

## **OVERVIEW AND COMMENTS for 2/9/15**

### **POLICY Revisions**

#### **Policy 1422/3122/4122 – Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity (Revised)**

These policies were last revised in September 2012, expanding the definition of “Protected Class” to be consistent with recent rulings by courts, Office for Civil Rights, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Further rulings have called for the complaint procedure to be included in the policy itself. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has continued to express its concern for this issue and how students may be subjected to bullying based upon their sexual orientation or transgender identity. These revisions intend to provide a consistent framework and timeline for dealing with such issues. Districts that elect not to include the proposed language revision are advised to consult with their district legal counsel regarding the topic.

These revisions reflect specific provisions that OCR will expect to find in District policies during an investigation of a complaint or at the time of an audit.

#### **Policy 1619.02/3419.02/4419.02 – Privacy Protections of Fully Insured Group Health Plans (New/Revised)**

Revisions to these policies reflect the most recent revisions to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule and should be adopted to maintain accurate policies.

#### **Policy 2260.01 – Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability (Revised)**

In accordance with policy revisions regarding nondiscrimination and anti-harassment issues, similar revisions have been made to this policy. The complaint procedure has been added to this policy.

These revisions reflect specific provisions that OCR will expect to find in District policies during an investigation of a complaint or at the time of an audit.

#### **Policy 3121/4121 - Criminal History Record Check (Revised)**

Revisions to these policies are consistent with recent changes regarding records checks for contract workers and third party vendors in Policies 8142 and 8321.

These revisions reflect the current state of the law and should be adopted to maintain accurate policies.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

ADMINISTRATION  
1422/page 1 of 13

**REVISED POLICY - VOL. 28, NO. 2**

**NONDISCRIMINATION AND**  
**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ~~(-)~~ (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, ~~religion~~, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

**District Compliance Officers**

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators") (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

**[NOTE: School Districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female CO in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The COs may also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, by appointing two (2) COs, there should always be a CO available to investigate a claim of discrimination that pertains to the other CO.]**

Steve Goss \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_Christine Veld  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_Vicksburg  
Community Schools  
(School District Title)

\_\_\_\_\_Vicksburg  
Community Schools  
(School District Title)

\_\_\_\_\_269-321-  
1000  
(Telephone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_269-321-1000  
(Telephone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_301 S.  
Kalamazoo St, Vicksburg, MI 449097  
(Office Address)

\_\_\_\_\_301 S.  
Kalamazoo St, Vicksburg, MI 49097  
(Office Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail Address)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

ADMINISTRATION  
1422/page 2 of 13

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually:

- ☐ in the staff handbooks.
- ☐ in the School District Annual Report to the public.
- ☒ on the School District's web site.
- ☐ on each individual school's web site.
- ☐ in the School District's calendar.
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_.

~~The Superintendent shall appoint and publicize the name of the~~ The COs ~~compliance officer(s) who is/~~ are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination/retaliation or denial of equal access. The ~~Compliance Officer(s)~~ COs shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975 is provided to staff members and the general public. Any sections of the District's collective bargaining agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, and tenure need to contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above. In addition, any gender-specific terms should be eliminated from such contracts. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.



**Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation**

Employees are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to an administrator, supervisor, or other District-level official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any administrator, supervisor, or other District-level employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the CO ~~(-X) at his/her first convenience (-X)~~ within two (2) school days.

Employees who believe they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining individual's employment. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept complaints of unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District, or receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint, either directly or through a school building administrator, a CO will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the discrimination/retaliation or the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation), or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will provide a copy of this policy to any person who files a complaint. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.



Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful discrimination/retaliation is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO or designee must contact the employee within two (2) business days to advise him/her of the Board's intent to investigate the wrongdoing.

**Investigation and Complaint Procedure (See Form 1422 F2)**

Any employee who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

### **Informal Complaint Procedure**

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to stop quickly inappropriate behavior and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for an employee who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the parties (the alleged target of the discrimination/retaliation and individual(s) alleged to have engaged in the discrimination) agree to participate in it.

Employees who believe that they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a District employee or any other adult member of the School District community against a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if an individual feels that s/he is being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the person who engaged in the allegedly discriminatory/retaliatory conduct that it is inappropriate and must stop. The complaining individual should address the alleged misconduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The COs are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the person who allegedly engaged in the unlawful conduct of his/her concerns is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful discrimination, such as sexual discrimination, the CO may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

An individual who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a building administrator; (2) directly to one of the COs; and/or (3) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee.



All informal complaints must be reported to one of the COs who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees who believe they are being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against with a range of options aimed at bringing about a prompt resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the individual claiming unlawful discrimination/retaliation, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the individual about how to communicate his/her concerns to the person who allegedly engaged in the discriminatory/retaliatory behavior.
- B. Distributing a copy of Policy 1422 – Non-Discrimination as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works.
- C. If both parties agree, the CO may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the individual claiming discrimination/retaliation and the individual accused of engaging in the misconduct to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the CO or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the COs in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. (See Policy 8310)

### **Formal Complaint Procedure**

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant"), may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a principal, the CO, Superintendent, or other District-level employee. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. If a Complainant informs a principal, Superintendent, or other District-level employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination/retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) business days.

Throughout the course of the process, the CO should keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in, the discriminatory/retaliatory conduct; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.



Upon receiving a formal complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the person who allegedly engaged in the misconduct. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions s/he deems appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the discriminatory or retaliatory conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"), that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including Policy 1422 - Non-Discrimination. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of discrimination/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances. In determining if discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. ~~(-) The CO may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.~~

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent must issue a final written decision as described above.

If the Superintendent determines the Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, s/he must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

ADMINISTRATION  
1422/page 10 of 13

~~[ ]~~X      The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

**OR**

~~[ ]~~ A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Superintendent may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's final decision.

