

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS/CODE OF ETHICS**

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

*(cf. 0200 – Goals/Focus Areas for the School District)*

*(cf. 5131 – Conduct)*

*(cf. 5137 – Positive School Climate)*

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

*(cf. 9005 – Governance Standards)*

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

*(cf. 4112.2 – Certification)*

*(cf. 4131/4231/4331 – Staff Development)*

Inappropriate employee conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Engaging in any conduct that endangers students, staff, or others, including, but not limited to, physical violence, threats of violence, or possession of a firearm or other weapon

*(cf. 4158/4258/4358 – Employee Protection (Personal Safety))*

2. Engaging in harassing or discriminatory behavior towards students, parents/guardians, staff, or community members, or failing or refusing to intervene when an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against a student is observed

*(cf. 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

*(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 – Sexual Harassment)*

*(cf. 5131.2 – Bullying)*

*(cf. 5145.7 – Sexual Harassment)*

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS/CODE OF ETHICS** (continued)

3. Physically abusing, sexually abusing, neglecting, or otherwise willfully harming or injuring a child
4. Engaging in inappropriate socialization or fraternization with a student or soliciting, encouraging, or maintaining an inappropriate written, verbal, or physical relationship with a student
5. Possessing or viewing any pornography on school grounds, or possessing or viewing child pornography or other imagery portraying children in a sexualized manner at any time
6. Using profane, obscene, or abusive language against students, parents/guardians, staff, or community members
7. Willfully disrupting district or school operations by loud or unreasonable noise or other action
8. Using tobacco, alcohol, or an illegal or unauthorized substance, or possessing or distributing any controlled substance, while in the workplace or at a school-sponsored activity

*(cf. 3513.3 – Tobacco-Free Schools)*

*(cf. 4020 – Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace)*

*(cf. 4112.42/4212.42/4312.42 – Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers)*

9. Dishonesty with students, parents/guardians, staff, or members of the public, including, but not limited to, falsification of information in employment records or other school records
10. Divulging confidential information about students, district employees, or district operations to persons not authorized to receive the information

*(cf. 3580 – District Records)*

*(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 – Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)*

*(cf. 5125 – Student Records)*

*(cf. 5125.1 – Release of Directory Information)*

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

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

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS/CODE OF ETHICS** (continued)

12. Using district equipment or communications devices for personal purposes while on duty, except in an emergency, during scheduled work breaks, or for personal necessity

Employees shall be notified that computer files and all electronic communications, including, but not limited to, email and voice mail, are not private. To ensure proper use, the Superintendent or designee may monitor employee usage of district technological resources at any time without the employee's consent.

*(cf. 4040 – Employee Use of Technology)*

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

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

*(cf. 1312.1 – Complaints Concerning District Employees)*  
*(cf. 5141.4 – Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)*

Any reports of employee misconduct shall be promptly investigated. Any employee who is found to have engaged in inappropriate conduct in violation of law or Board policy shall be subject to disciplinary action and, in the case of a certificated employee, may be subject to a report to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The Superintendent or designee shall notify local law enforcement as appropriate.

*(cf. 4117.7/4317.7 – Employment Status Reports)*  
*(cf. 4118/4218 – Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)*

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

The district prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a complaint against an employee or reports an employee's inappropriate conduct. Any employee who retaliates against any such complainant, reporter, or other participant in the district's complaint process shall be subject to discipline.

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS/CODE OF ETHICS (continued)**

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

44242.5 Reports and review of alleged misconduct

PENAL CODE

11164-11174.4 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

80303 Reports of dismissal, resignation and other terminations for alleged misconduct

80331-80338 Rules of conduct for professional educators

Management Resources:

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING PUBLICATIONS

California Standards for the Teaching Profession, 2009

California Professional Standards for Educational Leaders, February 2014

COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS PUBLICATIONS

Educational Leadership Policy Standards: ISLLC 2008, 2008

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Code of Ethics of the Education Profession, 1975

WESTED PUBLICATIONS

Moving Leadership Standards into Everyday Work: Descriptions of Practice, 2003

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Association of California School Administrators: <http://www.acsa.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Federation of Teachers: <http://www.cft.org>

California School Employees Association: <http://www.csea.com>

California Teachers Association: <http://www.cta.org>

Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>

Council of Chief State School Officers: <http://www.ccsso.org>

WestEd: <http://www.wested.org>

Policy  
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**MURRIETA VALLEY USD**  
Murrieta, California

## **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS/CODE OF ETHICS**

### **Association of California School Administrators**

A management, supervisor or confidential school employee's behavior must conform to an ethical code. The code must be idealistic and at the same time practical, so that it can apply reasonably to all. The professional acknowledges that the schools belong to the public they serve for the purpose of providing educational opportunities to all and provides professional leadership in the school and community. This responsibility requires standards of exemplary professional conduct. It must be recognized that the professional's actions will be viewed and appraised by the community, associates and students. To these ends, the professional subscribes to the following statements of standards.

The management, supervisory, confidential school employee:

1. Makes the well-being of students the fundamental element in all decision-making and actions.
2. Fulfills professional responsibilities with honesty and integrity.
3. Supports the principle of due process and equal treatment under the law.
4. Obeys local, state and national laws and does not knowingly join or support organizations that advocate, directly or indirectly, the overthrow of the government.
5. Implements the Governing Board of Education's policies and administrative rules and regulations.
6. Pursues appropriate measures to correct those laws, policies and regulations that are not consistent with sound educational goals.
7. Avoids using positions for personal gain through political, social, religious, economic or other influence.
8. Accepts academic degrees or professional certification used in relationship with professional responsibilities only from duly accredited institutions.
9. Maintains the standards and seeks to improve the effectiveness of the profession through research and continuing professional development.
10. Honors all contracts until fulfillment or release.
11. Seeks to involve the public and keep them honestly informed
12. Recommends the employment, development, promotion and retention of the best possible personnel to assure a quality educational program.

Murrieta, California