



# **Employee Handbook 2021-22**

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

PLEASE READ THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND SUBMIT A SIGNED COPY OF THIS STATEMENT TO HUMAN RESOURCES.

EMPLOYEE NAME:

I ACKNOWLEDGE that I have received a copy of the Employee Handbook. I have read and understood the contents of the Handbook, and I agree to abide by its directions and procedures. I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions I might have about the policies in the Handbook. I understand that it is my responsibility to read and familiarize myself with the policies and procedures contained in the Handbook.

I understand that the statements contained in the Handbook are guidelines for employees concerning some of the School's policies and benefits, and are not intended to create any contractual or other legal obligations or to alter the at-will nature of my employment with the School. In the event I do have an employment contract which expressly alters the at-will relationship, I agree to the foregoing except with reference to an at-will employment status.

I understand that except for employment at-will status, any and all policies or practices can be changed at any time by the School.

I understand that other than the Superintendent & CEO of the School, no person has authority to enter into any agreement, express or implied, for employment for any specific period of time, or to make any agreement for employment other than at-will; only the Superintendent & CEO has the authority to make any such agreement and then only in writing signed by the Superintendent & CEO.

Employee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign/date, tear out, and return to Human Resources,  
and retain this Handbook for your reference.**

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## INTRODUCTION TO HANDBOOK

This Handbook is designed to help employees get acquainted with Compass Charter Schools (hereinafter referred to as “CCS” or the “School”). It explains some of our philosophies and beliefs, and describes some of our employment guidelines in general terms. Although this Handbook is not intended to be an exclusive or comprehensive policies and procedures manual, we hope that it will serve as a useful reference document for employees throughout their employment at the School. Employees should understand, however, that this Handbook is not intended to be a contract (express or implied), nor is it intended to otherwise create any legally enforceable obligations on the part of the School or its employees. In no way does the Handbook replace any official plan documents (e.g., health insurance, retirement plan, etc.) or insurance contracts, which will govern in all cases. This Handbook supersedes and replaces all previous personnel policies, practices, and guidelines.

Due to the fact that the School is a growing and changing organization, it reserves full discretion to add to, modify, or delete provisions of this Handbook, or the policies and procedures on which they may be based, at any time without advance notice. CCS also reserves the right to interpret any of the provisions set forth in this Handbook in any manner it deems appropriate.

No individual other than the Superintendent & CEO or Board of Directors has the authority to enter into any employment or other agreement that modifies School policy. Any such modification *must* be in writing.

This Handbook is the property of the School, and it is intended for personal use and reference by employees of the School. Circulation of this Handbook outside of the School requires the prior written approval of the Superintendent & CEO.

Employees must sign the acknowledgment form at the beginning of this Handbook, tear it out, and return it to Human Resources. This will provide the School with a record that each employee has received this Handbook.



## **CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**

### **Equal Employment Opportunity Is Our Policy**

CCS is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of the School to afford equal employment and advancement opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to:

- Race (including traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hairstyle, including but not limited to braids, locks, and twists);
- Color;
- Gender (including gender identity, gender expression, and transgender identity, whether or not the employee is transitioning or has transitioned));
- Sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and medical conditions related to such);
- Religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices);
- Marital/registered domestic partner status;
- Age (forty (40) and over);
- National origin or ancestry (including native language spoken and possession of a driver's license issued to persons unable to prove their presence in the U.S. is authorized by federal law));
- Physical or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS);
- Medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics);
- Taking of a leave of absence pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"), Pregnancy Disability Leave ("PDL") law, Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"), the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"), or laws related to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking;
- Genetic information;
- Sexual orientation;
- Military and veteran status; or
- Any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws.

This policy extends to all job applicants and employees and to all aspects of the employment relationship, including the hiring of new employees and the training, transfer, promotion, discipline, termination, compensation and benefits of existing employees.

To comply with applicable laws ensuring equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, the School will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or an employee unless undue hardship would result.

Any applicant or employee who requires an accommodation in order to perform the essential functions of the job should contact a School representative with day-to-day personnel responsibilities and request such an accommodation. The individual with the disability should specify what accommodation he or she needs to perform the job, or if unknown, what job duties the disability impairs. CCS will then conduct an investigation to identify the barriers that interfere with the equal opportunity of the applicant or employee to perform the job. CCS will identify possible accommodations, if any, that will help eliminate the limitation. If the accommodation is reasonable and will not impose an undue hardship, the School will make the accommodation.

## **Employment At-Will**

Except if stated expressly otherwise by employment contract, it is the policy of the School that all employees are considered “at-will” employees of the School. Accordingly, either the School or the employee can terminate this relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause, and with or without advance notice.

Nothing contained in this Handbook, employment applications, School memoranda or other materials provided to employees in connection with their employment shall require the School to have “cause” to terminate an employee or otherwise restrict the School’s right to release an employee from their at-will employment with the School. Statements of specific grounds for termination set forth in this Handbook or elsewhere are not all-inclusive and are not intended to restrict the School’s right to terminate at-will. No School representative, other than the Board of Directors or its designee, is authorized to modify this policy for any employee or to make any representations to employees or applicants concerning the terms or conditions of employment with the School that are not consistent with the School’s policy regarding “at-will” employment.

This policy shall not be modified by any statements contained in this Handbook or employee applications, School memoranda, or any other materials provided to employees in connection with their employment. Further, none of those documents whether singly or combined, or any employment practices, shall create an express or implied contract of employment for a definite period, nor an express or implied contract concerning any terms or conditions of employment.

## **Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting**

California Penal Code section 11166 requires any child care custodian who has knowledge of, or observes, a child in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately, or as soon as practically possible, by telephone and to prepare and send a written report thereof within thirty-six (36) hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.

CCS will provide annual training on the mandated reporting requirements, using the online training module provided by the State Department of Social Services, to employees who are mandated reporters. Mandated reporter training will also be provided to employees hired during the course of the school year. This training will include information that failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect, as required by Penal Code section 11166, is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six (6) months confinement in a county jail, or by a fine of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

All employees required to receive mandated reporter training must provide proof of completing the training within the first six (6) weeks of each school year or within the first six (6) weeks of that employee’s employment.

By acknowledging receipt of this Handbook, employees acknowledge they are childcare custodians and are certifying that they have knowledge of California Penal Code section 11166 and will comply with its provisions.

## **Criminal Background Checks**

As required by law, all individuals working or volunteering at the School will be required to submit to a criminal background investigation. No condition or activity will be permitted that may compromise the School's commitment to the safety and the well-being of scholars taking precedence over all other considerations. Conditions that preclude working at the School include conviction of a controlled substance or sex offense, or a serious or violent felony. Additionally, should an employee, during his/her employment with the School, be charged or convicted of any offense, the employee must immediately report the charge or conviction to the Chief of Staff.

## **Tuberculosis Testing**

All employees of the School must submit written proof from a physician of a risk assessment examination for tuberculosis (TB) within the last sixty (60) days. If TB risk factors are identified, a physician must conduct an examination to determine whether the employee is free of infectious TB. The examination for TB consists of an approved TB test, which, if positive, will be followed by an x-ray of the lungs, or in the absence of skin testing, an x-ray of the lungs. All employees will be required to undergo TB risk assessments and, if risk factors are found, the examination at least once every four (4) years. Volunteers may be required to undergo a TB examination as necessary. The TB risk assessment and, if indicated, the examination is a condition of initial employment with the School and the cost of the exam will be borne by the applicant.

Food handlers may be required to have annual TB exams. Documentation of employee and volunteer compliance with TB risk assessments and examinations will be kept on file in the office. This requirement also includes contract food handlers, substitute teachers, and student teachers serving under the supervision of an educator. Any entity providing scholar services to the School will be contractually required to ensure that all contract workers have had TB testing that shows them to be free of active TB prior to conducting work with School scholars.

## **Immigration Compliance**

CCS will comply with applicable immigration law, including the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and the Immigration Act of 1990. As a condition of employment, every individual must provide satisfactory evidence of his or her identity and legal authority to work in the United States. However, CCS will not check the employment authorization status of current employees or applicants who were not offered positions with the School unless required to do so by law.

The School shall not discharge an employee or in any manner discriminate, retaliate, or take any adverse action (e.g., threatening to report the suspected citizenship or immigration status of an employee or a member of the employee's family) against any employee or applicant for employment because the employee or applicant exercised a right protected under applicable law. Further, the School shall not discriminate against any individual because he or she holds or presents a driver's license issued per Vehicle Code § 12801.9 to persons who have not established their federally-authorized presence in the United States. Finally, in compliance with the Immigrant Worker Protection Act, the School shall not allow a federal immigration enforcement agent to enter any nonpublic areas of the School without a judicial warrant, or voluntarily give consent to an agent to access, review or obtain employee records without a subpoena or judicial warrant.

## **Employment Qualifications**

CCS's core academic teachers are required, as a condition of initial and continued employment, to hold a current California Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document equivalent to that which a teacher in other public schools would be required to hold.

It is the responsibility of each core academic teacher to ensure that credentials and permits are renewed in a timely manner and remain current. Upon renewal, the original document is to be submitted to Human Resources to be copied and filed in the employee's personnel file.

## **Professional Boundaries: Staff/Scholar Interaction Policy**

CCS recognizes its responsibility to make and enforce all rules and regulations governing scholar and employee behavior to bring about the safest and most learning-conducive environment possible.

### Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any scholar. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a scholar.

For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, scholars, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to property.

For clarification purposes, the following examples are offered for direction and guidance of School personnel:

#### A. Examples of PERMITTED actions (NOT corporal punishment)

1. Stopping a scholar from fighting with another scholar;
2. Preventing a scholar from committing an act of vandalism;
3. Defending yourself from physical injury or assault by a scholar;
4. Forcing a scholar to give up a weapon or dangerous object;
5. Requiring an athletic team to participate in strenuous physical training activities designed to strengthen or condition team members or improve their coordination, agility, or physical skills;
6. Engaging in group calisthenics, team drills, or other physical education or voluntary recreational activities.

#### B. Examples of PROHIBITED actions (corporal punishment)

1. Hitting, shoving, pushing, or physically restraining a scholar as a means of control;
2. Making unruly scholars do push-ups, run laps, or perform other physical acts that cause pain or discomfort as a form of punishment;
3. Paddling, swatting, slapping, grabbing, pinching, kicking, or otherwise causing physical pain.

## Acceptable and Unacceptable Staff/Scholar Behavior

This policy is intended to guide all School faculty and staff in conducting themselves in a way that reflects the high standards of behavior and professionalism required of school employees and to specify the boundaries between scholars and staff.

Although this policy gives specific, clear direction, it is each staff member's obligation to avoid situations that could prompt suspicion by parents, scholars, colleagues, or school leaders. One viable standard that can be quickly applied, when you are unsure if certain conduct is acceptable, is to ask yourself, "Would I be engaged in this conduct if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

For the purposes of this policy, the term "boundaries" is defined as acceptable professional behavior by staff members while interacting with a scholar. Trespassing the boundaries of a scholar/teacher relationship is deemed an abuse of power and a betrayal of public trust.

Some activities may seem innocent from a staff member's perspective, but can be perceived as flirtation or sexual insinuation from a scholar or parent point of view. The objective of the following lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors is not to restrain innocent, positive relationships between staff and scholars, but to prevent relationships that could lead to, or may be perceived as, sexual misconduct.

