

Internal Complaint Review Policy

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

Specific complaints of unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation are addressed under the Charter School’s “Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation.”

Internal Complaints

(Complaints by Employees Against Employees)

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

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

1. The complainant will bring the matter to the attention of the Principal/Superintendent as soon as possible after attempts to resolve the complaint with the immediate supervisor have failed or if not appropriate; and
2. The complainant will reduce his or her complaint to writing, indicating all known and relevant facts. The Principal/Superintendent or designee will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation;

Note: If the complaint is about the Principal/Superintendent, the complainant may file his or her complaint in a signed writing to the President of the Charter School’s Board of Directors, who will then confer with the Board and may conduct a fact-finding or authorize a third-party investigator on behalf of the Board. The Board President or investigator will report his or her findings to the Board for review and action, if necessary.

This policy cannot guarantee that every problem will be resolved to the employee’s satisfaction. However, the Charter School values each employee’s ability to express concerns and the need for resolution without fear of adverse consequence to employment.

Policy for Complaints Against Employees

(Complaints by Third Parties Against Employees)

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

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

In processing the complaint, Principal/Superintendent (or designee) shall abide by the following process:

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

General Requirements

1. Confidentiality: All complainants will be notified that information obtained from the complainants and thereafter gathered will be maintained in a manner as confidential as possible, but in some circumstances absolute confidentiality cannot be assured.
2. Non-Retaliation: All complainants will be advised that they will be protected against retaliation as a result of the filing of any complaints or participation in any complaint process.
3. Resolution: The Board (if a complaint is about the Principal/Superintendent) or the Principal/Superintendent or designee will investigate complaints appropriately under the circumstances and pursuant to the applicable procedures, and if necessary, take appropriate remedial measures to ensure effective resolution of any complaint.

APPENDIX B

INTERNAL COMPLAINT FORM

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s): _____

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

List any witnesses that were present:

Where did the incident(s) occur?

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

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

Signature of Complainant Date: _____

Print Name

To be completed by School:

Received by: _____ Date: _____