employees must immediately inform their supervisor if they are prevented from taking their meal and/or rest periods. Employees are expected to observe assigned working hours and the time allowed for meal and rest 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 the non-exempt employee 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.

### **D. Pay Days**

For all employees, payday is scheduled on the last day of each month, unless otherwise agreed to. Each paycheck will include earnings for all reported work performed through the end of the payroll period. In the event that a regularly scheduled payday falls on a weekend or holiday, employees will receive their pay on the preceding day of work.

For certificated employees, paydays are scheduled on the last payday of each month 10 months a year. Employees may elect to have summer savings deducted from their monthly earnings. Unless otherwise agreed upon each paycheck reflects an amount equal to your salary, divided by 10 because the charter school pays in 10 equal monthly payments. If the certificated employee elects summer savings, each paycheck will reflect earnings for each month, less a percentage to be paid to you in July and August as a refund. All taxes and deductions will be deducted from the 10 month period and no deductions will be taken during the months of July and August.

An employee should promptly notify the Chief Business Officer if he/she has a question regarding the calculations of your paycheck; any corrections will be noted and will appear on the following payroll.

### **E. 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:

Federal Income Tax Withholding: The amount varies with the number of exemptions the employee claims and the gross pay amount.

State Income Tax Withholding: The same factors which apply to federal withholdings apply to state withholdings.

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.

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 should ask the Chief Business Officer 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 the Classified Coordinator. The School's business office maintains a supply of these forms.

All Federal, State and Social Security taxes will be automatically deducted from paychecks. The Federal Withholding Tax deduction is determined by the employee's W-4 form, which should be completed upon hire. It is the employee's responsibility to report any changes in filing status to the Chief Business Official / Payroll 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.

The School offers programs and benefits beyond those required by law. Employees who wish to participate in these programs may voluntarily authorize deductions from their paychecks.

### **F. 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.

### **G. Attendance Policy**

All employees, whether exempt or non-exempt, are expected to adhere to regular attendance and to be punctual. Absenteeism and tardiness negatively affects the School's ability to implement its educational program and disrupts consistency in students' learning.

If it is necessary to be absent or late, employees are expected to arrange it in advance with their Coordinator, Human Resources and Administration. Employees must submit an absence form either prior to or on the day the employee returns to work to Human Resources. If it is not possible to arrange the absence or tardiness in advance, the employee must notify his/her Coordinator, Human Resources and Administration no later than one-half hour before the start of his/her workday. In the event a substitute is needed, the employee are also responsible to arrange for a qualified substitute from the approved substitute list. If a certificated advisor is absent during the workday due to illness or injury, the sick time shall be deducted from the unit member's accrued sick leave balance in proportion to the workday. However, in the event a unit member is absent from work for less than two (2) hours due to illness or injury and no substitute is required, there shall be no deduction from the unit member's accrued sick leave balance.

If an employee is absent from work longer than one (1) day, he or she is expected to keep his/her Coordinator, Human Resources and Administration sufficiently informed of the situation.

As noted in the section of this Handbook concerning prohibited conduct, excessive or unexcused absences or tardiness may result in disciplinary action up to and including release from at-will employment with the School. Absence for more than three (3) consecutive days without notifying the Principal will be considered a voluntary resignation from employment.

### **H. Time 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 time card system.

Non-exempt employees must accurately clock 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 clock in and out for arrival and departure, along with lunch and for 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 the Human Resources.

Non-exempt employees are prohibited from performing off-the-clock work, including but not limited to checking emails before/after work hours, performing work in the morning before logging in, and running School errands after logging out.

No one may record hours worked on another's worksheet. Any employee, who violates any aspect of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including release from at-will employment with the School.

### **I. Mandatory Training and Meetings**

The School will pay non-exempt employees for attendance at mandatory trainings, lectures and meetings outside of regular working hours only in the following circumstances:

1. The employee's present working conditions or continuation of employment is not adversely affected by nonattendance;
2. The course, meeting or lecture is not directly related to the employee's job, meaning it is not designed to make him/her handle his/her job more effectively (as distinguished from training for another job or to a new or additional skill); or
3. The employee does not perform any productive work during such attendance.

All mandatory trainings, lectures and meetings will be identified as such. The School will not pay non-exempt employees for attendance at voluntary trainings. An employee who is unsure about the characterization of an offered training, lecture or meeting, must contact the Executive Director before attending.

