

Vincent Academy Gender Equity Policy

Reporting Unlawful Harassment and Actions

Vincent Academy maintains a zero tolerance policy that prohibits harassment in any form against any person involved in the operations of Vincent Academy. This prohibition includes sexual harassment.

Vincent Academy maintains a strict policy of prohibiting sexual harassment and harassment based on gender, race, color, age, national origin, ancestry, religious creed, marital status, sexual orientation, political belief or activity, veteran status, pregnancy or medical condition, physical or mental disability, or any other characteristic protected under federal and state laws and regulations. Our non-harassment policy applies to all persons involved in the operations of Vincent Academy. Harassment in any form, including verbal, physical and visual conduct, threats, demands and retaliation, is prohibited. It is a violation of this policy for males to harass females or other males, and for females to harass males or other females.

Harassment defined:

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following forms of offensive behavior:

- Verbal conduct such as making or using derogatory comments, offensive jokes, slurs, and inappropriate comments about an employee's body or attire.
- Verbal sexual advances or propositions; verbal abuse of sexual nature; graphic verbal commentary about an individual's body; sexually degrading words to describe an individual; suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitations; visual conduct such as leering or making gestures.
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures, derogatory posters, photography, cartoons, drawings or gestures; web-surfing sexually explicit sites.
- Physical conduct such as assault, unwanted touching, blocking normal movement or interfering with work.
- Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests in order to retain employment or avoid some other loss; offers of job benefits in return for sexual favors.
- Flirtation and sexual innuendos which could be perceived as sexual harassment even when well-intended.
- Retaliation for having reported or threatened to report harassment; making or threatening reprisals after receiving a negative response to sexual advances.
- Using peer pressure to discourage harassment victims from complaining.

If you are the victim of, or a witness to harassment, you are required by Vincent Academy to take the following applicable step:

- Report the harassment to the Principal via the UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.

- If the complaint is against the Principal, report the harassment to the Board of Directors and to the attention of the Vincent Academy Board President via the UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.

Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures

Vincent Academy's ("Charter School") policy is to comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The Charter School is the local agency primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations governing educational programs. Pursuant to this policy, persons responsible for conducting investigations shall be knowledgeable about the laws and programs which they are assigned to investigate. This complaint procedure is adopted to provide a uniform system of complaint processing for the following types of complaints:

1. Complaints of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying against any protected group, including actual or perceived discrimination, on the basis of the actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, mental disability, physical disability, ethnic group identification, immigration status, gender expression, gender identity, gender, genetic information, nationality, national origin, race or ethnicity, religion, medical condition, marital status, sex, or sexual orientation, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any Charter School program or activity; and
2. Complaints of violations of state or federal law and regulations governing the following programs including but not limited to: Adult Education Programs, After School Education and Safety Programs, Agricultural Vocational Education Programs, American Indian Education Centers and Early Child Education Program Assessments, Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs, Career Technical and Technical Education and Career Technical and Technical Training Programs, Child Care and Development Programs, Child Nutrition Programs, Foster and Homeless Youth Services, Migrant Education Programs, Every Student Succeeds Act / No Child Left Behind Act (2001) Programs (Titles I-VII), including improving academic achievement, compensatory education, limited English proficiency, and migrant education, Regional Occupational Centers and Programs, Special Education Programs, State Preschool, Bilingual Education, Economic Impact Aid, and Tobacco-Use Prevention Education.
3. A complaint may also be filed alleging that a pupil enrolled in a public school was required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity as those terms are defined below.
 - a. "Educational activity" means an activity offered by a school, school district, charter school or county office of education that constitutes an integral fundamental part of elementary and secondary education, including, but not limited to, curricular and extracurricular activities.

b. "Pupil fee" means a fee, deposit or other charge imposed on pupils, or a pupil's parents or guardians, in violation of Section 49011 of the Education Code and Section 5 of Article IX of the California Constitution, which require educational activities to be provided free of charge to all pupils without regard to their families' ability or willingness to pay fees or request special waivers, as provided for in *Hartzell v. Connell* (1984) 35 Cal.3d 899. A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

i. A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory or is for credit.

ii. A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, uniform or other materials or equipment.

iii. A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms associated with an educational activity.

c. A pupil fees complaint may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees.

d. If the Charter School finds merit in a pupil fees complaint the Charter School shall provide a remedy to all affected pupils, parents, and guardians that, where applicable, includes reasonable efforts by the Charter School to ensure full reimbursement to all affected pupils, parents, and guardians, subject to procedures established through regulations adopted by the state board.

e. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prohibit solicitation of voluntary donations of funds or property, voluntary participation in fundraising activities, or school districts, school, and other entities from providing pupils prizes or other recognition for voluntarily participating in fundraising activities.

4. Complaints of noncompliance with the requirements governing the Local Control Funding Formula, Local Control and Accountability Plans or Sections 47606.5 and 47607.3 of the Education Code, as applicable.

5. Complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of Education Code Section 222 regarding the rights of lactating pupils on a school campus. If the Charter School finds merit

in a complaint, or if the Superintendent finds merit in an appeal, the Charter School shall provide a remedy to the affected pupil.

6. Complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of Education Code Section 48645.7 regarding the rights of juvenile court school pupils when they become entitled to a diploma. If the Charter School finds merit in a complaint, or if the Superintendent finds merit in an appeal, the Charter School shall provide a remedy to the affected pupil.

Vincent Academy acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. Unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints shall be investigated in a manner that protects (to the greatest extent reasonably possible) the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process. The Charter School cannot guarantee anonymity of the complainant. This includes keeping the identity of the complainant confidential. However, the Charter School will attempt to do so as appropriate. The Charter School may find it necessary to disclose information regarding the complaint/complainant to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation or proceedings, as determined by the Principal or designee on a case-by-case basis.

Vincent Academy prohibits any form of retaliation against any complainant in the complaint process, including but not limited to a complainant's filing of a complaint or the reporting of instances of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades or work assignments of the complainant.

Compliance Officer:

Vincent Academy designates the following compliance officer(s), who shall receive and investigate (or designate the appropriate investigator of) complaints and ensure compliance with the law.

Monica Rasmussen
Principal
Vincent Academy
2501 Chestnut St. Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 452-2100

The Principal or designee shall ensure that employees designated to investigate complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs for which they are responsible. Designated employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Principal or designee.

Should a complaint be filed against the Principal, the compliance officer for that case shall be the President of the Charter School Board of Directors.

Notifications:

The Principal or designee shall annually provide written notification of the Charter School's uniform complaint procedures to employees, students, parents and/or guardians, advisory committees, private school officials and other interested parties (e.g., Adult Education).

The annual notice shall be in English, and when necessary, in the primary language, pursuant to section 48985 of the Education Code if fifteen (15) percent or more of the pupils enrolled in the Charter School speak a single primary language other than English.

The Principal or designee shall make available copies of the Charter School's uniform complaint procedures free of charge.