~~In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.~~

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful discrimination/retaliation regardless of whether the employee alleging the unlawful discrimination/retaliation pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

The Complainant may be represented, at his/her own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the filing of a court case. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

**Privacy/Confidentiality**

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent(s).

During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that s/he learns and/or provides during the course of the investigation.

All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of discrimination/retaliation will be maintained by the CO in accordance with the Board's records retention policy.

### **Sanctions and Monitoring**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter. In those cases where unlawful discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against an employee, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.



**Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation, or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.

**Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

M.C.L. 37.2101 et seq., 37.1101 et seq.

Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution

20 U.S.C. Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendment Act

20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974

20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act

42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

34 C.F.R. Part 110 (7/27/93)

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964

~~42 U.S.C. 12112, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended~~

29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended

~~20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX~~

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

Revised 3/9/15

© **NEOLA 2014**



NONDISCRIMINATION AND  
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected ~~characteristic~~ category, (collective, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

**District Compliance Officers**

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinator") (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

**[NOTE: School Districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female CO in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The COs may also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, by appointing two COs, there should always be a CO available to investigate a claim of discrimination that pertains to the other CO.]**

Steve Goss  
(Name)

Asst. Superintendent  
(School District Title)

269-321-1000  
(Telephone Number)

301 S. Kalamazoo St, Vicksburg, MI  
49097  
(Office Address)

Christine Veld  
(Name)

HR Coordinator  
(School District Title)

269-321-1000  
(Telephone Number)

301 S. Kalamazoo St, Vicksburg, MI  
49097  
(Office Address)

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually:

( ) in the staff handbooks.

- ☐ in the School District Annual Report to the public.
- ☒ on the School District's web site.
- ☐ on each individual school's web site.
- ☐ in the School District's calendar.
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_.

~~The Superintendent shall appoint a compliance officer~~ The COs are whose responsibility responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with the applicable ~~it will be to ensure that~~ Federal and State laws and regulations, ~~are complied with and that~~ including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or ~~complaints are dealt with promptly in accordance with law~~ complaints regarding discrimination, retaliation or denial of equal access. The COs S/He shall also ~~ensure~~ verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975, is provided to ~~students, their parents,~~ staff members, and the general public. Any sections of the District's ~~collectively bargained~~ collective bargaining agreements, ~~negotiated agreements~~ dealing with hiring, promotion, and tenure need to contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above. In addition, any gender-specific terms should be eliminated from such contracts. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.

### **Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation**

Employees are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to an administrator, supervisor, or other District-level official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any administrator, supervisor, or other District-level employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the CO at his/her first convenience within two (2) school days.

Employees who believe they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining individual's employment. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept complaints of



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
3122/page 3 of 10

unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District, or receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint, either directly or through a school building administrator, a CO will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the discrimination/retaliation or the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation), or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will provide a copy of this policy to any person who files a complaint. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful discrimination/retaliation is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO or designee must contact the employee within two (2) business days to advise him/her of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

**Investigation and Complaint Procedure (See Form 3122 F2)**

Any employee who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").



### **Informal Complaint Procedure**

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to quickly stop inappropriate behavior and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for an employee who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the parties (the alleged target of the discrimination/retaliation and individual(s) alleged to have engaged in the discrimination) agree to participate in it.

Employees who believe that they have been unlawfully discriminated/ retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a District employee or any other adult member of the School District community against a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if an individual feels that s/he is being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the person who engaged in the allegedly discriminatory/retaliatory conduct that it is inappropriate and must stop. The complaining individual should address the alleged misconduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The COs are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the person who allegedly engaged in the unlawful misconduct of his/her concerns is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful discrimination, such as sexual discrimination, the CO may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

An individual who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a building administrator; (2) directly to one of the COs; and/or (3) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the COs who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.



The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees who believe they are being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against with a range of options aimed at bringing about a prompt resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the individual claiming unlawful discrimination/retaliation, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the individual about how to communicate his/her concern to the person who allegedly engaged in the discriminatory/retaliatory behavior.
- B. Distributing a copy of Policy 3122 – Non-Discrimination as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works.
- C. If both parties agree, the CO may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the individual claiming discrimination/retaliation and the individual accused of engaging in the misconduct to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the CO or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the COs in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. (See Policy 8310

### **Formal Complaint Procedure**

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant"), may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a Principal, the CO, Superintendent, or other District-level employee. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. If a Complainant informs a Principal, Superintendent, or other District-level employee,

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
3122/page 6 of 10

either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) business days.

Throughout the course of the process, the CO should keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in; the discriminatory/retaliatory conduct; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.



Upon receiving a formal complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the person who allegedly engaged in the misconduct. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the discriminatory or retaliatory conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"), that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including Policy 3122 - Non-Discrimination. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of discrimination/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provide recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances. In determining if discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used.



Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent must issue a final written decision as described above.

If the Superintendent determines the Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, she/he must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

X The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful discrimination/retaliation regardless of whether the employee alleging the misconduct pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the filing of a court case. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent(s).

During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

3122/page 9 of 10

to third parties any information that s/he learns and/or provides during the course of the investigation.

All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of discrimination/retaliation will be maintained by the CO in accordance with the Board's records retention policy.

**Sanctions and Monitoring**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter. In those cases where unlawful discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against an employee, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.

**Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation, or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.

**Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

M.C.L.A. 37.2101 et seq., 37.1101 et seq.  
[Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution](#)  
[20 U.S.C. Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendment Act](#)  
[20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974](#)  
[20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act](#)  
[42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975](#)  
[42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended](#)  
[34 C.F.R. Part 110 \(7/27/93\)](#)  
~~42 U.S.C., 1981 etc.~~  
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.  
~~Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.~~  
Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000 et seq.  
~~Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. 623 et seq.~~  
~~U.S. Constitution, XIV Amendment~~  
29 C.F.R. Part 1635

Revised 7/96  
Revised 9/00  
Revised 11/12/01  
Revised 11/13/06  
Revised 4/18/11  
[Revised 3/9/15](#)



NONDISCRIMINATION AND  
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected—characteristic category (collectively, “Protected Classes”), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

**District Compliance Officers**

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District’s “Compliance Officers” (also known as “Civil Rights Coordinator”) (hereinafter referred to as the “COs”).