All non-exempt employees must accurately reflect attendance at all mandatory trainings, lectures and meetings outside of regular working hours on their time records.

### **Holidays**

FPCS's 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

Other days during the school year, such as days during the School’s calendared breaks, shall not be paid time for 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 Principal. The employee will be paid if the religious holiday is taken as an earned paid leave day (i.e. vacation, 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.

## **J. Vacation**

While the School recognizes the importance of vacation time as a period of rest and rejuvenation away from the job, vacations must be scheduled with due consideration for “peak traffic periods” in the school. With this in mind, it is expected that vacation time will be taken when school is not in session.

For clerical employees, vacation days should be taken when school is not in session, preferably between July 1 to August 15. Vacation time is figured on a school year beginning with the opening of school rather than on a fiscal year.

## **IV. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

### **A. Personal Appearance**

Employees are expected to wear clothes that are neat, clean and professional while on duty. Employees are expected to appear well groomed and appear within professionally accepted standards suitable for the employee’s position, and must at all-time wear shoes. The employee’s Coordinator or Administration will inform him/her of any specific dress requirements for the position. Employees may not display tattoos on their bodies. If an employee has a tattoo that is visible, it is the employee’s responsibility to ensure that it is not visible during working hours.

FPCS 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. Slits or tears in pants or other articles of clothing are not permitted except for modest slits in women’s dresses or skirts that are no higher than three (3) inches above the knee.

- 2) Head coverings, including hats of any kind, except those worn for religious or safety reasons, are not to be worn inside school buildings including assemblies, classrooms, labs and offices. Hats may be worn outside for sun protection. All hats are to be removed upon entering school buildings. For exceptions to this policy, prior approval must be granted by the Principal.
- 3) Slacks and shorts are to be worn on the waist with no portion of an undergarment showing. Shorts should be modest in length and should be no higher than three (3) inches above the knee.
- 4) Skirts and dresses should be no higher than three (3) inches above the knee.
- 5) All tops must be appropriate to the work environment, and should be clean, neat, and provide proper coverage.
- 6) For safety purposes, earrings must not dangle more than one (1) inch below the ear.
- 7) Clothing or jewelry with logos that depict and/or promote gangs, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, violence, illegal activities, profanity, or obscenity are not permitted.
- 8) Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times.

## **B. Prohibited 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 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 clock card, when applicable, of another employee or permitting or arranging for another employee to record your clock 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.

### **C. 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. Employees will adhere to The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). Failure to maintain confidentiality may result in disciplinary action, up to and including release from at-will employment.

### **D. Conflict of Interest**

All employees must avoid situations involving actual or potential conflict of interest. An employee involved in any relationships or situations that he or she believes may constitute a conflict of interest, should immediately and fully disclose the relevant circumstances to his or her immediate supervisor, or any other appropriate supervisor, 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 related to a potential or actual conflict of interest shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

#### **E. Child Neglect and Abuse 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 or she 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.

Reporting the information regarding a case of possible child abuse or neglect to your supervisor, the School principal, a School counselor, coworker or other person shall not be a substitute for making a mandated report to the local law enforcement agency.

The School will provide annual training on the mandated reporting requirements, using the online training module provided by the State Department of Social Services, 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.

#### **F. Outside Employment**

Employees are required to inform the School, and receive approval, before accepting any employment or consulting relationship with another person or entity while employed by the School. While the School does not uniformly prohibit outside employment, employees will not be permitted to accept outside work that is competitive with the School, that creates a conflict of interest or that interferes with the employee's work for the School. The School will hold all employees to the same standards of performance and scheduling demands and will not make any exceptions for employees who also hold outside jobs.

#### **G. Expense Reimbursements**



**Expense reimbursements must be preapproved in writing.** The School will reimburse employees for certain 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, a copy of which may be obtained from in Staff Documents or from Chief Business Official. All reimbursement forms must be complete and submitted to the business office.

## **V. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

### **A Insurance Benefits**

#### **1. Health Insurance**

An employee is eligible for medical coverage if he or she is a regular employee working for the School at least thirty (30) hours per week. The School will cover a percentage of the premium for employees. The maximum amount is established by the Governing Council. Should an employee elect to pay the additional premium, beyond the maximum set forth by the Governing Council, dependents may be enrolled in the same program. The employee's portion of monthly premiums will be deducted from the employee's paycheck.