Staff must understand their own responsibility for ensuring that they do not cross the boundaries as written in this policy. Disagreeing with the wording or intent of the established boundaries will be considered irrelevant for disciplinary purposes. Thus, it is crucial that all employees learn this policy thoroughly and apply the lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors to their daily activities. Although sincere, competent interaction with scholars certainly fosters learning, scholar/staff interactions must have boundaries surrounding potential activities, locations and intentions.

## Duty to Report Suspected Misconduct

When any employee reasonably suspects or believes that another staff member may have crossed the boundaries specified in this policy, he or she must immediately report the matter to a school administrator. All reports shall be as confidential as possible under the circumstances. It is the duty of the administrator to investigate and thoroughly report the situation. Employees must also report to the administration any awareness or concern of scholar behavior that crosses boundaries or where a scholar appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

## Examples of Specific Behaviors

The following examples are not an exhaustive list:

### Unacceptable Staff/Scholar Behaviors (Violations of this Policy)

- a. Giving gifts to an individual scholar that are of a personal and intimate nature.
- b. Kissing of any kind.
- c. Any type of unnecessary physical contact with a scholar in a private situation.
- d. Intentionally being alone with a scholar away from the school.
- e. Making or participating in sexually inappropriate comments.

- f. Sexual jokes.
- g. Seeking emotional involvement with a scholar for your benefit.
- h. Listening to or telling stories that are sexually oriented.
- i. Discussing inappropriate personal troubles or intimate issues with a scholar in an attempt to gain their support and understanding.
- j. Becoming involved with a scholar so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior.

#### Unacceptable Staff/Scholar Behaviors without Parent and Supervisor Permission

**(These behaviors should only be exercised when a staff member has parent and supervisor permission.)**

- a. Giving scholars a ride to/from school or school activities.
- b. Being alone in a room with a scholar at school with the door closed.
- c. Allowing scholars in your home.

#### Cautionary Staff/Scholar Behaviors

**(These behaviors should only be exercised when a reasonable and prudent person, acting as an educator, is prevented from using a better practice or behavior. Staff members should inform their supervisor of the circumstance and occurrence prior to or immediately after the occurrence)**

- a. Remarks about the physical attributes or development of anyone.
- b. Excessive attention toward a particular scholar.
- c. Sending emails, text messages or letters to scholars if the content is not about school activities.

#### Acceptable and Recommended Staff/Scholar Behaviors

- a. Getting parents' written consent for any after-school activity.
- b. Obtaining formal approval to take scholars off school property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
- c. Emails, text, phone and instant messages to scholars must be very professional and pertaining to school activities or classes (Communication should be limited to school technology).
- d. Keeping the door open when alone with a scholar.
- e. Keeping reasonable space between you and your scholars.
- f. Stopping and correcting scholars if they cross your own personal boundaries.
- g. Keeping parents informed when a significant issue develops about a scholar.
- h. Keeping after-class discussions with a scholar professional and brief.
- i. Asking for advice from fellow staff or administrators if you find yourself in a difficult situation related to boundaries.
- j. Involving your supervisor if conflict arises with the scholar.
- k. Informing the Chief of Staff about situations that have the potential to become more severe.
- l. Making detailed notes about an incident that could evolve into a more serious situation later.
- m. Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of scholars or coworkers.

- n. Asking another staff member to be present if you will be alone with any type of special needs scholar.
- o. Asking another staff member to be present when you must be alone with a scholar after regular school hours.
- p. Giving scholars praise and recognition without touching them.
- q. Pats on the back, high fives and handshakes are acceptable.
- r. Keeping your professional conduct, a high priority.
- s. Asking yourself if your actions are worth your job and career.

## **Policy Prohibiting Unlawful Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation**

CCS is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. CCS's policy prohibits unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation based upon: race (including traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hairstyle, including but not limited to braids, locks, and twists); color; gender (including gender identity, gender expression, and transgender identity, whether or not the employee is transitioning or has transitioned); sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions); religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices); marital/registered domestic partner status; age (forty (40) and over); national origin or ancestry (including native language spoken and possession of a driver's license issued to persons unable to prove their presence in the U.S. is authorized by federal law); physical or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS); medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics); taking a leave of absence authorized by law; genetic information; sexual orientation; military and veteran status; or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws.

Employees, volunteers, unpaid interns, individuals in apprenticeship programs, and independent contractors shall not be harassed, or discriminated against or retaliated against, based upon the characteristics noted above.

CCS does not condone and will not tolerate unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation on the part of any employee (including supervisors and managers) or third party (including independent contractors or other person with which the School does business). Supervisors and managers are to report any complaints of unlawful harassment to the Chief of Staff or designee.

When CCS receives allegations of unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation, the Board (if a complaint is about the Superintendent & CEO) or the Chief of Staff or designee will conduct a fair, timely and thorough investigation that provides all parties an appropriate process and reaches reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected. The investigation will be handled in as confidential a manner as possible, although complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Complainants and witnesses shall not be subject to retaliation for making complaints in good faith or participating in an investigation. CCS is committed to remediating any instances where investigation findings demonstrate unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation has occurred.

### Prohibited Unlawful Harassment

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments or slurs;
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement, or interfering with work because of sex, race or any other protected basis;

- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment; or
- Disparate treatment based on any of the protected classes above.

### Prohibited Unlawful Sexual Harassment

CCS is committed to providing a workplace free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action, up to, and including dismissal, of the offending employee.

Sexual harassment consists of sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, regardless of whether or not the conduct is motivated by sexual desire, when: (1) submission to the conduct is either made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) an employment decision is based upon an individual's acceptance or rejection of that conduct; and/or (3) that conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an employee who has articulated a good faith concern about sexual harassment against him or her or against another individual.

All supervisors of staff will receive two (2) hours of sexual harassment prevention training within six (6) months of hire or their assumption of a supervisory position and every two (2) years thereafter. All other employees will receive one (1) hour of sexual harassment prevention training within (6) months of hire and every two (2) years thereafter. Such training will address all legally required topics, including information about the negative effects that abusive conduct has on both the victim of the conduct and others in the workplace, as well as methods to prevent abusive conduct undertaken with malice a reasonable person would find hostile, offensive, and unrelated to an employer's legitimate business interests. Abusive conduct includes but is not limited to repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of derogatory remarks, insults, and epithets, verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating, or the gratuitous sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance. Supervisors shall also be trained on how to appropriately respond when the supervisor becomes aware that an employee is the target of unlawful harassment. Other staff will receive sexual harassment prevention training as required by law.

Each employee has the responsibility to maintain a workplace free from any form of sexual harassment. Consequently, should any individual, in particular those with supervisory responsibilities, become aware of any conduct that may constitute sexual harassment or other prohibited behavior, immediate action should be taken to address such conduct. Any employee who believes they have been sexually harassed or has witnessed sexual harassment is encouraged to immediately report such harassment to the Chief of Staff. See **Appendix A** for the "Harassment/Discrimination/Retaliation Complaint Form." See **Appendix B** for the general "Internal Complaint Form."

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
  - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults and



- Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, or poking another's body.
- Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:
  - Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience.
  - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an employee for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any employee to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or disparate treatment for rejecting sexual conduct.
  - Subjecting or threats of subjecting an employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making performance of the employee's job more difficult because of the employee's sex.
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere at the workplace by employees, such as:
  - Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing to work or possessing any such material to read, display or view at work;
  - Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the work environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic; and
  - Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an employee by sex in an area of the workplace (other than restrooms or similar rooms).

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under this policy. Moreover, please note that while in most situations a personal relationship is a private matter, these relationships are not appropriate in a professional setting, particularly where one of the parties has management or supervisory responsibilities. As such, consensual relationships in the workplace may violate CCS policy.

## **Code of Ethics**

### General

The following Code of Ethics applies to all members of the School Community including volunteers and members of all decision-making teams, as well as all staff of CCS (collectively referred to as “members”).

### Preamble

All members believe in the worth and dignity of human beings. All members recognize the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, and the nurturing of democratic citizenship. All members regard as essential to these goals the protection of freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. All members accept the responsibility to practice “education” according to the highest ethical standards.

### Principle I: Commitment to the Scholar

All members must work to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals. In fulfilling these goals, all members should:

- Encourage the scholars to take independent action in the pursuit of learning and provide access to varying points of view, and entrepreneurial goals and vision.
- Prepare subjects carefully, incorporating entrepreneurial curriculum and 21st century life skills. Present them to the scholar without distortion, and, within the limits of time and curriculum, give all points of view a fair hearing.
- Protect the health and safety of scholars.
- Honor the integrity of scholars and influence them through constructive criticism rather than by ridicule and harassment.
- Provide for participation in educational programs without regard to race, color, creed, sex, gender, orientation, national origin or any other protected classification - both in what is taught and how it is taught.
- Neither solicit nor involve scholars or their parents in schemes for commercial gain thereby ensuring that professional relationships with scholars shall not be used for private advantage.
- Keep in confidence information that has been obtained in the course of professional service, including scholar/parent’s address, phone number or any other contact information, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
- Not post on the website or share with others pictures or depictions of scholars unless a photo school waiver is on file with the School.

### Principle II: Commitment to the Public

All members believe that democratic citizenship in its highest form requires dedication to the principles of our democratic heritage. All members share with all other citizens the responsibility for the development of sound public policy and assume full political and citizenship responsibilities. All members of staff bear particular responsibility for the development of policy relating to the extension of educational opportunities for all, and for interpretation of educational programs and policies to the public. In fulfilling these goals, all members:

- Have an obligation to support education and CCS, and not to misrepresent them in public discussion. When being critical in public, all members have an obligation not to distort the facts. When speaking or writing about policies, all members must take adequate precautions to distinguish members' private views from the official position of the charter school.
- Do not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities.
- Ensure that institutional privileges shall not be used for private gain. Do not exploit scholars, their parents, colleagues, or the school system itself for private advantage. Do not accept gifts or favors that might impair or appear to impair professional judgment nor offer any favor, service, or thing of value to obtain special advantage.

### Principle III: Commitment to the Profession

All members will exert every effort to raise standards, to improve service, to promote a climate in which the exercise of sound personal and professional judgment is encouraged, and to achieve conditions, which attract person's worthy of trust to careers in education. In fulfilling these goals, all members will:

- Accord just and equitable treatment to all members in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities.
- Not use coercive means or promise special treatment in order to influence professional decisions of colleagues.
- Not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications.
- Not misrepresent the professional qualifications of their colleagues; discuss these qualifications fairly and accurately when discussion serves professional purposes.
- Apply for, accept, offer, and assign positions or responsibility on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications.
- Use honest and effective methods of administering educational responsibilities; conduct professional business through proper channels; use time granted for its intended purposes; not misrepresent conditions of employment; live up to the letter and spirit of contracts.

### **Whistleblower Policy**

CCS requires its directors, officers, employees, and volunteers to observe high standards of ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities within the School. As representatives of the School, such individuals must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling all responsibilities and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of this policy is to create an ethical and open work environment, to ensure that the School has a governance and accountability structure that supports its mission, and to encourage and enable directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School to raise serious concerns about the occurrence of illegal or unethical actions within the School before turning to outside parties for resolution.

All directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School have a responsibility to report any action or suspected action taken within the School that is illegal, unethical or violates any adopted policy of the School, or local rule or regulation. Anyone reporting a violation must act in good faith,

without malice to the School or any individual at the School and have reasonable grounds for believing that the information shared in the report indicates that a violation has occurred. A person who makes a report does not have to prove that a violation has occurred. However, any report which the reporter has made maliciously or any report which the reporter has good reason to believe is false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense. No one who in good faith reports a violation, or who, in good faith, cooperates in the investigation of a violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment action. Further, no one who in good faith discloses, who may disclose, or who the School believes disclosed or may disclose, information regarding alleged violations to a person with authority over the employee or another employee who had responsibility for investigating, discovering or correcting the purported violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment action.

### **Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace**

CCS complies with applicable Federal and State law regarding drug use while on the job with respect to all School employees. The School is concerned about the use of alcohol and drugs as it affects the workplace, the School community and the scholars which CCS serves. Use of these substances whether on or off the job can adversely affect an employee's work performance, efficiency, safety, and health, and therefore seriously impair the employee's value to the School and its scholars. In addition, the use or possession of these substances on the job constitutes a potential danger to the welfare and safety of other employees and scholars and exposes the School to the risks of property loss or damage or injury to other persons.

Furthermore, the use of prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs also may affect an employee's job performance and seriously impair the employee's value to CCS. Any employee who is using prescription or over-the-counter drugs that may impair the employee's ability to safely perform the job, or affect the safety or well-being of others, must notify a supervisor of such use immediately before starting or resuming work.

The following rules and standards of conduct apply to all employees either on CCS property or during the workday (including meal and rest periods). Behavior that violates this policy includes:

- Driving a School vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Distribution, sale or purchase of any drug while on the job, or in the presence of scholars.
- Possession or use of alcohol or drugs while on the job, or in the presence of scholars.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs while on the job.

Notwithstanding recent changes in California law and over-the-counter availability, marijuana (including all cannabis extracts such as CBD) remains an illegal Schedule I substance under federal law. As a result, and regardless of the drug or substance, employees who violate the aforementioned prohibitions will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. CCS may also bring the matter to the attention of the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

In order to enforce this policy, CCS reserves the right to conduct searches of School property and to implement other measures necessary to deter and detect abuse of this policy. As such, employees do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy while on School property.

## **Confidential Information**

All information relating to scholars, personal information, schools attended, addresses, contact numbers and progress information is confidential in nature, and may not be shared with or distributed to unauthorized parties, including other CCS parents unless permission is on file. All records concerning special education scholars shall be kept strictly confidential and maintained in a separate locked cabinet. Failure to maintain confidentiality may result in disciplinary action, up to and including release from at-will employment.

## **Conflict of Interest**

All employees must avoid situations involving actual or potential conflict of interest. A conflict of interest is a situation in which an employee's personal interests (or those of the employee's friends or family) are inconsistent with the interests of CCS, so that the employee's ability to act solely in the best interests of CCS is placed in doubt, giving recognition to the frailties of human conscience and the instinctive force of self-interest.

An employee involved in any relationships or situations, which may constitute a conflict of interest, should immediately and fully disclose the relevant circumstances to the Superintendent & CEO, for a determination about whether a potential or actual conflict exists. If an actual or potential conflict is determined, the School may take whatever corrective action appears appropriate according to the circumstances.

In the case of outside employment, all full-time and part-time employees may not work or consult for other entities involved in the field of education without authorization from the Superintendent & CEO. No outside employment may impede the staff member's ability to fulfill his/her job responsibilities. Outside employment may not take place during regular employee hours. Failure to disclose facts shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action that may involve action up to and including termination from CCS.

## **Nepotism Policy**

CCS is committed to a policy of employment and advancement based on qualifications and performance. Due to potential for perceived or actual conflicts, such as favoritism or personal conflicts from outside the work environment, which can be carried into the daily working relationship, CCS will hire or consider other employment actions concerning relatives of persons currently employed only if: a) candidates for employment will not be working directly for or supervising a relative; b) the relative will not be working within the same Division and or reporting to the same Supervisor; and c) candidates for employment will not occupy a position in the same line of authority in which employees can initiate or participate in decisions involving a direct benefit to the relative. Such decisions include hiring, retention, transfer, promotion, wages and leave requests. This policy applies to all current employees and candidates for employment, unless prior approval has been granted by the Superintendent & CEO.

Definitions: "Family member" is defined as one of the following: relationships by blood - parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece and first cousin; and relationships by marriage - husband, wife (as defined by state law), stepparent, stepchild, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, half-brother, half-sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, spouse/partner of any of the above and cohabitating couples or significant others. The hiring supervisor is responsible for ensuring policy compliance.

Department directors are responsible for monitoring changes in employee reporting relations after initial hire to ensure compliance with this policy. Employees are responsible for immediately reporting any changes to their supervisor. If any employee, after employment or change in employment, enters into one of the above relationships, one of the affected individuals must seek a transfer or a change in the reporting relationship. Such changes must be approved by the Superintendent & CEO. If a decision cannot be made by the affected employees within fourteen (14) days of reporting, reassignment will be made on direction of the department director and the Superintendent & CEO. No exception to this policy will be made without the written consent of the Superintendent & CEO.

### **Smoking**

All School buildings and facilities are non-smoking facilities.

## **THE WORKPLACE**

### **Employment Categories**

The following are categories of employees that are used within this Handbook (herein “Employee Category”). More than one (1) Employee Category may apply to an employee.

#### Full-Time Employee

A full-time employee is an employee whose regular working hours are more than thirty-five (35) hours per week. Full-time employees are hired for an indefinite and unspecified duration of time. Full-time employees are eligible for all School employment benefits, as specified in the Employment Benefits provision of this Handbook.

#### Part-Time Employee

A part-time employee is an employee whose regular working hours are thirty-five (35) or fewer hours per week. Part-time employees are hired for an indefinite and unspecified duration of time. Part-time employees may be eligible for employment benefits (e.g., prorated), as specified in the Employment Benefits provision of this Handbook.

#### Temporary Employee

A temporary employee is an employee who is hired for a limited, but unspecified, period of time or for a specific project or set of projects. The introductory period is not applicable to temporary employees. Temporary employees are generally ineligible for School employment benefits, as specified in the Employment Benefits provision of this Handbook.

#### Exempt Employee

An exempt employee is an employee whose employment is not subject to the overtime and recordkeeping provisions of applicable law.

#### Non-Exempt Employee

A nonexempt employee is an employee whose employment is subject to the overtime and recordkeeping provisions of applicable law.

#### Salaried Non-Exempt Employee

The designation of an employee as “salaried, non-exempt” means that the employer is paying the employee a consistent salary that meets applicable minimum wage requirements instead of paying an hourly rate based on actual hours worked. In addition, and most importantly, the designation means the School determined that the employee’s primary job duties fail to meet the requirements for an exemption under applicable law and is classifying the employee as nonexempt.

## Inactive Employees

An inactive employee is an employee who is currently on a leave of absence. When an inactive employee returns to work, the employee becomes an active employee.

## Vacant Positions

CCS believes in providing opportunities for employees to advance within the organization. All new and vacant positions will be announced for internal applicants through the School's intranet and posted on the School website, including any job boards, for external applicants.

An employee in good standing will be considered as eligible if they meet the minimum qualifications for the position.

## **Work Schedule**

### Central Office

Hours of operation for the Central Office are 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, closed daily from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

### Non-Exempt Employees

The regular workday schedule for nonexempt employees is eight (8) hours; the regular workweek schedule is forty (40) hours.

### Exempt Employees: Twelve-month

Twelve-month exempt employees are expected to be available during business hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and to commit whatever additional time is necessary to satisfactorily complete all job requirements. The School reserves the right to alter schedules as it may require.

### Exempt Employees: Eleven-month

All teachers/educational facilitators, coordinators, and counselors are exempt employees as defined by applicable law. Work schedules will be reflective of their current scholar roster, will generally coincide with regular school hours, and may require a flexible work schedule, including work on weekends, as well as before and after the regular work year or hours of the work day. Work schedules may need to be adjusted throughout the school year to accommodate changes and to best serve the needs of their scholars.

## **Meal and Rest Periods**

CCS provides nonexempt employees with ten (10) minute paid rest periods as required by applicable law. Nonexempt employees receive one (1) rest period for each four (4) hour work period or a "major fraction" of a work period (i.e. greater than two [2] hours). However, any nonexempt employee who works less than three and one-half (3½) hours in a day is not eligible to take a rest period. The number of rest periods received is as follows:

- Nonexempt employees who work between three and one-half (3½) and six (6) hours are entitled to one (1), ten (10) minute rest period.



- Nonexempt employees who work more than six (6) and up to ten (10) hours are entitled to two (2), ten (10) minute rest periods. Nonexempt employees who work more than ten (10) and up to twelve (12) hours are entitled to three (3), ten (10) minute rest periods.

A rest period is paid time when employees are relieved of all work duties and responsibilities. Rest periods may not be combined, added to a meal period, or taken at the very beginning or very end of the day. Insofar as practicable, rest periods should be in the middle of each work period. Employees must self-police their rest periods and ensure that they take their rest periods every day.

CCS also requires its employees in nonexempt positions to take a mandatory unpaid, uninterrupted meal period in accordance with California law, sixty (60) minutes per CCS policy. A meal period is an unpaid period when employees are relieved of all work duties and responsibilities, generally for the purpose of consuming a meal. During the meal period, employees may not perform any work-related activities. The meal period must be taken approximately in the middle of the workday but by no later than the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> hour of work. An employee may waive this meal period if the day's work will be completed in no more than six (6) hours, provided the employee and CCS mutually consent to the waiver in writing.

If a nonexempt employee is unable to take his/her meal or rest periods, or take them in a timely manner, the employee must notify his/her supervisor before or at the time the employee is unable to take the meal or rest period. Failure to follow this notification requirement may lead to discipline, at the School's discretion.

### **Lactation Accommodation**

CCS accommodates lactating employees by providing a reasonable amount of break time to any employee who desires to express breast milk for an infant child. The break time shall, if possible, run concurrently with any break time already provided to the employee. Any break time provided to express breast milk that does not run concurrently with break time already provided to the non-exempt employee shall be unpaid.

CCS will make reasonable efforts to provide employees who need lactation accommodation with the use of a room or other private location that is located close to the employee's work area. Such room/location shall not be a bathroom, and shall have electricity. Employees shall also be given access to a sink with running water and a refrigerator. Employees with private offices will be required to use their offices to express breast milk. Employees who desire lactation accommodations should contact their supervisor to request accommodations.

### **Attendance and Tardiness**

All employees, whether exempt or nonexempt, are expected to arrive at work consistently and on time. Absenteeism and tardiness negatively affect the School's ability to implement its educational program and disrupts consistency in scholars' learning.

If it is necessary to be absent or late for the start of the workday or any other work functions, including but not limited to required meetings or trainings, employees are expected to notify their immediate supervisor as soon as possible but no later than one-half (1/2) hour before the start of

the workday. If an employee is absent from work longer than one (1) day, he or she is expected to keep their immediate supervisor sufficiently informed of the situation. Time off requests must be entered using the Bamboo HR system.

As noted in the section of this Handbook concerning prohibited conduct, excessive or unexcused absences or tardiness may result in disciplinary action up to and including release from at-will employment with the School. Absence for more than three (3) consecutive days without notifying the Chief of Staff will be considered a voluntary resignation from employment.

### **Timecards/Records**

By law, CCS is obligated to keep accurate records of the time worked by nonexempt employees. Such employees are required to utilize the School's timecard system.