**[NOTE: School Districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female CO in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The COs may also serve as the District’s Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, by appointing two COs, there should always be a CO available to investigate a claim of discrimination that pertains to the other CO.]**

Steve Goss  
(Name)

Christine Veld  
(Name)

Vicksburg Community Schools  
(School District Title)

Vicksburg Community Schools  
(School District Title)

269-321-1000  
(Telephone Number)

269-321-1000  
(Telephone Number)

301 S. Kalamazoo St., Vicksburg, MI  
49097  
(Office Address)

301 S. Kalamazoo St, Vicksburg, MI  
49097  
(Office Address)

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually:

( ) in the staff handbooks.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

SUPPORT STAFF  
4122/page 2 of 10

- ☐ in the School District Annual Report to the public.
- ☒ on the School District's web site.
- ☐ on each individual school's web site.
- ☐ in the School District's calendar.
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_.

~~The Superintendent shall appoint a compliance officer~~ The COs are whose responsibility ~~responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with the applicable it will be to ensure that~~ Federal and State laws and regulations, are complied with and that including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints ~~are dealt with promptly in accordance with law~~ discrimination, retaliation or denial of equal access. ~~S/He~~ The COs shall also ensure ~~verify~~ that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975, is provided to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public. Any sections of the District's collectively bargained collectively bargained, negotiated agreements ~~dealing with hiring, promotion, and tenure need to contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above. In addition, any gender-specific terms should be eliminated from such contracts. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.~~

**Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation**

Employees are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to an administrator, supervisor, or other District-level official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any administrator, supervisor, or other District-level employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the CO ~~at his/her first convenience~~ within two (2) school days.

Employees who believe they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining individual's employment. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept complaints of



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

SUPPORT STAFF  
4122/page 3 of 10

unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District, or receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint, either directly or through a school building administrator, a CO will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the discrimination/retaliation or the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation), or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will provide a copy of this policy to any person who files a complaint. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful discrimination/retaliation is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO or designee must contact the employee within two (2) business days to advise him/her of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

**Investigation and Complaint Procedure (See Form 4122 F2)**

Any employee who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").



### **Informal Complaint Procedure**

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to quickly stop inappropriate behavior and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for an employee who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the parties (the alleged target of the discrimination/retaliation and individual(s) alleged to have engaged in the discrimination) agree to participate in it.

Employees who believe that they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a District employee or any other adult member of the School District community against a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if an individual feels that s/he is being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the person who engaged in the allegedly discriminatory/retaliatory conduct that it is inappropriate and must stop. The complaining individual should address the alleged misconduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The COs are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the person who allegedly engaged in the unlawful misconduct of his/her concerns is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful discrimination, such as sexual discrimination, the CO may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

An individual who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a building administrator; (2) directly to one of the COs; and/or (3) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the COs who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.



The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees who believe they are being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against with a range of options aimed at bringing about a prompt resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the individual claiming unlawful discrimination/retaliation, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the individual about how to communicate his/her concern to the person who allegedly engaged in the discriminatory/retaliatory behavior.
- B. Distributing a copy of Policy 4122 – Non-Discrimination as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works.
- C. If both parties agree, the CO may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the individual claiming discrimination/retaliation and the individual accused of engaging in the misconduct to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the CO or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the COs in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. (See Policy 8310)

### **Formal Complaint Procedure**

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant"), may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a Principal, the CO, Superintendent, or other District-level employee. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. If a Complainant informs a Principal, Superintendent, or other District-level employee,



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

SUPPORT STAFF  
4122/page 6 of 10

either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) business days.

Throughout the course of the process, the CO should keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in, the discriminatory/retaliatory conduct; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the person who allegedly engaged in the misconduct. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the discriminatory or retaliatory conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"), that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including Policy 4122 - Non-Discrimination. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of discrimination/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

SUPPORT STAFF  
4122/page 7 of 10

- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances. In determining if discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent must issue a final written decision as described above.

If the Superintendent determines the Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, she/he must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

[X] The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful discrimination/retaliation regardless of whether the employee alleging the misconduct pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the filing of a court case. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.



### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent(s).

During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that s/he learns and/or provides during the course of the investigation.

All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of discrimination/retaliation will be maintained by the CO in accordance with the Board's records retention policy.

### **Sanctions and Monitoring**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter. In those cases where unlawful discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against an employee, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.



### **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation, or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.

### **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

M.C.L.A. 37.2101 et seq., 37.1101 et seq.

Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution

20 U.S.C. Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendment Act

20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974

20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act

42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

34 C.F.R. Part 110 (7/27/93)

~~42 U.S.C., 1981 etc.~~

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.

~~Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.~~

Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000 et seq.

~~Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. 623 et seq.~~

~~U.S. Constitution, XIV Amendment~~

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

Revised 7/96

Revised 11/12/01

Revised 11/13/06

© **NEOLA 2010**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

[Revised 3/9/15](#)

Revised 4/18/11

SUPPORT STAFF  
4122/page 10 of 10

© NEOLA 2010



**NEW POLICY - VOL. 28, NO. 2****PRIVACY PROTECTIONS OF FULLY INSURED GROUP HEALTH PLANS**

The Board of Education provides coverage to eligible employees under fully insured group health plans. The Board has established the following fully insured group health plans:

- ☒ Medical Plan
- ☒ Prescription Drug Plan
- ☐ Dental Plan
- ☒ Vision Plan
- ☐ Employee Assistance Plan
- ☐ Long-term Care Plan (not long-term disability)
- ☐ Other; specify \_\_\_\_\_

The Board acknowledges that these group health plans are required to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule as amended by Title I of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). Fully insured group health plans generally are exempt from many of the requirements imposed upon self-funded group health plans.