If medical insurance premium rates increase, employees may be required to contribute to the cost of increased premiums to retain coverage. Unless otherwise mandated by law, employees on a leave of absence of more than 30 days are responsible for selecting continuing health coverage and paying the premium for such coverage. Failure to timely request and pay for such coverage will result in the loss of coverage.

#### **2. Disability Insurance**

Classified employees are enrolled in California State Disability Insurance (SDI), which is a partial wage-replacement insurance plan for California workers. Employees may be eligible for SDI when they are ill or have non-work related injuries, or may be eligible for work related injuries if they are receiving workers' compensation at a weekly rate less than the SDI rate. Specific rules and regulations relating to SDI eligibility are available from Human Resources Coordinator. .

#### **3. Paid Family Leave Insurance**

Employees covered by the California Disability Insurance program are also covered by the California Paid Family Leave Insurance program. Eligible employees are entitled to receive up to six (6) weeks of wage replacement benefits when they suffer a wage loss for taking time off to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent or domestic partner or to bond with a new child within one year of birth or placement of the child in connection with foster care or adoption. Specific rules and regulations relating to the Family Leave Insurance are available from Human Resources.

#### **4. Workers' Compensation Insurance**

Eligible employees are entitled to Workers' Compensation Insurance benefits when suffering from an occupational illness or injury. This benefit is provided at no cost to the employee. See below for a further description of making a claim for Workers' Compensation Insurance benefits.

#### **5. COBRA Benefits**

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 spouse, and eligible dependent children can continue for up to 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 you ineligible for the plan.

This 18-month period may be extended an additional 11 months in cases of disability subject to certain requirements. This 18-month period also may 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 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 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 become eligible for Medicare, divorced or legally separated, die, or when a dependent child no longer meets the eligibility requirements, the employee or a family member are responsible for notifying the School within 30 days of the event. The School will then notify the employee or his/her dependents of the employee's rights.

Health coverage continuation must be elected within 60 days after receiving notice of the end of coverage, or within 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) becomes covered under another group health plan which does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any pre-existing condition the employee (or his/her spouse or child, as applicable) may have;
- The School stops providing group health benefits;
- The employee (or his/her 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.

## **B. Leaves of Absence**

Under certain circumstances, the School may grant leaves of absence to employees. Employees must submit requests for leaves of absence in writing to the Executive Director as far in advance as is practicable. While on leave, employees should occasionally keep in contact with the Executive Director and must notify the Executive Director if the date to return to work changes. If an employee's leave expires and he/she fails to return to work without contacting the Executive Director, it will be presumed that the employee abandoned his/her position with the School and employment may be terminated. If an employee is unable or unwilling to return to work at the expiration of his/her leave of absence, his/her employment may be terminated.

This Handbook summarizes leave that may be available to employees. Most leave policies have differing requirements for eligibility, duration, benefits, etc. Therefore, employees should contact Human Resources to request specific information relating to a particular leave policy. Most leaves of absence require Governing Council Approval.

While out on a leave of absence, employees may not accept employment with another company or person unless agreed to in advance in writing by the School's Executive Director. Acceptance of employment in violation of this policy will be considered an abandonment of the employee's position with the School, and employment may be terminated. Employees shall not apply for unemployment compensation insurance while out on leave.

### **1. 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

The School shall grant each full time employee ten (10) days of sick leave. Part time certificated employees will receive proportional sick leave.

Employees may carry over days of paid sick leave from school year to school year. Sick leave shall not be paid out upon separation from employment.

New employees may transfer days of paid sick leave that they have accrued at the school employer where the new employee was employed immediately prior to being employed by the School.

If an employee is absent longer than three (3) days due to illness, medical evidence of the employee's illness and/or medical certification of his/her fitness to return to work satisfactory to the School will 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.

## **2. 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 worked at least 1,250 hours during the twelve (12)-month period immediately preceding commencement of the FMLA leave and work at a location where the School has at least fifty (50) employees within seventy-five (75) miles, (except for purposes of baby-bonding where the threshold is twenty (20) employees).

- **Events That May Entitle an Employee to FMLA Leave**

The twelve (12)-week (or twenty-six (26)-workweek 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 servicemember 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 leave 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 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 vacation or 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 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**

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 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 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.