Non-exempt employees must accurately clock in and out of their shifts using the Bamboo HR system, as this is the only way the payroll department knows how many hours each employee has worked and how much each employee is owed. The timecard indicates when the employee arrived and when the employee departed. All nonexempt employees must clock in and out for arrival and departure, for all paid work time including lunch.

Non-exempt employees are solely responsible for ensuring accurate timekeeping in the Bamboo HR system and remembering to record time worked. If an employee misses a time punch, the employee must complete a Punch Correction Form be signed by the employee, their immediate supervisor, and submitted to the Chief Financial Officer at the end of each pay period.

Non-exempt employees are prohibited from performing off-the-clock work, including but not limited to checking emails before/after work hours, performing work in the morning before logging in, and running School errands after logging out.

No one may record hours worked on another's time sheet. Any employee who violates any aspect of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including release from at-will employment with the School.

### **Adjunct Duties**

All exempt employees will be assigned adjunct duties at the School's discretion. Satisfactory performance of these duties is a condition of continued employment.

### **Use of Email, Voicemail and Internet Access**

CCS permits employees to use its electronic mail, voicemail systems and Internet access subject to the following:

- Minimal personal use as long as it does not interfere with timely job performance and is consistent with law and appropriate protocols during work hours.
- The email system and Internet access is not to be used in any way that may be disruptive, offensive to others, or harmful to morale. For example, sexually explicit images, ethnic slurs, racial epithets, or anything else that may be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religious beliefs or political beliefs may not be displayed or transmitted.

- The Internet may not be accessed on any school device outside of the United States.
- Employees may not attempt to gain access to another employee's personal file of email or voicemail messages or voicemail messages without the latter's express permission.
- School staff will not enter an employee's personal email files or voicemail unless there is a business need to do so. CCS retains a copy of all passwords; passwords unknown to the School may not be used. System security features, including passwords and delete functions, do not neutralize the School's ability to access any message at any time. Employees must be aware that the possibility of such access always exists.
- Employees may not change any preset user names and/or passwords established by CCS for access to School email, voicemail or software provided to the employee by the School.
- Employees may not change or alter in any way the email signature for school email as determined by the School. No additional extraneous content may be added to the email signature unless requested by the Superintendent & CEO.
- Employees should not use personal devices or email accounts for School-related communications. Such communications should only take place using School-issued devices and via the employee's CCS email account.

## **Social Media Policy**

### Permissions

At CCS, we believe in open communication and encourage you to share your work and passion with family, friends, co-workers, and your professional networks around the world. Whether you do so by participating in a blog, wiki, any social media platform, or any other form of online publishing or discussion is up to you. In order to assist you in making responsible decisions in your use of social media, and to avoid any conflicts or misunderstandings, we have come up with a few guidelines to provide helpful and practical advice for you when operating on the Internet as an identifiable employee of CCS and its brands.

This policy applies to all full-time staff, part-time staff, and external contractors employed or providing services at CCS. Each and every employee and/or contractor should use the supplemental CCS Social Media Handbook provided by the Marketing Department for additional guidance in administering the policy.

### Guidelines

In the rapidly expanding world of electronic communication, social media can mean many things. Social media includes all means of communicating or posting information or content of any sort on the Internet, including to your own or someone else's web log or blog, journal or diary, personal website, social networking or affinity website, web bulletin board or a chat room, whether or not associated or affiliated with CCS, as well as any other form of electronic communication. Before creating any online content, please consider the following main guidelines:

- All employees and contractors must familiarize themselves with the CCS Social Media Handbook prior to posting any content on our social media platforms.
- You are personally responsible for the content you publish on our blog, website, or any other form of user-generated media.

- If an item features the statement “For Internal Use Only,” please do not forward to anyone outside of CCS or publish on any social media channel.
- Do not comment on work-related legal matters unless you are an official spokesperson, and have prior written authorization from the Superintendent & CEO.
- Please remember that the Internet never forgets, meaning everything you publish will be available for the world to see for a very long time and may come back to haunt you at a later time. If you are about to publish something that makes you even the slightest bit uncomfortable, please contact the Marketing Department for guidance and approval.

Always remember to consider some of the risks and rewards that are involved with posting content to social media. Keep in mind that any of your conduct that adversely affects your job performance, the performance of co-workers or contractors, or otherwise adversely affects people who work on behalf of CCS or CCS’ legitimate business interests, may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

### Know and Follow the Rules

Carefully read these guidelines and the CCS Social Media Handbook and ensure your postings are consistent with these policies. Always make sure to respect your audience. Any and all inappropriate postings, including but not limited to discriminatory remarks, harassment, threats of violence, or similar inappropriate or unlawful conduct that would not be acceptable in the CCS workplace, will not be tolerated and may warrant disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

### Be Respectful

Always be fair and courteous to fellow staff, scholars, and families of scholars, or people who work on behalf of or provide services to CCS. Also, keep in mind that you are more likely to resolve work related complaints by speaking directly with your co-workers or by utilizing our Open Door Policy than by posting complaints to a social media outlet. Using your public voice to harass or embarrass your co-workers, CCS, scholars, families, or any other CCS stakeholders is unacceptable and may subject you to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Examples of such unacceptable conduct includes but is not limited to offensive posts meant to intentionally harm someone’s reputation, or posts that could contribute to a hostile work environment on the basis of race, sex, disability, religion or any other status protected by applicable law.

Make sure you are always honest and accurate when posting information or news, and if you make a mistake, correct it quickly. Be open about any previous posts you have altered.

Please respect copyright laws. If the material is not yours, don’t use it as it is that person’s choice to share his or her material with the world, not yours. Before posting someone else’s work, please check with the owner first and make sure you have the right to use or publish any data, images, videos, etc. When you make a reference to someone’s work, where possible, link back to the source.

### Respect Confidentiality and Professional Boundaries

Maintain the confidentiality of all of CCS’ trade secrets, as well as private or confidential information. Trades secrets may include information regarding the development of systems,

processes, products, know-how and technology. Do not post internal reports, policies, procedures or other internal business-related, personnel, or scholar information which is or may be confidential in nature.

Do not create a link from your blog, website or other social networking site to any CCS website without identifying yourself as a CCS staff member. Please remember that anything you publish about CCS can potentially harm the School, including all internal media as well, like the intranet or any newsletters you send out. As soon as you act on the School's behalf by distributing information, you are responsible for upholding the School's image and fully complying with School policies. Please act responsibly when posting materials and if in doubt, contact the Marketing Department before you post or send said material.

Express only your personal opinions. Never represent yourself as a spokesperson for CCS. If CCS is a subject of the content you are creating, be clear and open about the fact that you are an employee and make it clear that your views do not represent those of CCS, fellow employees, scholars, parents, suppliers or people working on behalf of or providing services to CCS. If you publish a blog or post online related to the work you do or subjects associated with CCS, you must clearly state that you are not speaking on behalf of CCS. It is best to include a disclaimer such as "The postings on this site are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of CCS."

#### Using Social Media at Work

You are prohibited from using your personal social media while on work time or on equipment we provide, unless it is work-related as authorized by your immediate supervisor or consistent with the CCS Employee Handbook. All work-related posts should be made through social media accounts established for the posting of work-related posts only, separate from your personal social media accounts. Do not use CCS email addresses to register on social networks, blogs or other online tools utilized for personal use. Do not use your work social media accounts to post non-work related material including but not limited to personal family information or photos.

## Retaliation is Prohibited

CCS prohibits retaliation against any employee for reporting a possible violation of this policy or for cooperating in an investigation. Any employee who engages in retaliation of any sort will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

## **Technology Policy**

### Purpose

CCS may, in its sole discretion, provide computers and laptop computers or other hand-held or similar computing devices, as well as mobile devices, to certain employees for the express purpose of enhancing the productivity and operational efficiency of School-based and administrative activities, functions and instruction. The purpose of this policy is to establish general guidelines for the issuance and utilization of all such devices by officials, management and personnel within the School.

### Guidelines

1. All computers and devices shall be used for the sole and express purpose of conducting official business and maintaining the operations of the School. Use of all such computers and devices is subject to the School's Computing and Internet Acceptable Use Policy.
2. An employee may be issued a computer or device for the performance of specific job-related duties and responsibilities and as determined by the Superintendent & CEO or his/her designee and has an "active" employment status; and Employee's job-related duties and responsibilities require regular and systematic use of a computer or device; or Employee is required to perform the majority of his/her duties away from his/her primary work location.
3. Persons not directly employed by the School, including but not limited to volunteers, retired employees, employees hired on a per diem basis, consultants, vendors, or employees on extended leave or with an employment status of "inactive," shall not be eligible for the issuance of any computer or device.
4. Although issued to an individual employee, all computers or devices are considered the property of the primary of CCS and shall be returned upon termination of employment with the School, or immediately upon request at any time by an official of the School.
5. Employees are expected to take all appropriate measures and precautions to prevent the loss, theft, damage and/or unauthorized use of services and shall include the following:
  - a. Keep all computers and devices in a locked and secured environment when not being used;
  - b. Do not leave the computer or device for prolonged periods of time in a vehicle, especially in extreme temperatures;
  - c. Keep food and drinks away from all computers and devices and work areas;
  - d. Do not leave the computer or device unattended at any time in an unsecured location; and
  - e. Keep the computer or device in sight at all times while in public places, such as public transportation, airports, restaurants, etc.
6. Should an employee's computer or device be lost or stolen, the employee MUST: (i) immediately report the incident to his/her immediate supervisor and the Director of IT; (ii) obtain an official police report documenting the theft or loss; and (iii) provide a copy of the police report to the Director of IT. If the employee fails to adhere to these procedures, the

employee will be held legally and financially responsible to the School for the replacement of such equipment.

7. For all warranty and non-warranty repairs and maintenance of all such computers and devices, the employee must contact the School IT Help Desk. All repairs and maintenance will and must be performed in accordance with the School's current repair and maintenance policies and procedures issued by the Office of Information Technology. For damage that is not covered by the School's warranty, the employee may be held responsible.
8. The School is under no legal, financial or other obligation to provide for a replacement computer or device to any employee whose computer or device is lost, stolen or damaged.
9. The School may add security and other tracking technology to any and all computers and devices issued by it and any and all such usage is subject to management review, monitoring and auditing by the School. Other audits may be performed on the usage and internal controls.
10. The IT Department will be responsible for issuance of all such computers and devices shall:
  - a. Maintain direct oversight of the inventory of equipment, service contracts, and internal controls for all computers and devices;
  - b. Fully enforce the specifications of this policy and other similar IT policies and procedures setting forth the parameters for the eligibility, approval, assignment, utilization, maintenance, and financial oversight of all such computers and devices under their direct control and supervision; and
  - c. Ensure compliance with regulatory policies and procedures as applicable.
11. Non-compliance with any policies or procedures regarding computers and devices issued by the School will result in appropriate disciplinary action and/or reimbursement of any and all costs to the School.
  - a. Employees are prohibited from changing any of the settings programmed into the computer or device itself, or the computer or device software, without prior approval from the Information Systems Specialist. This includes (without limitation) changing desktop settings, screensaver settings, clock settings, software settings, and the like. This also includes checking the "Remember Password" box to save a password in the computer, file server, and the like.
  - b. Employees are prohibited from downloading software of any kind without prior approval from the Information Systems Specialist. This includes desktop backgrounds, screensavers, anti-virus software, and the like.
  - c. Employees are advised not to save documents or files to any locations other than the CCS Google Drive. This includes saving to the desktop, local drives, USB drives, memory cards, CDs, DVDs, and the like. In the event your computer crashes, files not saved to the Google Drive cannot be recovered.
  - d. Employees are prohibited from accessing any school files from unsecured internet connections or internet connections outside the United States.

