

NEW POLICY - VOL. 20, NO. 1**WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION**

The Board of Education expects all its employees to be honest and ethical in their conduct, and to comply with applicable State and Federal law, Board policies and administrative procedures. The Board expects staff members to report to their immediate supervisors any violation or suspected violation of any Federal, State or local law, policy, or regulation committed by any employee, or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board, which creates and presents a substantial or specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare. Additionally, staff members are expected to report any act or suspected act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, suspected or actual Medicaid fraud or abuse, or gross neglect of duty committed by an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board.

It is the responsibility of an employee who is aware of conduct on the part of any Board member or employee that possibly violates Federal or State law, or Board policy, to call this conduct to the attention of his/her immediate supervisor. If the employee's immediate supervisor is not responsive or is the employee whose behavior is in question, the employee should report the alleged misconduct to the Superintendent **or designee**.

After such a report is made, the immediate supervisor will ask that the report be put in writing.

Any employee making such a report shall be protected from discipline, retaliation, or reprisal for making such report as long as the employee made such a report based on a reasonable and good faith belief that the report is accurate and not based on the employee's intent to harm, harass, intimidate, or retaliate against another individual.

Employees are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, for purposely, knowingly, or recklessly making a false report under this policy.

If the alleged misconduct that is reported involves a Board member, the employee shall report to the Superintendent **or designee** who is authorized to engage the Board's legal counsel to manage an investigation concerning the matter. If the report concerns the Superintendent **or designee** the employee shall make the report to the Board President, who is authorized to engage the Board's legal counsel to manage the investigation.

Upon receipt of a report made by a staff member pursuant to this policy, an investigation shall be commenced as soon as possible and shall be handled expeditiously.