- **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 had when the leave commenced.

- **Medical Certifications**

1. An employee requesting FMLA leave because of his/her 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 a certification as needed.
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. Recertifications are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the health care provider. Failure to submit required recertification's 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 Executive Director. 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 or she 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) business 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.

- **Return to Work**

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**

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 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.

### **3. Pregnancy Disability Leave**

This policy explains how the School complies with the California Pregnancy Disability Act, which requires the School to give each female employee an unpaid leave of absence of up to four (4) months per pregnancy, as needed, for the period(s) of time a woman 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 her job without undue risk to herself, the successful completion of her 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 eight 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.

- **Pay during Pregnancy Disability Leave**

1. An employee on pregnancy disability leave must use all accrued paid sick leave and may use any or all accrued vacation time at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid leave period.
2. The receipt of vacation pay, sick leave pay, or state disability insurance benefits will not extend the length of pregnancy disability leave.
3. Vacation and 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**

FPCS shall provide continued health insurance coverage while an employee is on a 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. FPCS 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.

- **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, he or she will return with the same seniority he or she had when the leave commenced.

- **Medical Certifications**

1. An employee requesting a pregnancy disability leave must provide medical certification from her 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.
2. Recertification's are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the healthcare provider. Failure to submit required recertification's 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 Principal. An employee asking for a Request for Leave form will be referred to the School's then current pregnancy disability leave policy.
2. Employee should provide not less than thirty (30) days' notice or as soon 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 or she is qualified that has equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.
6. The School will respond to a pregnancy disability leave request 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.

- **Return to Work**

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, she 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 she 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 School policy, before an employee will be permitted to return from a pregnancy disability leave of three (3) days or more, the employee must obtain a certification from her healthcare provider that she is 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 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.

#### **4. Funeral/Bereavement Leave**

Employees will be allowed up to three (3) consecutive working days off without loss of pay to arrange and attend the funeral of an immediate family member. For purposes of this policy, an employee's immediate family member includes a current spouse or domestic partner, parent, legal guardian, sibling, child, current parents-in-law, current sister/brother-in-law, son/daughter-in-law, grandparent or grandchild.

If any employee requires more than three days off for bereavement leave, the employee may request additional unpaid leave or may request the opportunity to use any accrued vacation time, which may be granted in the discretion of the School.

Bereavement pay will not be used in computing overtime pay. Any scheduled days off (including weekends, holidays and vacations) falling during the absence will be counted as both bereavement leave and scheduled days off.

#### **5. Military 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, employee shall be permitted to continue their health benefits at their option through COBRA. Employees are entitled to use accrued vacation or paid time off as wage replacement during time served, provided such vacation/paid time off 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 or she left a full-time position, the employee must apply for reemployment within forty (40) days of being released from active duty, and if he or she 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.

## **6. Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Leave**

The School will reasonably accommodate an employee who voluntarily enters and participates in an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program, including potentially providing unpaid leave to participate in the program. The School will not pay for the costs incurred in attending a rehabilitation program. An employee who wishes to identify him or herself as an individual in need of the assistance of an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program may contact the Executive Director. The School will take all reasonable steps necessary to maintain the employee's privacy in this situation. The employee may use accrued sick leave or accrued vacation time, if any, during requested leave.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the School from refusing to hire or discharge an employee who, because of his or her current use of alcohol or drugs, is unable to perform his/her duties or cannot perform the duties in a manner that would not endanger his/her health or safety or the health or safety of others.

## **7. Time Off for Adult Literacy Programs**

The School will reasonably accommodate and assist any employee who reveals a problem of illiteracy and requests employer assistance in enrolling in an adult literacy education program. Employees will be required to bear the cost associated with enrollment in an adult literacy education program, but the School will assist the employee by providing the locations of local literacy education programs. The School may also arrange for a literacy education provider to visit the School.

An employee who wishes to reveal a problem of illiteracy and request School assistance should contact the Executive Director. The School will take all reasonable steps to safeguard the employee's privacy. Nonexempt employees may use accrued vacation pay if available to make up for the work that is missed to attend literacy classes.