Employees acknowledge upon receipt of their computer or device, the computer or device is the property of CCS. Employees will agree to pay all costs associated with user-inflicted damage (as determined by manufacturer) to the computer or device, or its associated peripheral equipment, or its replacement costs should it be lost or stolen. The replacement cost for a laptop computer and/or mobile device will be determined by the fair market value replacement cost of comparable equipment to that which the employee was provided by the School.

CCS reserves the right to use and disclose any electronic, non-privileged communication on its Computer and Communications Systems without the permission of or any prior notice to any user,

including disclosure to law enforcement officials. Any person who discovers misuse of any of the Charter School's Computer and Communications Systems should immediately contact the Superintendent & CEO or his/her designee. Any user who violates any part of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

### Computer and Device Care and Maintenance

- All computer stations are to be clean and well organized.
- All computers and devices must be maintained clean and damage free.
- There is to be no food or liquid on surfaces that share a computer or device.
- Care should be taken to prevent animal hair, dirt, fine substances and kids from damaging computers or devices.
- Mouse pads on stationary computers are to be used.
- Cleaning of equipment is to be conducted regularly.

### Software License

Agreement Software is to be used according to the provisions of the license agreements. Unauthorized copies of software will not be made under any circumstances. Copying software other than for backup purposes is subject to administrative and/or disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Employees should be aware that civil and criminal penalties up to \$250,000.00 per work copied are possible. Any known misuse of software is to be reported to the Superintendent & CEO immediately.

### Electronic Accounts

CCS also provides electronic accounts with where an Employee can access the School Internet connection, email addresses, software programs, and the like for authorized business purposes (herein "Electronic Accounts"). Electronic Accounts and all data stored on such are considered School property, even if the data is personal in nature. The School reserves the right to access, inspect, and monitor Electronic Accounts and any data stored on or transmitted through such, with or without notice. An Employee should not have any expectation of privacy or confidentiality in Electronic Accounts.

The School does not condone or endorse any material encountered on the Internet. An Employee accessing the Internet does so at the Employee's own risk and the School is not responsible for material encountered, viewed, or downloaded by the Employee from the Internet.

- a. **Username and Passwords**  
An Employee must take all necessary precautions to safeguard the integrity and confidentiality of usernames or passwords related to the Employee's Electronic Accounts, whether the Electronic Account is created by the School or by the Employee.
- b. **Email Signatures**  
Each Employee is required to use the School-owned email signature and email disclaimer assigned to the Employee when sending email messages from Employee's School-owned email address. In addition, an Employee may not amend any verbiage, graphic formatting, or text formatting in the Employee's email signature or email disclaimer without approval of the Superintendent & CEO.



## Mobile Devices

CCS distributes School-owned mobile devices to employees as needed. Each employee who receives a mobile device (i) must keep the mobile device battery charged at all times; and (ii) may not alter any settings on any mobile device as outlined above. Although employees use mobile devices for work-related matters, whether these devices belong to the employee or are issued by CCS, employees are prohibited from using such devices for work-related matters while driving due to safety reasons. Employees may use hands-free equipment to make or answer calls while driving without violating this policy. However, safety must always be the employee's first priority. If, because of weather, traffic conditions, or any other reason, an employee is unable to concentrate fully on the road, the employee must either end the conversation, or pull over and safely park their vehicle before resuming the call. Employees must also utilize the password protection feature on mobile devices in order to safeguard any confidential School data which may be stored on their mobile device.

## **Personal Business**

CCS facilities for handling mail and telephone calls are designed to accommodate School business. All personal mail must be directed to your home address and limit personal telephone calls to an absolute minimum. Long distance toll calls may not be made from the School's telephone system or your school issued mobile phone. If you need to make a personal call it should be made on a personal calling card or mobile phone. The School's material, time or equipment may not be used for personal projects.

Personal Appointments: Whenever possible, personal appointments should be made for either first thing in the morning or late in the afternoon. Appointments should have minimal impact on office hours and availability.

Personal Purchases/Orders: Employees will not have any personal purchases, orders, invoices, bank statements or mail sent to the School. No one is permitted to use the School's name or address for personal purchases, orders, invoices or mail. "Personal" is defined as purchases, orders, invoices or mail that is non-educational and is not intended for classroom use. This excludes items purchased for use at the School.

## **Personal Appearance/Standards of Dress**

As educators, our commitment to excellence should be reflected in our appearance. In general, a business casual style is appropriate for all employees. It is understood that different clothing may be appropriate under certain circumstances and for different work assignments. Differences may be necessary because of the type of activity done, special days, office area assignments and other circumstances.

However, clothing that reveals cleavage, back, chest, stomach, or underwear is not appropriate for a place of business. Overall attention to modesty, professionalism, cleanliness and safety will be expected and required. Appropriate attire will demonstrate a high regard for education and the teaching profession, and will present an image consistent with job responsibilities and CCS's values and expectations.

Employees who report to work in unacceptable attire may be requested to leave work and return in acceptable attire.

### **Academic Freedom**

Teachers must be free to think and to express ideas, free to select and employ materials and methods of instruction within the School's curriculum framework, free from undue pressures of authority, and free to act within his/her professional group. Such freedom should be used judiciously and prudently to the end that it is in concert with established community standards and promotes the free exercise of intelligence and scholar learning. Academic freedom is not absolute. It must be exercised within the basic ethical responsibilities of the teaching profession.

Those responsibilities include:

- An understanding of our democratic traditions and methods.
- A concern for the welfare, growth, maturity and development of children.
- The use of accepted scholastic methods.
- Application of good taste and judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction.
- Teachers must follow the California State Standards.

### **Professional Development**

CCS believes in the continuing education of our staff. Professional Development funds will be allocated in the budget by division for the employees in that Division to use for either Professional Development, Conferences, Workshops, or Tuition Reimbursement. In order to qualify for these funds, the employee must:

- Commit to staying with CCS for at least one-year (1) post Professional Development training (where such commitment on the employee's end in no way alters/impairs the School's authority to release on an at-will basis). Employees who receive Professional Development funds and leave CCS either voluntarily or involuntarily will be required to reimburse CCS the full amount of Professional Development funds used. Repayment must be made immediately upon separation.
- All Professional Development Conferences or Workshops must directly relate to the Employee's current assignment. Employees will be expected to create a Professional Development presentation and or webinar from his/her conference/workshop within thirty (30) days of completion.

Employees may not leave early to attend courses, unless prior approval is granted by the Superintendent & CEO. Courses taken must directly relate to the employee's current position and the employee must be prepared to create projects on how his/her course work that will assist CCS in the future.

### **Media Contacts**

Employees should not speak to the media on CCS' behalf without contacting the Marketing Department. All media inquiries should be directed to the Superintendent & CEO.

## **Health and Safety Policy**

CCS is committed to providing and maintaining a healthy and safe work environment for all employees.

Employees are required to know and comply with the School's General Safety Rules and to follow safe and healthy work practices at all times. Employees are required to report any potential health or safety hazards, and all injuries or accidents immediately to the Chief Financial Officer.

In compliance with Proposition 65, the School will inform employees of any known exposure to a chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

## **Security Protocols**

CCS has developed guidelines to help maintain a secure workplace. Be aware of unknown persons loitering in parking areas, walkways, entrances and exits and service areas. Report any suspicious persons or activities to the Chief Financial Officer. Employee desk or office should be secured at the end of the day. When an employee is called away from his or her work area for an extended length of time, valuable or personal articles should not be left around a workstation that may be accessible. The security of facilities as well as the welfare of employees depends upon the alertness and sensitivity of every individual to potential security risks. Employees should immediately notify the Chief Financial Officer when keys are missing or if security access codes or passes have been breached.

Key Procedures: When an employee loses a school office key, the following guidelines will be followed:

- 1st Incident: Written Warning
- 2nd Incident: Employee will pay for lost keys and all costs for re-keying
- 3rd Incident: Violation of Code of Ethics and appropriate disciplinary action

## **Occupational Safety**

CCS is committed to the safety of its employees, vendors, contractors and the public and to providing a clear safety goal for management.

The prevention of accidents is the responsibility of every School supervisor. It is also the duty of all employees to accept and promote the established safety regulations and procedures. Every effort will be made to provide adequate safety training. If an employee is ever in doubt how to perform a job or task safely, assistance should be requested. Unsafe conditions must be reported immediately.

It is the policy of the School that accident prevention shall be considered of primary importance in all phases of operation and administration. CCS's management is required to provide safe and healthy working conditions for all employees and to establish and require the use of safe practices at all times.

Failure to comply with or enforce School safety and health rules, practices and procedures could result in disciplinary action up to and including possible termination.

### **Accident/Incident Reporting**

It is the duty of every employee to immediately or as soon as is practical report any accident or injury occurring during work or on School premises so that arrangements can be made for medical or first aid treatment, as well as for investigation and follow-up purposes.

### **Reporting Fires and Emergencies**

It is the duty of every employee to know how to report fires and other emergencies quickly and accurately. Employees should report any such emergency by calling management. In addition, all employees should know the local emergency numbers such as 911.

## **EMPLOYEE WAGES AND HEALTH BENEFITS**

### **Payroll Withholdings**

As required by law, the School shall withhold Federal Income Tax, State Income Tax, Social Security for nonexempt employees, State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) for Teachers/Administration, and State Disability Insurance from each employee's pay as follows:

1. Federal Income Tax Withholding: The amount varies with the number of exemptions the employee claims and the gross pay amount.
2. State Income Tax Withholding: The same factors which apply to federal withholdings apply to state withholdings.
3. Nonexempt employees: The Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) requires that a certain percentage of employee earnings be deducted and forwarded to the federal government, together with an equal amount contributed by the School, for purposes of funding Social Security and Medicare. Teachers do not contribute to Social Security because they are members of STRS.
4. State Disability Insurance (SDI): This state fund is used to provide benefits to those out of work because of illness or disability.
5. Exempt employees: Full-time administrators, teachers, and other employees performing creditable service as defined by applicable law are required to participate in STRS via payroll withholdings.

### **Overtime Pay**

Whether an employee is exempt from or subject to overtime pay will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will be indicated in the employee's job description. Generally, teachers and administrators are exempt. Nonexempt employees may be required to work beyond the regularly scheduled workday or workweek as necessary. Only actual hours worked in a given workday or workweek can apply in calculating overtime for nonexempt employees. CCS will attempt to distribute overtime evenly and accommodate individual schedules. All overtime work must be previously authorized by the Chief Financial Officer. CCS provides compensation for all overtime hours worked by nonexempt employees in accordance with state and federal law as follows:

For employee's subject to overtime, all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday or forty (40) hours in one workweek shall be treated as overtime. Compensation for hours in excess of forty (40) for the workweek or in excess of eight (8) and not more than twelve (12) for the workday, and for the first eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive day in one workweek, shall be paid at a rate of one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Compensation for hours in excess of twelve (12) in one workday and an excess of eight (8) on the seventh consecutive workday of the workweek shall be paid at double the regular rate of pay.

Exempt employees may have to work hours beyond their normal schedules as work demands require. No overtime compensation will be paid to these exempt employees.