The Board also acknowledges that these fully insured group health plans are required to comply with the HIPAA Security Rule. The group health plans, working together with the insurer, will ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the group health plans' electronic Protected Health Information in accordance with the HIPAA Security Rule.

The Board hereby appoints \_\_\_\_\_ the Asst. Superintendent to serve as the Security Official of the group health plans. The Board delegates authority to the Security Official to perform an information technology risk analysis and to develop risk management procedures, if necessary.

The Security Official shall review the insurer's internal policies and procedures implementing various security measures required by the HIPAA Security Rule with respect to electronic Protected Health Information. All of the group health plans' functions are carried out by the insurer and the insurer owns and controls all of the equipment and media used to create, maintain, receive, and transmit electronic Protected Health Information relating to the group health plans. Accordingly, the insurer is in the best position to implement the technical, physical, and administrative safeguards required by the HIPAA Security Rule. The Security Official may elect to utilize, as administrative guidelines, the insurer's own policies addressing security measures for the group health plans' electronic Protected Health Information, as appropriate.

The fully insured group health plans established by the Board shall:

- A. Refrain from taking any retaliatory action against any individual for exercising any right under the plan, filing a complaint with Health and Human Services, participating in any proceeding under Part C of Title XI of the Social Security Act, or opposing any act or practice made unlawful by the Privacy Rule provided that the individual has a good faith belief that the practice opposed is unlawful.
- B. Not impose a requirement that participants waive their rights under the Privacy Rule as a condition of the provision of payment, enrollment in a health plan, or eligibility of benefits.
- C. If the plan document is amended in accordance with the Privacy Rule, the plan must retain a copy of the plan document as amended for six (6) years from the date of its amendment or the date when it last was in effect, whichever is later.
- D. Provide notification to affected individuals, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the media (when required), if the plan or one of its business associates discovers a breach of unsecured protected health information, in accordance with the requirements of HIPAA and its implementing regulations.



Fully insured group health plans established by the Board shall not create or receive protected health information, except for:

- A. Summary health information. Summary health information is de-identified information that summarizes claims history, claims expenses, or type of claims experienced by health plan participants.
- B. Information on whether an individual is participating in a group health plan, or is enrolled in or has disenrolled from a health insurance issuer or HMO offered by the plan.
- C. Information disclosed to the plan under a signed authorization that meets the requirements of the Privacy Rule.

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

45 C.F.R. 160.102(a), 164.530(g), 164.530(h), 164.530(j), 164.530(k), 164.404

45 C.F.R. 164.406, 164.408, 164.502, 164.520(a)

[Adopted 3/9/15](#)

**PRIVACY PROTECTIONS OF FULLY INSURED GROUP HEALTH PLANS**

The Board of Education may provide coverage to eligible employees under fully insured group health plans. The Board may establish the following fully insured group health plans:

- A. Medical Plan
- B. Prescription Drug Plan
- C. Vision Plan

The Board acknowledges that these group health plans are required to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule as amended by Title I of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination act (GINA). Fully insured group health plans generally are exempt from many of the requirements imposed upon self-funded group health plans.

The Board also acknowledges that these fully insured group health plans are required to comply with the HIPAA Security Rule. The group health plans, working together with the insurer, will ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the group health plans' electronic Protected Health Information in accordance with the HIPAA Security Rule.

The Board hereby appoints the Asst. Superintendent to serve as the Security Official of the group health plans. The Board delegates authority to the Security Official to perform an information technology risk analysis and to develop risk management procedures, if necessary.

The Security Official shall review the insurer's internal policies and procedures implementing various security measures required by the HIPAA Security Rule with respect to electronic Protected Health Information. All of the group health plans' functions are carried out by the insurer and the insurer owns and controls all of the equipment and media used to create, maintain, receive, and transmit electronic Protected Health Information relating to the group health plans. Accordingly, the insurer is in the best position to implement the technical, physical, and administrative safeguards required by the HIPAA Security Rule. The Security Official may elect to utilize, as administrative guidelines, the insurer's own policies addressing security measures for the group health plans' electronic Protected Health Information, as appropriate.

The fully insured group health plans established by the Board shall:



- A. Refrain from taking any retaliatory action against any individual ~~from~~ for exercising any right under the plan, filing a complaint with Health and Human Services, participating in any proceeding under Part C of Title XI of the Social Security Act, or opposing any act or practice made unlawful by the Privacy Rule provided that the individual has a good faith belief that the practice opposed is unlawful.
- B. Not impose a requirement that participants waive their rights under the Privacy Rule as a condition of the provision of payment, enrollment in a health plan, or eligibility of benefits.
- C. If the plan document is amended in accordance with the Privacy Rule, the plan must retain a copy of the plan document as amended for six (6) years from the date of its amendment or the date when it last was in effect, whichever is later.
- D. Provide notification to affected individuals, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the media (when required), if the plan or one of its business associates discovers a breach of unsecured protected health information, in accordance with the requirements of HIPAA and its implementing regulations.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
3419.02/page 3 of 3

Fully insured group health plans established by the Board shall not create or receive protected health information, except for:

- A. Summary health information. Summary health information is de-identified information that summarizes claims history, claims expenses, or type of claims experienced by health plan participants.
- B. Information on whether an individual is participating in a group health plan, or is enrolled in or has disenrolled from a health insurance issuer or HMO offered by the plan.
- C. Information disclosed to the plan under a signed authorization that meets the requirements of the Privacy Rule.