## **8. School Appearance Leave**

Any employee who is a parent or legal guardian of a child that has received written notice from the child's school requesting his or her attendance at a disciplinary conference is entitled to take unpaid leave to attend the conference. The employee must provide a copy of the written notice or other certification from the child's school stating that the employee's presence is required. Please contact the Executive Director to determine eligibility and scheduling before taking any leave to attend a disciplinary conference.

## **9. School and Child Care 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 (1) 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 advanced notice of the planned absence. The employee must use accrued but unused paid leave (e.g., vacation or sick leave) 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.



## **10. Time Off to Serve as Election Official**

Any employee who serves as an election official is eligible for unpaid leave on Election Day for purposes of service. Please notify your Coordinator of your commitment to act as election official as far in advance as possible.

## **11. Jury and Witness Duty Leave**

The School will provide employees paid leave to serve as required by law, on a jury or grand jury if the employee provides reasonable advance notice. The School will also provide employees paid leave to appear in court or other judicial proceeding as a witness, as permitted by law, to comply with a valid subpoena or other court order. Employees must notify their Coordinator of their commitment to serve on a jury or as a witness as far in advance as possible.

## **12. Victims of Abuse Leave**

The School provides reasonable and necessary unpaid leave and other reasonable accommodations to employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Such leave may be taken to attend legal proceedings or to obtain or attempt to obtain any relief necessary, including a restraining order, to ensure the employee's own health, safety or welfare, or that of the employee's child or children. Employees may also request unpaid leave for the following purposes:

- Seek medical attention for injuries caused by domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- Obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, program, or rape crisis center.
- Obtain psychological counseling for the domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- Participate in safety planning, such as relocation, to protect against future domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

To request leave under this policy, an employee should provide the School with as much advance notice as practicable under the circumstances. If advance notice is not possible, the employee requesting leave under this policy should provide the School one (1) of the following certifications upon returning back to work:

1. A police report indicating that the employee was a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
2. A court order protecting the employee from the perpetrator or other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that the employee appeared in court.
3. Documentation from a licensed medical professional, domestic violence or sexual assault counselor, licensed health care provider, or counselor showing that the employee's absence was due to treatment for injuries or abuse from domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Employees requesting leave under this policy may choose to use accrued paid leave. In addition, the School will provide reasonable accommodations to employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking for the employees' safety while at work. To request an

accommodation under this policy, an employee should contact the Executive Director.

### **13. Victims of Crime Leave**

An Employee who is a victim of certain crimes (violent felonies, felony thefts and serious felonies as defined by law) or is an immediate family member of a victim, is a registered domestic partner of a victim or the child of a registered domestic partner of a victim will be given time off as necessary in accordance with the law. Employees may be required to provide reasonable advanced notice of the need for time off if feasible and documentation establishing the right to such time off may be requested. The School will take all reasonable steps to maintain the confidentiality of any employee requesting crime victim leave. Please notify the Executive Director of your need for time off as far in advance as possible. As applicable, an employee may use accrued vacation leave or sick leave for crime victim leave purposes.

### **14. Volunteer Civil Service Leave**

Consistent with applicable law, employees who perform emergency duties as volunteer firefighters, reserve peace officers or emergency rescue personnel will be given unpaid time off as necessary in accordance with the law. Employees are requested to alert the Executive Director of their status as volunteer firefighters, reserve peace officers or emergency rescue personnel so that the School will have advanced notice of the employee's potential need to leave the School in the event of an emergency. Any time an employee must perform emergency duties, he/she must notify their Coordinator before leaving the School's premises.

Employees who perform duties as a volunteer firefighter are entitled to a temporary leave of absence not to exceed an aggregate of 14 days per calendar year for the purpose of engaging in fire or law enforcement training. Employees must provide the Executive Director with advanced notice of any training.

### **15. 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 Principal at least two (2) days' notice.

### **16. 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 the employee may be entitled, he/she will need to:

- Immediately report any work-related injury to the Principal;
- Seek medical treatment and follow-up care if required;
- Complete a written Employee's Claim Form (DWC Form 1) and return it to the Principal; and
- Provide the School with a certification from his/her 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 ensure 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 is 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 Executive Director and to the individual responsible for reporting to the School's insurance carrier. Failure by an employee to report a work-related injury by the end of his/her shift could result in loss of insurance coverage for the employee. An employee may choose to be treated by his/her personal physician at his/her own expense, but he/she is 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.
- Any time there is a job-related injury, the School's policy requires drug/alcohol testing along with any medical treatment provided to the employee.