### **Paydays**

All full and part-time employees of CCS are paid on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. When either of these days falls on a weekend or Holiday, employees are paid on the first workday preceding

the weekend or Holiday. Employees should report any errors in their paycheck to the Chief Financial Officer.

### **Wage Attachments and Garnishments**

Under normal circumstances, the School will not assist creditors in the collection of personal debts from its employees. However, creditors may resort to certain legal procedures such as garnishments, levies or judgments that require the School, by law, to withhold part of an employee's earnings in their favor.

Employees are strongly encouraged to avoid such wage attachments and garnishments. If the School is presented with a second garnishment request concerning an employee, the Chief of Staff will discuss the situation with the employee.

### **Administrative Fees**

CCS may charge employees up to \$1.50 per deduction as administrative costs associated with the enforcement of a garnishment order. This charge shall be deducted from the employee's wages, and not the deduction made for the garnishment order.

### **Expenses**

Please note that any items (i.e. non consumable office supplies or any pre-approved books) that you have purchased and have been reimbursed become the property of CCS and must have CCS Property written on them.

The following items are purchased in bulk by the school and will not be reimbursed: ink cartridges; toner cartridges, books (unless with a prior approval); copy paper; office supplies; construction paper; transparency sheets and markers; wall clocks; facial tissue; paper towels; bandages.

Staff members are required to properly fill out a Purchase Request Form and to submit it along with an estimate of the purchase expense to their Supervisor prior to making any purchases.

Following the approved purchase, reimbursement information is entered into the Bamboo HR timesheet for exempt and nonexempt employees. The Additional Pay Expense feature allows employees to enter their previously approved expense reimbursements including all required backup such as the original receipts and /or Google Maps for mileage reimbursements (text only). Reimbursements must be entered into the Additional Pay Expense feature in Bamboo HR within seven (7) days of the purchase dates. The School will not honor reimbursement requests if submitted after the deadline. School related purchases should not be combined with any personal purchases. Separate receipts for the school purchases are required. Purchase Request Forms are available on Workplace and should be filled out electronically

### **Mileage Reimbursement**

Mileage will only be reimbursed for official school business that has been approved in advance by the supervisor. At times employees may be required to use their personal car for business purposes. Reimbursement for the operating expenses of the car will be calculated by multiplying the number of miles traveled by the currently approved Standard Mileage Rate published by the IRS. Other expenses must be substantiated by receipts. The costs of commuting (travel between

home and the work site) will not be reimbursed. Any work-related travel in excess of fifty (50) miles each way will require a rental vehicle at the School's expense.

All CCS employees who use their cars for business purposes must have current and adequate automobile/liability insurance coverage. A copy of current car insurance must be provided to Human Resources. Employees must not transport volunteers or scholars in their personal vehicles. If transportation of this type is necessary, a rented vehicle must be used.

Mileage will be reimbursed for the round-trip distance between the employee's work site and the location of the business function being attended. If employees depart from or return to their home instead of their work site, only the miles in excess of the normal daily commute can be claimed as an expense. Mileage amounts must be verifiable through the use of commercially available websites (ex. Google Maps) using the "shortest route" option. Other expenses such as parking will be reimbursed at the actual costs. Original, itemized receipts must be provided. Only pre-approved mileage will be reimbursed. Staff members are required to properly fill out a Mileage Reimbursement Form and to enter the information along with the original receipts into the BambooHR Expense Management System within seven (7) days of the business trip. The School will not honor mileage reimbursement requests if submitted after the deadline.

### **Reimbursement Claim Process**

All employees must comply with the Reimbursement Claim process for any material purchases or travel expenses. Prior to making a purchase, employees must complete the purchase request form, to include, reason for purchase, estimated cost and include amount not to exceed, and submit to supervisor no less than five (5) days prior to purchase. **EMPLOYEES ARE PROHIBITED FROM MAKING A PURCHASE UNTIL THEY HAVE RECEIVED PRIOR APPROVAL.**

After you have received approval and purchased items, complete the description section for items purchased, attach original receipt (copies shall not be accepted), sign and submit the claim form to your supervisor for approval. If the supervisor approves, the form will be routed to the Finance Department for review and final processing. Reimbursements are made directly through payroll.

The School either incurs the actual cost of travel expenses for the cost of travel expenses, when (i) the School requests that the Employee travel to a conference; (ii) the expense is incurred within the scope of Employee's employment; and (iii) the expense was made on behalf of the Employee (and no other persons) unless approved in advance and in writing by the Superintendent & CEO. Each Employee must provide original receipts for travel expenses to the School's Finance Office within five (5) calendar days of the Employee's return from travel.

The School either incurs the cost for the actual cost of lodging and applicable taxes, but not the cost of gratuity or incidental items. Lodging is arranged by the School, at the School's discretion.

### **Meals and Incidental Expenses**

Employees in travel status on School business are reimbursed up to the per diem rate for travel related meal expenses for their travel destination. Receipts are required for reimbursement of travel meals using per diem rates.

## Meals - Conferences

The School does not reimburse meals included with a conference. If a conference includes meals, then the School reimburses only the meals where the traveler incurred an expense. If the meal provided is on the first or last day of travel the per diem should be reduced by the meal provided, then multiplied by 75%.

The School either incurs the cost or reimburses the employee for the actual cost of breakfast not to exceed \$16.00 per day; lunch not to exceed \$17.00 per day, and dinner not to exceed \$26.00 per day, and the actual cost of tax and gratuity for such. The School incurs the actual cost of these items, not to exceed \$59.00 per day, non-cumulative and non-compounding. The School does not reimburse the Employee for the purchase of any alcohol. Employee receipts for meals should not include food for anyone outside of CCS staff. Any purchase of alcohol must be on a separate receipt and is not eligible for reimbursement.

If an employee has agreed to attend a conference, the fee has been paid by the School, and the employee cannot attend he/she must: (1) advise his/her supervisor as soon as possible; and (2) assist in arranging for another employee to attend in his/her place. An employee who fails to attend conferences that have been paid for by the School shall lose his/her ability to attend such conferences and be responsible for reimbursing the School for the cost associated therewith. Exceptions will be made at the discretion of the Superintendent & CEO or his/her designee.

## Payment for Meals

Tips should be no more than 20% of the bill. Any tips considered excessive will not be reimbursed. As a general rule, employees should not tip more than they would on a personal trip and tip only to the level of service received. Also, employees must check their receipt prior to adding a tip to avoid over-tipping. Expense invoices must include an itemized business meal receipt, which includes the total amount plus tip.

## Incidentals

Employees may include the daily incidental amount of \$5.00 when determining the maximum M&IE rates. Gratuities for baggage carriers, porters, hotel staff (bellhops and house cleaners), as well as ATM fees, bank fees, and check cashing fees are included in the daily incidental amount. As applicable, receipts must be provided to obtain reimbursement.

Employees will be required to submit a written itemized summary of their incidentals on behalf of business for CCS, on a form provided by the school.

## **Health Care Insurance Coverage for Regular, Full-Time Employees**

CCS offers certain insurance benefits that may include medical, dental, vision, and disability insurance benefits to its regular, full-time employees. Regular, full-time employees can access the summary descriptions of the School's benefit plans through the online benefit enrollment system, Ease. Available benefit plans may vary and may change from time to time. Affected employees will be advised of any such changes as required by applicable law. All new employees will become eligible for medical benefits on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month following thirty (30) days of employment. Part-time employees may be eligible for benefits per the School's policy and applicable law.



## **State Disability Insurance**

Each employee contributes to the State of California to provide disability insurance mandated by state law. Contributions are made through payroll deduction. Disability insurance is payable when you cannot work because of illness or injury not caused by employment at the School or when you are entitled to temporary workers' compensation at a rate less than the daily disability benefit amount. Specific rules and regulations governing disability are available from the Chief of Staff.

## **Retirement, Life Insurance and Other School-Sponsored Benefits**

CCS offers certain school-sponsored benefits that may include retirement and life insurance to its regular, full-time employees. Regular, full-time employees can access summary descriptions of the School's benefit plans through the online benefit enrollment system, Ease. Available benefit plans may vary and may change from time to time within the sole discretion of the School. Affected employees will be advised of any such changes as required by applicable law.

## **COBRA Benefits**

When coverage under the School's medical and/or dental plans ends, employees or their dependents can continue coverage for eighteen (18) or thirty-six (36) months, depending upon the reason benefits ended. To continue coverage, an employee must pay the full cost of coverage – the employee contribution and the School's previous contribution plus a possible administrative charge.

Medical coverage for an employee, his/her spouse, and eligible dependent children can continue for up to eighteen (18) months if coverage ends because:

- Employment ends, voluntarily or involuntarily, for any reason other than gross misconduct; or
- Hours of employment are reduced below the amount required to be considered a full-time employee or part-time, making an employee ineligible for the plan.

This eighteen (18) month period may be extended an additional eleven (11) months in cases of disability subject to certain requirements. This eighteen (18) month period may also be extended an additional eighteen (18) months if other events (such as a divorce or death) occur subject to certain requirements.

An employee's spouse and eligible dependents can continue their health coverage for up to thirty-six (36) months if coverage ends because:

- The employee dies while covered by the plan;
- The employee and his/her spouse become divorced or legally separated;
- The employee becomes eligible for Medicare coverage, but his/her spouse has not yet reached age sixty-five (65); or
- The employee's dependent child reaches an age which makes him or her ineligible for coverage under the plan.

Rights similar to those described above may apply to retirees, spouses and dependents if the employer commences a bankruptcy proceeding and those individuals lose coverage.

CCS will notify employees or their dependents if coverage ends due to termination or a reduction in work hours. If an employee becomes eligible for Medicare, divorced or legally separated, dies,

or when a dependent child no longer meets the eligibility requirements, the employee or a family member are responsible for notifying the School within thirty (30) days of the event. CCS will then notify the employee or his/her dependents of the employee's rights.

Health coverage continuation must be elected within sixty (60) days after receiving notice of the end of coverage, or within sixty (60) days after the event causing the loss, whichever is later.

There are certain circumstances under which coverage will end automatically. This happens if:

- Premiums for continued coverage are not paid within thirty (30) days of the due date;
- The employee (or his/her spouse or child) become covered under another group health plan which does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any pre-existing condition the employee (or the employee's spouse or child, as applicable) may have;
- CCS stops providing group health benefits;
- The employee (or the employee's spouse or child) become entitled to Medicare; or
- The employee extended coverage for up to twenty-nine (29) months due to disability and there has been a final determination that the employee is no longer disabled.

## **PERSONNEL EVALUATION AND RECORD KEEPING**

### **Employee Reviews and Evaluations**

Employees will complete quarterly Performance Plans through BambooHR at which time they will meet and discuss with their supervisor to set SMART goals and schedule training. Performance Plans are intended to make employees aware of their progress, areas for improvement, and objectives or goals for future work performance. The School's evaluation system will in no way alter the employment at-will relationship.

Due dates for employee Performance Plan submission can be found on the School's master calendar.

Performance pay criteria percentages, which will include all the above criteria, will be used in consideration of annual compensation increases and retention.

### **Personnel Files and Record Keeping Protocols**

At the time of employment, an electronic personnel file is established for each employee. It is each employee's responsibility to keep the Human Resources Department advised of changes that should be reflected in their personnel file. Such changes include: change in address, telephone number, marital status, number of dependents and person(s) to notify in case of emergency. Prompt notification of these changes is essential and will enable the School to contact an employee should the change affect their other records.