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

45 C.F.R. 160.102(a), 164.530(g), 164.530(h), 164.530(j), 164.530(k), 164.404  
45 C.F.R. 164.406, 164.408, 164.502, 164.520(a)

Adopted 12/11/06

Revised 11/8/10

Revised 3/9/15



**PRIVACY PROTECTIONS OF FULLY INSURED GROUP HEALTH PLANS**

The Board of Education provides coverage to eligible employees under fully insured group health plans. The Board has established the following fully insured group health plans:

- A. Medical Plan
- B. Prescription Drug Plan
- C. Vision Plan

The Board acknowledges that these group health plans are required to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule as amended by Title I of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). Fully insured group health plans generally are exempt from many of the requirements imposed upon self-funded group health plans.

The Board also acknowledges that these fully insured group health plans are required to comply with the HIPAA Security Rule. The group health plans, working together with the insurer, will ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the group health plans' electronic Protected Health Information in accordance with the HIPAA Security Rule.

The Board hereby appoints the Asst. Superintendent to serve as the Security Official of the group health plans. The Board delegates authority to the Security Official to perform an information technology risk analysis and to develop risk management procedures, if necessary.

The Security Official shall review the insurer's internal policies and procedures implementing various security measures required by the HIPAA Security Rule with respect to electronic Protected Health Information. All of the group health plans' functions are carried out by the insurer and the insurer owns and controls all of the equipment and media used to create, maintain, receive, and transmit electronic Protected Health Information relating to the group health plans. Accordingly, the insurer is in the best position to implement the technical, physical, and administrative safeguards required by the HIPAA Security Rule. The Security Official may elect to utilize, as administrative guidelines, the insurer's own policies addressing security measures for the group health plans' electronic Protected Health Information, as appropriate.

The fully insured group health plans established by the Board shall:

- A. Refrain from taking any retaliatory action against any individual ~~from~~ for exercising any right under the plan, filing a complaint with Health and Human Services, participating in any proceeding under Part C of Title XI of the Social Security Act, or opposing any act or practice made unlawful by the Privacy Rule provided that the individual has a good faith belief that the practice opposed is unlawful.
- B. Not impose a requirement that participants waive their rights under the Privacy Rule as a condition of the provision of payment, enrollment in a health plan, or eligibility of benefits.
- C. If the plan document is amended in accordance with the Privacy Rule, the plan must retain a copy of the plan document as amended for six (6) years from the date of its amendment or the date when it last was in effect, whichever is later.
- D. Provide notification to affected individuals, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the media (when required), if the plan or one of its business associates discovers a breach of unsecured protected health information, in accordance with the requirements of HIPAA and its implementing regulations.



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

SUPPORT STAFF  
4419.02/page 3 of 3

Fully insured group health plans established by the Board shall not create or receive protected health information, except for:

- A. Summary health information. Summary health information is de-identified information that summarizes claims history, claims expenses, or type of claims experienced by health plan participants.
- B. Information on whether an individual is participating in a group health plan, or is enrolled in or has disenrolled from a health insurance issuer or HMO offered by the plan.
- C. [Information disclosed to the plan under a signed authorization that meets the requirements of the Privacy Rule.](#)

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

[45 C.F.R. 160.102\(a\), 164.530\(g\), 164.530\(h\), 164.530\(i\), 164.530\(k\), 164.404](#)  
[45 C.F.R. 164.406, 164.408, 164.502, 164.520\(a\)](#)

Adopted 12/11/06

Revised 11/8/10

[Revised 3/9/15](#)

SECTION 504/ADA  
PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended ("ADA") and the implementing regulations (collectively "Section 504/ADA"), no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Board of Education does not discriminate in admission or access to, or participation ~~in,~~ or treatment in its programs or activities. As such, the Board's policies and practices will not discriminate against students with disabilities and will make accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities its facilities, programs, and activities. No discrimination will be knowingly permitted against any individual with a disability on the sole basis of that disability in any of the programs, activities, policies, and/or practices in the District.

An individual with a disability" means a person who has, had a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity must be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, equipment or appliances, low-vision devices (not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics (including limbs and devices), hearing aids and cochlear implants or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment or supplies, assistive technology, reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids or services, or learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications.



With respect to public preschool, elementary and secondary educational services, a qualified person with a disability means a disabled person:

- A. who is of an age during which nondisabled persons are provided educational services;
- B. who is of any age during which it is mandatory under Michigan law to provide educational services to disabled persons; or
- C. to whom the State is required to provide a free appropriate public education pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA).

With respect to vocational education services, a qualified person with a disability means a disabled person who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the vocational program or activity.

**Compliance Officer(s)**

The Board designates the following individual(s) to serve as the District's 504 Compliance Officer(s)/ADA Coordinator(s) (hereinafter referred to as the "District Compliance Officer(s)).

**[NOTE: School Districts may want to consider appointing both a male and a female District Compliance Officer in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. Additionally, by appointing two (2) District Compliance Officers, there should always be a Compliance Officer available to investigate a claim that pertains to the other Compliance Officer.]**

Steve Goss  
(Name)

Christine Veld  
(Name)

Asst. Superintendent  
(School District Title)

HR Coordinator  
(School District Title)

269-321-1005  
(Telephone Number)

269-321-1018  
(Telephone Number)

301 S. Kalamazoo St, Vicksburg, MI  
(Office Address)

301 S. Kalamazoo St., Vicksburg, MI  
(Office Address)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROGRAM  
2260.01/page 3 of 9

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually:

- ☐ in the parent/student and staff handbooks.
- ☐ in the School District Annual Report to the public.
- ☒ on the School District's web site.
- ☐ on each individual school's web site.
- ☐ in the School District's calendar.
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_.

Building Principals shall serve as Building Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer(s) ("Building Compliance Officers").

~~District Compliance Officer~~

~~The District Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator ("District Compliance Officer") can be reached at:~~

~~The District Section 504 Compliance Officer~~

~~301 S. Kalamazoo St.  
Vicksburg, MI 49097~~

~~269-321-1000~~

The District Compliance Officer ~~is~~ are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with and fulfill its responsibilities under Section 504 and Title II of the ADA. A copy of Section 504 and the ADA, including copies of the implementing regulations, may be obtained from the District Compliance Officer.