### **17. 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 twelve (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 he or she is a donor and that there is a medical necessity for the donation of the organ or bone marrow.

An employee must first use five (5) days of accrued paid leave for bone marrow donation and two (2) weeks of accrued paid leave for organ donation. If the employee has an insufficient number of paid leave days available, the leave will otherwise be paid.

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.

## **18. 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.

During a Family and Medical Leave Act, California Family Rights Act leave, and/or Pregnancy Disability Leave, the employee’s medical and dental benefits will remain in force, provided the employee pays the appropriate premiums. Otherwise, benefits are terminated the month any other type of leave begins. If an employee fails to return from a leave and is subsequently terminated, the employee is entitled to all earned but unused vacation pay, provided that the vacation pay was earned prior to the commencement of leave. No vacation time is accrued during any type of unpaid leave of absence.

## **VI. EMPLOYMENT EVALUATION AND SEPARATION**

### **A. Employee Reviews and Evaluations**

Each employee will receive periodic performance reviews conducted by the Executive Director and or designee. Performance evaluations will be conducted annually. The frequency of performance evaluations may vary depending upon length of service, job position, past performance, changes in job duties or recurring performance problems.

Performance evaluations may review factors such as the quality and quantity of the work performed, knowledge of the job, initiative, work attitude, and attitude toward others. The performance evaluations are intended to make employees aware of their progress, areas for

improvement and objectives or goals for future work performance. Favorable performance evaluations do not guarantee increases in salary or promotions or retention of your job. Salary increases and promotions are solely within the discretion of the School and depend upon many factors in addition to performance. After the review, employees will be required to sign the evaluation report simply to acknowledge that it has been presented to them, that they have discussed it with the Executive Director and or Principal and that they are aware of its contents. Newly hired employees will have their performance goals reviewed by Executive Director and or Principal within the first 90 days of employment.

Salary and potential for advancement will be based largely upon job performance. On a periodic basis, the Principal will review employee job performance with an employee in order to establish goals for future performance and to discuss your current performance. The School's evaluation system will in no way alter the at-will employment relationship.

#### **B. Discipline and Involuntary Termination**

Violation of the School's policies and rules may warrant disciplinary action, which may take multiple forms, including verbal warnings, written warnings, suspensions or termination. The School's disciplinary system is informal and the School may, in its sole discretion, utilize any form of discipline it deems appropriate under the circumstances, up to and including termination of employment upon the first offense. Use of such a disciplinary system shall in no way impair the at-will employment relationship with employees as applicable.

#### **C. Voluntary Termination**

Either the employee or the School may terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without notice and with or without cause. While it is not required, the School requests that employees electing to resign give as much advance notice as possible (preferably two weeks) to allow the School to plan for your departure.

An exit interview will normally be scheduled on the last day of work with the Executive Director and or Human Resources. The purposes of the exit interview are to review eligibility for benefit conversion, to ensure that all necessary forms are completed, to collect any company property (including keys, equipment, documents and records) that may be in the employee's possession, to review the employee's obligations regarding confidential information, and to provide the employee with the opportunity to make any constructive comments and suggestions on improving the working environment at the School. The School appreciates receiving candid opinions of the employee's employment. Final pay, including pay for any earned but unused vacation time, will be provided in accordance with state law.

#### **D. References**

All requests for references and employment verifications must be promptly directed to the Executive Director. When contacted for a reference or employment verification, the School will only provide information concerning dates of employment and the title of the last position held. Other employees may not provide any employment verifications or act as a reference for any other employees.

**APPENDIX A**

**HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION/RETALIATION COMPLAINT FORM**

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

*If you are an employee of the School, you may file this form with the Principal, Executive Director or Board President.*

*Please review the School's policies concerning harassment, discrimination, and retaliation for a definition of such unlawful conduct and a description of the types of conduct that are considered unlawful.*

*FPCS 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 offender.*

*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, discrimination, and retaliation are taken very seriously by the School both because of the harm caused by such unlawful conduct, and because of the potential sanctions that may be taken against the offender. 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 harassed, or discriminated, or retaliated against 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**  
**INTERNAL 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 in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Complainant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

To be completed by School:

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_