Employees have the right to inspect documents in their personnel file, as provided by law, in the presence of a School representative, at a mutually convenient time. Employees also have the right to obtain a copy of their personnel file as provided by law. Employees may add comments to any disputed item in the file. CCS will restrict disclosure of personnel files to authorized individuals within the School. A request for information contained in the personnel file must be directed to the Chief of Staff. Only the Chief of Staff or designee is authorized to release information about current or former employees. Disclosure of information to outside sources will be limited. However, the School will cooperate with requests from authorized law enforcement or local, state or federal agencies conducting official investigations or as otherwise legally required. Copies of an employee's personnel file can be provided upon request. A fee of .25 cents per page will be charged to the employee. Requests for digital copies of an employee file will be provided at no cost.

Credible complaints of substantiated investigations into or discipline for egregious misconduct will not be expunged from an employee's personnel file unless the complaint is heard by an arbitrator, administrative law judge, or the Board and the complaint is deemed to be false, not credible, unsubstantiated or a determination was made that discipline was not warranted.

## **HOLIDAYS, VACATIONS AND LEAVES**

### **Holidays**

An employee who qualifies to receive pay for a holiday will receive one (1) day of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay. To qualify to receive pay for a holiday, an employee must meet the following conditions:

1. Be a full-time and active employee on the date of the School holiday;
2. Work all hours that the employee is scheduled to work on the last regular working day before, and the first regular working day after the holiday, unless the employee is on an approved official leave of absence (including but not limited to an unpaid leave of absence, Catastrophic Illness & Injury Leave, FMLA, CFRA, Pregnancy Disability Leave, Military and Military Spousal Leave of Absence, Bereavement Leave, and Jury Duty or Witness Leave).

If an employee requests sick time on the day before or after a school holiday, medical certification should be submitted to the Chief of Staff for review.

Regular full-time and salaried exempt employees will receive the following twenty-eight (28) paid holidays:

- Independence Day (twelve-month staff)
- Labor Day
- Yom Kippur
- Columbus/Indigenous People's Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Break
- Winter Break
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
- President's Day
- Spring Break
- Memorial Day

When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday will be celebrated as the holiday; if it falls on a Sunday, the following Monday will be celebrated as the holiday. When Christmas falls on a Saturday, the Day before Christmas will be celebrated on Thursday. If Christmas falls on a Sunday or Monday, the day before Christmas will be celebrated on the preceding Friday.

Employee holidays, professional development, and school days are outlined in the School Calendar.

### **Floating Holidays**

Regular full-time and salaried exempt employees will receive two (2) floating paid holidays per year in addition to CCS's regular paid holidays. These two (2) floating holidays may be used only for the employee's birthday and work anniversary.

Employee use of a floating holiday for their birthday or work anniversary must be scheduled and approved in advance by their immediate supervisor. Floating holidays for either purpose must be

utilized within thirty (30) days of the employee's birthday or anniversary or the holiday will be forfeited.

If unused, floating holidays do not accrue nor will they be cashed out upon separation from employment.

## **Vacation**

While the School recognizes the importance of vacation time as a period of rest and rejuvenation away from the job, vacations must be scheduled with due consideration for "peak traffic periods" in the school.

For full-time twelve (12) month employee vacation will accrue as follows:

- One (1) to four (4) years of employment: Ten (10) days of paid vacation per year (3.33 hours per pay period)
- Five (5) years or more: Fifteen (15) days of paid vacation per year (5.0 hours per pay period)

No employee will receive pay in lieu of vacation during employment. Vacation does not accrue during an unpaid leave of absence or on disability salary continuation.

Employees cannot use paid vacation leave until the ninetieth (90<sup>th</sup>) calendar day following the employee's start date. Employees must request the use of vacation days through the Bamboo system at least two (2) weeks prior to scheduled use in one-hour increments. It is advised to wait to book travel until the immediate supervisor has granted the use of vacation time.

Vacation time may not be utilized before it is earned. An employee whose employment terminates will be paid for accrued unused vacation days. Vacation can accrue up to a maximum of one and a half times (1.5) their annual vacation accrual for full-time twelve (12) month employees. Once this cap is reached, no further vacation will accrue until some vacation is used. When some vacation is used, vacation compensation will begin to accrue again. There is no retroactive grant of vacation compensation for the period of time the accrued vacation compensation was at the cap.

## **Unpaid Leave of Absence**

CCS recognizes that special situations may arise where an employee must leave his or her job temporarily. At its discretion, the School may grant employees leaves of absence. Any unpaid leave of absence must be approved in advance by the School.

The granting of a leave of absence always presumes the employee will return to active work by a designated date or within a specific period.

During a Family and Medical Leave Act, California Family Rights Act leave, and/or Pregnancy Disability Leave, the employee's medical and dental benefits will remain in force, provided the employee pays the appropriate premiums. Otherwise, benefits are terminated the month any other type of leave begins. If an employee fails to return from a leave and is subsequently terminated, the employee is entitled to all earned but unused vacation pay, provided that the vacation pay was earned prior to the commencement of leave. No vacation time is accrued during any type of unpaid leave of absence.

## **Sick Leave**

CCS offers paid sick leave to its employees. Sick leave may be taken to receive preventive care (including annual physicals or flu shots) or to diagnose, treat, or care for an existing health condition. Employees may also use sick leave to assist a family member (i.e., children, parents, spouses/domestic partners/designated person, grandparents, grandchildren, or siblings), or any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship, who must receive preventative care or a diagnosis, treatment, or care for an existing health condition. Employees may also take paid sick leave to receive medical care or other assistance to address instances of mental health, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Paid sick leave is also available for bone marrow or organ donation by an employee or their family member, to provide care for a guide, signal or service dog of an employee of their family member, or if CCS or an employee's child care provider's business is closed due to a public health emergency, an accident involving the employee's person or property or the person or property of an immediate family member, adoption of a child, the birth of child making it necessary for an employee who is the parent of the child to be absent from their position during work hours, personal legal matters, religious observances, and business matters that cannot be conducted outside of the workday

Paid sick leave is available to all CCS employees. All full-time employees shall accrue one day per month which will accrue at the rate of four (4) hours per pay period. Part-time employees will accrue sick leave on a pro-rated basis but will never receive less than twenty-four (24) hours of sick leave per year.

Employees cannot use paid sick leave until the ninetieth (90th) calendar day following the employee's start date. Sick leave must be taken by eligible employees in increments of one (1) hour. Unused, accrued sick leave carries over from year-to-year up to a cap of one hundred and twenty (120) hours for full-time employees, and eighty (80) hours for all other employees.

Employees absent three (3) or more consecutive days due to illness may be required to submit medical evidence of illness to Human Resources. The School may also require medical evidence of an employee's fitness to return to work.

Once an employee has exhausted sick leave, the employee may continue on an unpaid medical leave depending upon the facts and circumstances of the employee's basis for leave beyond accrued sick leave. Employee requests for unpaid medical leave must be approved in advance by the School at least fifteen (15) days in advance.

Sick leave is not to be used as vacation leave. Unused sick leave is not paid out upon termination of employment.

## **Catastrophic Injury/Illness Leave**

Catastrophic injury or illness is defined as a life-threatening injury or illness of an employee which totally incapacitates the employee from work, or of an employee's family member (e.g., spouse/partner, child, or parent), as verified by a licensed physician and which forces the employee to exhaust all leave time earned by that employee, resulting in the loss of compensation for the employee. Conditions that are short-term in nature (e.g., the flu, back pain, a broken limb, etc.) are not catastrophic. Acute chronic illnesses or injuries, such as cancer or major surgery, which result in intermittent absences from work, and which are long-term in nature and require

long recuperation periods, may be considered catastrophic. The catastrophic leave program shall be implemented as follows:

1. Eleven (11) month employees may donate one (1) sick leave day per fiscal year and twelve (12) month employees may donate two (2) sick leave days per fiscal year to a sick leave bank for employees suffering a catastrophic illness/injury; however, each eleven (11) month employee must retain at least six (6) sick leave days, and each twelve (12) month employee must retain at least ten (10) sick leave days, for his/her own account. All transfers of sick leave are irrevocable.
2. Catastrophic leave requests must be submitted in writing to the School. Any employee requesting to receive donated sick leave under this program shall first exhaust all paid leave he/she has accrued.
3. The Superintendent & CEO shall determine whether or not to grant a request for catastrophic leave based on verification by a medical doctor as to the nature of the illness or injury, anticipated length of absence, and the prognosis for recovery. There is no right to receive catastrophic leave donations. The Superintendent & CEO may in his/her unreviewable discretion decline an employee's request for catastrophic leave benefits for any reason.
4. All information provided by the employee requesting catastrophic leave shall be held in strict confidence by the School and shall be isolated from other employment records as required by applicable law.
5. The number of sick days that can be received by an employee from the catastrophic leave bank is limited to twenty (20) per fiscal year.
6. If an employee is also receiving any form of disability benefits, which is paid on a weekly basis, the total amount of catastrophic leave pay the employee may receive on a weekly basis, when added to the amount of disability benefits the employee is receiving, shall not exceed the employee's total weekly salary. Employees must disclose to the School whether they are receiving any such disability benefits.
7. Any reinstatement rights for employees utilizing catastrophic leave shall be in accordance with applicable law.
8. Participation in this program is voluntary. Recipient employees shall not offer anything of value to another employee in exchange for donating leave. Likewise, donating employees shall not receive anything of value from another employee in exchange for donating leave.
9. Sick pay accrues during any period of unpaid leave only until the end of the month in which unpaid leave began.

### Employment during Leave

No employee, including employees on Catastrophic Illness/Injury leave, may accept employment with any other employer without the School's written permission. An employee who accepts such employment without written permission will be deemed to have resigned from employment.

### **Family Care and Medical Leave**

This policy explains how the School complies with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") and the California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"), both of which require the School to permit each eligible employee to take up to twelve (12) workweeks (or twenty-six (26) workweeks where indicated) of FMLA/CFRA leave in any twelve (12) month period for the purposes enumerated below.

## Employee Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for FMLA/CFRA leave, the employee must have been employed by the School for a total of at least twelve (12) months, worked at least 1,250 hours during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding commencement of the leave, and work at a location where the School has at least fifty (50) employees within seventy-five (75) miles, (except for purposes of CFRA where the School must only have at least five (5) employees).