The District Compliance Officer will oversee the investigation of any complaints of discrimination based on disability, which may be filed pursuant to the Board's adopted internal complaint procedure, and will attempt to resolve such complaints.

The Board will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations of Section 504/ADA. See below. The Board will further establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards in accordance with Section 504, including the right to an impartial due process hearing. See AG 2260.01B.



### **Training**

The District Compliance Officer will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Section 504 and the ADA, and are informed of the Board's policies, administrative guidelines and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Section 504/ADA.

The Board will provide in-service training and consultation to staff responsible for the education of persons with disabilities, as necessary and appropriate.

### **Facilities**

No qualified person with a disability will, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies.

For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, providing accommodations to parents with disabilities who desire access to their child's educational program or meetings pertinent thereto. Programs and activities will be designed and scheduled so that the location and nature of the facility or area will not deny a student with a disability the opportunity to participate on the same basis as students without disabilities.

### **Education**

The Board is committed to identifying, evaluating, and providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students within its jurisdiction who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, ~~are disabled within the definition of Section 504~~, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities.

~~If a student has a physical or mental impairment that significantly limits one or more major life activities, the Board will provide the student with a free appropriate public education.~~—An appropriate education, may include regular or special education and related aids and services to accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities. For disabled students who are not eligible for specially designed instruction under the IDEA, the special education and related aids and services (including accommodations/modifications/interventions) they need in order to have their needs met as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met, shall be delineated, along with their placement, in a Section 504 Plan (Form

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROGRAM

2260.01/page 5 of 9

2260.01A F13). Parents/guardians/custodians ("parents") are invited and encouraged to participate fully in the evaluation process and development of a Section 504 Plan.



~~Parent(s)/guardian(s)/custodian(s) ("parents") are invited and encouraged to participate fully in the evaluation process. If the parents disagree with the determination made by the District's professional staff, they may file an internal complaint, request a hearing with an impartial hearing officer, or file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights.~~

The Board is committed to educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified person with a disability who resides within the District with persons who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Generally, the District will place a person with a disability in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the person in the regular environment, even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. If the District places a person in a setting other than the regular educational environment, it shall take into account the proximity of the alternate setting to the person's home.

The District will provide non-academic extracurricular services and activities in such a manner as is necessary to afford qualified persons with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in such services and activities. Nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities may include counseling services, physical recreational athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interests groups or clubs sponsored by the District, referrals to agencies that provide assistance to persons with disabilities, and employment of students. In providing or arranging for the provision of meals and recess periods, and nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities, including those listed above, the District will verify that persons with disabilities participate with persons without disabilities in such services and activities to the maximum extent appropriate.

### **Notice**

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment and education practices and the identity of the District's Compliance Officer(s) will be posted throughout the District, and published in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

### **Complaint Procedures**

If a person believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her disability, the person may utilize the following complaint procedures as a means of reaching, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of the matter.

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations ("Section 504"), parents and students will be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of Section 504. In addition, students and their parents will be notified of their right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Finally, students and parents will be advised of



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROGRAM  
2260.01/page 7 of 9

their right to request a due process hearing before an Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of persons with disabilities, and their right to examine relevant education records.

Internal complaints and requests for due process hearings must be put in writing and must identify the specific circumstances or areas of dispute that have given rise to the complaint or the request for a hearing, and offer possible solutions to the dispute. The complaint or request for due process hearing must be filed with a District Compliance Officer within specified time limits. The District's Compliance Officer is available to assist individuals in filing a complaint or request.

Internal Complaint Procedures

An internal complaint may be filed by a student and/or parent. A student and/or parent may initiate the internal complaint procedure when s/he/they believe that a violation, misapplication or misinterpretation of Section 504 has occurred. Additionally, the following procedure may be used for any disagreement with respect to actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational program or placement of students who are identified as disabled or believed to be disabled pursuant to Section 504, and are not eligible under the IDEIA, except in the case of disciplinary actions where the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct apply. Use of the internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies, including the filing of a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or requesting a due process hearing.

Step 1 Investigation by the Building Compliance Officer: A student or parent may initiate an investigation by filing a written internal complaint with the Building Compliance Officer. The complaint should fully describe the circumstances giving rise to the dispute and how the child is adversely affected. The complaint must be filed as soon as possible, but not longer than thirty (30) calendar days after disclosure of the facts giving rise to the complaint. The Building Compliance Officer shall conduct an impartial investigation of the complaint. As part of the investigation, the Building Compliance Officer shall permit the complainant to present witnesses and other evidence in support of the complaint. The investigation shall be completed within fifteen (15) school days of the written complaint being filed. The Building Compliance Officer will notify the complainant in writing of his/her decision.

Step 2 Appeal to the District Compliance Officer: If the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily at Step 1, the student or parent may appeal the Building Compliance Officer's decision in writing to the District Compliance Officer. The appeal must be made within five (5) school days following receipt of the Building Compliance Officer's decision. The District Compliance Officer will review the case, may conduct an informal hearing, and will notify all parties in writing of his/her decision within ten (10) school days of receiving the appeal.



Step 3                      If the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily at Step 2, the student or parent may request a due process hearing, provided the complaint involves an issue related to the identification, evaluation, or placement of the student.

If it is determined that the Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination, the Building and District COs must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

#### OCR Complaint

At any time, if a student or parent believes that s/he has been subjected to discrimination based upon his/her disability in violation of Section 504 or the ADA, the individual may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"). The OCR can be reached at:

U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
Cleveland Office  
1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 325  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
(216) 522-4970  
FAX: (216) 522-2573  
TDD: (216) 522-4944  
E-mail: [OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov)  
Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

Except in extraordinary circumstances, the OCR does not review the result of individual placement and other educational decisions, so long as the District complies with the "process" requirements of Subpart D of Section 504.

#### Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, or participates as a witness in an investigation, is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by Section 504 or the ADA, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROGRAM  
2260.01/page 9 of 9

34 C.F.R. Part 104  
29 U.S.C. 794, Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended,  
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

Adopted 4/13/09  
Revised 10/11/10  
Revised 4/16/12

© **NEOLA 2011**



### CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK

Before the District hires any employee (full or part-time) or allows any individual under contract to continuously and regularly work in the schools, a criminal history records check shall be conducted in accordance with State law.

"Under contract" shall apply to individuals, as well as owners and employees of entities, who contract directly with the District or with a third party vendor, management company, or similar contracting entity to provide food, custodial, transportation, counseling or administrative services on more than an intermittent or sporadic basis. It shall also apply to individuals or entities providing instructional services to students or related auxiliary services to special education students.

Prior to allowing an individual, who is subject to the criminal history record check requirement, to work in the District, the District shall submit a fingerprint-based check on the individual, using Michigan State Police (MSP) Form RI-030 (7/2012), regardless of whether the individual will work directly for the District or be contracted through a third-party vendor, management company or similar contracting entity ("Private Contractors"). Except as provided below, the report from the MSP must be received, reviewed and approved by the District prior to the individual commencing work.

Such Private Contractors cannot receive or retain criminal history record information ("CHRI").<sup>1</sup> Where the District will contract with a Private Contractor for the services of an individual, the District will notify the Private Contractor(s), after review of the MSP report, whether the individual has been approved to work within the District. The District may not give any details, including the fact that a criminal history check was run. Notice for approval to work in the District should use the Affidavit of Assignment or similar "red light/green light" procedure.

<sup>1</sup> Individuals who act on behalf of the District, work on a regular or continuous basis in the District, are involved in the hiring process of District employees, and have successfully undergone a fingerprint-based criminal history record check by the District, may continue to submit and receive such criminal history record checks on behalf of the District, regardless of their status as employees, contractors, vendors or similar classification.

~~Individuals or entities that contract to provide continuous and regular services with the schools shall submit the results of the required criminal history records check to the District for review and approval.~~

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
3121/page 2 of 4

Should it be necessary to employ a person or contract for a person to maintain continuity of the program prior to receipt of the criminal history report, the Superintendent may contract on a provisional basis until the report is received. Any such provisional hire requires that:

- A. the record check has been requested;
- B. the applicant has signed a disclosure of all convictions and acknowledges that employment may be terminated if there are discrepancies; and
- C. the hiring occurs during the school year or not more than thirty (30) days before the beginning of the school year.

~~Such an inquiry shall also be made for substitute teachers who may be employed or contracted for by the District.~~

For substitute teachers or substitute bus drivers currently working in another district, public school academy or non-public school in the State, the Superintendent may use a report received from the State Police by such school to confirm, ~~that~~ the individual has no criminal history. Absent such confirmation, a criminal history record check shall be performed.



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
3121/page 3 of 4

Individuals working in multiple districts may authorize the release of a prior criminal history records check with another district in lieu of an additional check for either direct employment or working regularly and consistently under contract in the schools.

Individuals who previously received a statutorily required criminal background check and who have been continuously employed by a school district, intermediate school district, public school academy or non-public school within the State, with no separation, may have their previous record check sent to the District in lieu of submitting to a new criminal background check. If this method is used, the Superintendent must confirm that the record belongs to that individual and whether there have been any additional convictions by processing the individual's name, sex and date of birth through the Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT).

"No separation," for purposes of the preceding paragraph, means a lay off or leave of absence of less than twelve (12) months with the same employer; or the employee transfers without a break in service to another school district, intermediate school district, public school academy or non-public school within the State.

All criminal history record check reports received from the State Police or produced by the State Police and received by the District from another proper source, will be maintained in the individual's personnel record.

When the District receives a report that shows an individual has been convicted of a listed offense under state statutes or any felony, the Superintendent shall take steps to verify that information using public records, in accordance with the procedures provided by the State Department of Education.

Verified convictions may result in termination of employment or rejection of an application. The District will not hire or continue to employ any individual, either directly or as a contracted employee to work regularly and continuously in the schools, who has been convicted of a "listed" offense as defined in M.C.L.A. 28.722. The District will not hire or continue to employ any individual, either directly or as a contracted employee to work regularly and continuously in the schools, who has been convicted of any felony unless both the Superintendent and the Board provide written approval.

The District must report as directed by and to the State Department of Education the verified information regarding conviction for any listed offense or conviction for any felony and the action taken by the District with regard to such conviction. Such report shall be filed within sixty (60) days of receipt of the original report of the conviction.

The Superintendent shall establish the necessary procedures for obtaining from the Criminal Records Division of the State Police any criminal history on the applicant maintained by the State Police. In addition, the Superintendent shall request the State Police to obtain a criminal history records check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

An applicant must submit, at no expense to the District, a set of fingerprints, prepared by an entity approved by the Michigan State Police, as part of his/her employment application or as required by State law for continued employment.

Confidentiality

All information and records obtained from such criminal background inquiries and disclosures are to be considered confidential and shall not be released or disseminated to those not directly involved in evaluating the applicant's qualifications. Records involving misdemeanor convictions for sexual or physical abuse or any felony are not subject to these restrictions. Violation of confidentiality is considered a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$10,000.

Any notification received from the Michigan Department of Education or Michigan State Police regarding District employees with criminal convictions shall be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for the first fifteen (15) days until the accuracy of the information can be verified. Thereafter, only information about felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions involving physical or sexual abuse may be disclosed in reference to a Freedom of Information Act request.

Criminal history reports may be released with the written authorization of the individual.

Records may also be released, in accordance with statute, upon the request of a school district, intermediate school district, public school academy or non-public school when the individual is an applicant for employment at such school and there has been no separation from service, as defined in this policy and by statute.

M.C.L.A. 380.1230 et. seq., 380.1535, 380.1535a, 380.1809, 28.722

Revised 3/13/95

Revised 2/13/06

Revised 10/8/07

Revised 4/13/09

[Revised 3/9/15](#)

© **NEOLA 2008**



### CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK

Before the District hires any employee (full or part-time) or allows any individual under contract to continuously and regularly work in the schools, a criminal history records check shall be conducted in accordance with State law.

"Under contract" shall apply to individuals, as well as owners and employees of entities, who contract directly with the District or with a third-party vendor, management company, or similar contracting entity, to provide food, custodial, transportation, counseling or administrative services on more than an intermittent or sporadic basis. It shall also apply to individuals or entities providing instructional services to students or related auxiliary services to special education students.

Prior to allowing an individual, who is subject to the criminal history record check requirement, to work in the District, the District shall submit a fingerprint-based check on the individual, using Michigan State Police (MSP) Form RI-030 (7/2012), regardless of whether the individual will work directly for the District or be contracted through a third-party vendor, management company or similar contracting entity ("Private Contractors"). Except as provided below, the report from the MSP must be received, reviewed and approved by the District prior the individual commencing work.

Such Private Contractor(s) cannot receive or retain criminal history record information ("CHRI").<sup>1</sup> Where the District will contract with a Private Contractor for the services of an individual, the District will notify the Private Contractor(s), after review of the MSP report, whether the individual has been approved to work within the District. The District may not give any details, including the fact that a criminal history check was run. Notice for approval to work in the District should use the Affidavit of Assignment or similar "red light/green light" procedure.

<sup>1</sup> Individuals who act on behalf of the District, work on a regular or continuous basis in the District, are involved in the hiring process of District employees, and have successfully undergone a fingerprint-based criminal history record check by the District, may continue to submit and receive such criminal history record checks on behalf of the District, regardless of their status as employees, contractors, vendors or similar classification.

~~Individuals or entities that contract to provide continuous and regular services with the schools shall submit the results of the required criminal history records check to the District for review and approval.~~

Should it be necessary to employ a person or contract for a person to maintain continuity of the program prior to receipt of the criminal history report, the Superintendent may contract on a provisional basis until the report is received. Any such provisional hire requires that:

- A. the record check has been requested;
- B. the applicant has signed a disclosure of all convictions and acknowledges that employment may be terminated if there are discrepancies; and
- C. the hiring occurs during the school year or not more than thirty (30) days before the beginning of the school year.

Such an inquiry shall also be made for all substitutes who may be employed by the District.

Individuals working in multiple districts may authorize the release of a prior criminal history records check with another district in lieu of an additional check for either direct employment or working regularly and consistently under contract in the schools.

Individuals who previously received a statutorily required criminal background check and who have been continuously employed by a school district, intermediate school district, public school academy or non-public school within the State, with no separation, may have their previous record check sent to the District in lieu of submitting to a new criminal background check. If this method is used, the Superintendent must confirm that the record belongs to that individual and whether there have been any additional convictions by processing the individual's name, sex and date of birth through the Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT).

"No separation," for purposes of the preceding paragraph, means a lay off or leave of absence of less than twelve (12) months with the same employer; or the employee transfers without a break in service to another school district, intermediate school district, public school academy or non-public school within the State.

All criminal history record check reports received from the State Police or produced by the State Police and received by the District from another proper source, will be maintained in the individual's personnel record.

When the District receives a report that shows an individual has been convicted of a listed offense under state statutes or any felony, the Superintendent shall take steps



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

SUPPORT STAFF  
4121/page 3 of 4

to verify that information using public records, in accordance with the procedures provided by the State Department of Education.

Verified convictions may result in termination of employment or rejection of an application. The District will not hire or continue to employ any individual, either directly or as a contracted employee to work regularly and continuously in the schools, who has been convicted of a "listed" offense as defined in M.C.L.A. 28.722. The District will not hire or continue to employ any individual, either directly or as a contracted employee to work regularly and continuously in the schools, who has been convicted of any felony unless both the Superintendent and the Board provide written approval.

The District must report as directed by and to the State Department of Education the verified information regarding conviction for any listed offense or conviction for any felony and the action taken by the District with regard to such conviction. Such report shall be filed within sixty (60) days or receipt of the original report of the conviction.

The Superintendent shall establish the necessary procedures for obtaining from the Criminal Records Division of the State Police any criminal history on the applicant maintained by the State Police. In addition, the Superintendent shall request the State Police to obtain a criminal history records check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

An applicant must submit, at no expense to the applicant, a set of fingerprints, prepared by an entity approved by the Michigan State Police, as part of his/her employment application or as required by State law for continued employment.

Confidentiality

All information and records obtained from such inquiries and disclosures are to be considered confidential and shall not be released or disseminated to those not directly involved in evaluating the applicant's qualifications. Records involving misdemeanor convictions for sexual or physical abuse or any felony are not subject to these restrictions. Violation of confidentiality is considered a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$10,000.

Any notification received from the Michigan Department of Education or Michigan State Police regarding District employees with criminal convictions shall be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for the first fifteen (15) days until the accuracy of the information can be verified. Thereafter, only information about felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions involving physical or sexual abuse may be disclosed in reference to a Freedom of Information Act request.

Criminal history reports may be released with the written authorization of the individual.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

SUPPORT STAFF  
4121/page 4 of 4

Records may also be released, in accordance with statute, upon the request of a school district, intermediate school district, public school academy or non-public school when the individual is an applicant for employment at such school and there has been no separation from service, as defined in this policy and by statute.

M.C.L.A. 380.1230 et seq., 380.1535, 380.1535a, 380.1809, 28.722

Revised 10/10/00

Revised 2/13/06

Revised 10/8/07

Revised 4/13/09

[Revised 3/9/15](#)