### Events That May Entitle an Employee to FMLA/CFRA Leave

The twelve (12) week (or twenty-six (26) workweeks where indicated) FMLA/CFRA allowance includes any time taken (with or without pay) for any of the following reasons:

1. To care for the employee's newborn child or a child placed with the employee for adoption or foster care. Leaves for this purpose must conclude twelve (12) months after the birth, adoption, or placement. If both parents are employed by the School, they each will be entitled to a separate twelve (12) weeks of leave for this purpose, which cannot be loaned or otherwise assigned from one employee to the other.
2. Because of the employee's own serious health condition (including a serious health condition resulting from an on-the-job illness or injury) that makes the employee unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of his or her job (other than a disability caused by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, which is covered by the School's separate pregnancy disability policy).
  - a. A "serious health condition" is an illness, injury (including, but not limited to, on-the-job injuries), impairment, or physical or mental condition of the employee or a child, parent, or spouse of the employee that involves either inpatient care or continuing treatment, including, but not limited to, treatment for substance abuse.
  - b. "Inpatient care" means a stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential health care facility, any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care, or any period of incapacity. A person is considered an "inpatient" when a health care facility formally admits him/her to the facility with the expectation that he/she will remain at least overnight and occupy a bed, even if it later develops that such person can be discharged or transferred to another facility and does not actually remain overnight.
  - c. "Incapacity" means the inability to work, attend school, or perform other regular daily activities due to a serious health condition, its treatment, or the recovery that it requires.
  - d. "Continuing treatment" means ongoing medical treatment or supervision by a health care provider.
3. To care for a spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent with a serious health condition. A qualifying family member may also include a grandparent, grandchild, or sibling for CFRA purposes.
4. When an employee is providing care to a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin who is a covered Armed Forces service member with a serious injury or illness, the employee may take a maximum of twenty-six (26) weeks of additional FMLA leave in a single twelve (12) month period to provide said care. CFRA does not provide leave specific to caring for a service member.
5. For any "qualifying exigency" because the employee is the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of an individual on active military duty, or an individual notified of an impending call



or order to active duty, in the Armed Forces. For CFRA purposes, this may also include a domestic partner.

#### Amount of FMLA/CFRA Leave Which May Be Taken

1. FMLA/CFRA leave can be taken in one (1) or more periods, but may not exceed twelve (12) workweeks total for any purpose in any twelve (12) month period, as described below, for any one, or combination of the above-described situations. "Twelve workweeks" means the equivalent of twelve (12) of the employee's normally scheduled workweeks. For a full-time employee who works five (5) eight-hour days per week, "twelve workweeks" means sixty (60) working and/or paid eight (8) hour days.
2. In addition to the twelve (12) workweeks of FMLA/CFRA leave that may be taken, an employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered Armed Forces service member may also be entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of FMLA leave during a twelve (12) month period to care for the service member.
3. The "twelve-month period" in which twelve (12) weeks of FMLA and CFRA leave may be taken is the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the commencement of any FMLA/CFRA leave.
4. If a holiday falls within a week taken as FMLA/CFRA leave, the week is nevertheless counted as a week of FMLA/CFRA leave. If, however, the School's business activity has temporarily ceased for some reason and employees are generally not expected to report for work for one or more weeks, such as the Winter Break, Spring Break, or Summer Vacation, the days the School's activities have ceased do not count against the employee's FMLA or CFRA leave entitlement. Similarly, if an employee uses FMLA/CFRA leave in increments of less than one (1) week, the fact that a holiday may occur within a week in which an employee partially takes leave does not count against the employee's leave entitlement unless the employee was otherwise scheduled and expected to work during the holiday.

#### Pay during FMLA/CFRA Leave

1. An employee on FMLA/CFRA leave because of his/her own serious health condition must use all accrued paid sick leave at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid FMLA/CFRA leave period. If an employee is receiving a partial wage replacement benefit during the FMLA/CFRA leave, the School and the employee may agree to have School-provided paid leave, such as vacation or sick time, supplement the partial wage replacement benefit unless otherwise prohibited by law.
2. An employee on FMLA/CFRA leave for baby-bonding or to care for a qualifying family member with a serious health condition may use any or all accrued sick leave at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid FMLA/CFRA leave.
3. If an employee has exhausted his/her sick leave, leave taken under FMLA/CFRA shall be unpaid leave.
4. The receipt of sick leave pay or State Disability Insurance benefits will not extend the length of the FMLA or CFRA leave. Sick pay accrues during any period of unpaid FMLA or CFRA leave only until the end of the month in which unpaid leave began.

#### Health Benefits

The provisions of the School's various employee benefit plans govern continuing eligibility during FMLA/CFRA leave, and these provisions may change from time to time. The health benefits of

employees on FMLA/CFRA leave will be paid by the School during the leave at the same level and under the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been continuously employed during the leave period. When a request for FMLA/CFRA leave is granted, the School will give the employee written confirmation of the arrangements made for the payment of insurance premiums during the leave period.

If an employee is required to pay premiums for any part of his/her group health coverage, the School will provide the employee with advance written notice of the terms and conditions under which premium payments must be made.

CCS may recover the health benefit costs paid on behalf of an employee during his/her FMLA/CFRA leave if:

1. The employee fails to return from leave after the period of leave to which the employee is entitled has expired. An employee is deemed to have “failed to return from leave” if he/she works less than thirty (30) days after returning from FMLA/CFRA leave; and
2. The employee’s failure to return from leave is for a reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that entitles the employee to FMLA/CFRA leave, or other circumstances beyond the control of the employee.

### Seniority

An employee on FMLA/CFRA leave remains an employee and the leave will not constitute a break in service. An employee who returns from FMLA/CFRA leave will return with the same seniority he/she had when the leave commenced.

### Medical Certifications

1. An employee requesting FMLA/CFRA leave because of his/her own or a relative’s serious health condition must provide medical certification from the appropriate health care provider on a form supplied by the School. Absent extenuating circumstances, failure to provide the required certification in a timely manner (within fifteen (15) days of the School’s request for certification) may result in denial of the leave request until such certification is provided.
2. The School will notify the employee in writing if the certification is incomplete or insufficient, and will advise the employee what additional information is necessary in order to make the certification complete and sufficient. The School may contact the employee’s health care provider to authenticate a certification as needed.
3. If the School has reason to doubt the medical certification supporting a leave because of the employee’s own serious health condition, the School may request a second opinion by a health care provider of its choice (paid for by the School). If the second opinion differs from the first one, the School will pay for a third, mutually agreeable, health care provider to provide a final and binding opinion.
4. Recertifications are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the health care provider. Failure to submit required recertifications can result in termination of the leave.

## Procedures for Requesting and Scheduling FMLA/CFRA Leave

1. An employee should request FMLA/CFRA leave by completing a Request for Leave form and submitting it to the Chief of Staff. An employee asking for a Request for Leave form will be given a copy of the School's then- current FMLA/CFRA leave policy.
2. Employees should provide not less than thirty (30) days' notice for foreseeable childbirth, placement, or any planned medical treatment for the employee or his/her qualifying family member. Failure to provide such notice is grounds for denial of a leave request, except if the need for FMLA/CFRA leave was an emergency or was otherwise unforeseeable.
3. Where possible, employees must make a reasonable effort to schedule foreseeable planned medical treatments so as not to unduly disrupt the School's operations.
4. If FMLA/CFRA leave is taken because of the employee's own serious health condition or the serious health condition of the employee's qualifying family member, the leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary, as determined by the health care provider of the person with the serious health condition.
5. If FMLA/CFRA leave is taken because of the birth of the employee's child or the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, the minimum duration of leave is two (2) weeks, except that the School will grant a request for FMLA/CFRA leave for this purpose of at least one day but less than two (2) weeks' duration on any two (2) occasions.
6. If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for the employee or a family member, the employee may be transferred temporarily to an available alternative position for which he or she is qualified that has equivalent pay and benefits and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.
7. The School will respond to an FMLA/CFRA leave request no later than five (5) business days of receiving the request. If an FMLA/CFRA leave request is granted, the School will notify the employee in writing that the leave will be counted against the employee's FMLA/CFRA leave entitlement. This notice will explain the employee's obligations and the consequences of failing to satisfy them.

## Return to Work

1. Upon timely return at the expiration of the FMLA/CFRA leave period, an employee is entitled to the same or a comparable position with the same or similar duties and virtually identical pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment unless the same position and any comparable position(s) have ceased to exist because of legitimate business reasons unrelated to the employee's FMLA/CFRA leave.
2. When a request for FMLA/CFRA leave is granted to an employee, the School will give the employee a written guarantee of reinstatement at the termination of the leave (with the limitations explained above).
3. Before an employee will be permitted to return from FMLA/CFRA leave taken because of his/her own serious health condition, the employee must obtain a certification from his/her health care provider that he/she is able to resume work.
4. If an employee can return to work with limitations, the School will evaluate those limitations and, if possible, will accommodate the employee as required by law. If accommodation cannot be made, the employee will be medically separated from the School.

### Employment during Leave

No employee, including employees on FMLA/CFRA leave, may accept employment with any other employer without the School's written permission. An employee who accepts such employment without the School's written permission will be deemed to have resigned from employment at the School.

### **Pregnancy Disability Leave**

This policy explains how the School complies with the California Pregnancy Disability Act, which requires the School to give each female employee an unpaid leave of absence of up to four (4) months per pregnancy, as needed, for the period(s) of time a woman is actually disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

### Employee Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for pregnancy disability leave, the employee must be disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition and must provide appropriate medical certification concerning the disability.

### Events That May Entitle an Employee to Pregnancy Disability Leave

The four (4)-month pregnancy disability leave allowance includes any time taken (with or without pay) for any of the following reasons:

1. The employee is unable to work at all or is unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of her job without undue risk to herself, the successful completion of her pregnancy, or to other persons because of pregnancy or childbirth, or because of any medically recognized physical or mental condition that is related to pregnancy or childbirth (including severe morning sickness); or
2. The employee needs to take time off for prenatal care.

### Duration of Pregnancy Disability Leave

Pregnancy disability leave may be taken in one or more periods, but not to exceed four months total. "Four months" means the number of days the employee would normally work within four months. For a full-time employee who works five (5) eight (8) hour days per week, four (4) months means 693 hours of leave (40 hours per week times 17 1/3 weeks).

For employees who work more or less than forty (40) hours per week, or who work on variable work schedules, the number of working days that constitutes four (4) months is calculated on a pro rata or proportional basis. For example, for an employee who works twenty (20) hours per week, "four months" means 346.5 hours of leave entitlement (20 hours per week times 17 1/3 weeks). For an employee who normally works forty-eight (48) hours per week, "four months" means 832 hours of leave entitlement (48 hours per week times 17 1/3 weeks).

At the end or depletion of an employee's pregnancy disability leave, an employee who has a physical or mental disability (which may or may not be due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions) may be entitled to reasonable accommodation. Entitlement to additional leave must be determined on a case-by case basis, taking into account a number of considerations

such as whether an extended leave is likely to be effective in allowing the employee to return to work at the end of the leave, with or without further reasonable accommodation, and whether or not additional leave would create an undue hardship for the School. The School is not required to provide an indefinite leave of absence as a reasonable accommodation.

#### Pay during Pregnancy Disability Leave

1. An employee on pregnancy disability leave must use all accrued paid sick leave and may use any or all accrued vacation time at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid leave period.
2. The receipt of vacation pay, sick leave pay, or state disability insurance benefits, will not extend the length of pregnancy disability leave.
3. Vacation and sick pay will continue to accrue during any period of unpaid pregnancy disability leave only until the end of the month in which the unpaid leave began.

#### Health Benefits

CCS shall provide continued health insurance coverage while an employee is on pregnancy disability leave consistent with applicable law. The continuation of health benefits is for a maximum of four (4) months in a twelve (12)-month period. CCS can recover premiums that it already paid on behalf of an employee if both of the following conditions are met:

1. The employee fails to return from leave after the designated leave period expires.
2. The employee's failure to return from leave is for a reason other than the following:
  - The employee is taking leave under the California Family Rights Act.
  - There is a continuation, recurrence or onset of a health condition that entitles the employee to pregnancy disability leave.
  - There is a non-pregnancy related medical condition requiring further leave.
  - Any other circumstance beyond the control of the employee.

#### Seniority

An employee on pregnancy disability leave remains an employee of the School and a leave will not constitute a break in service. When an employee returns from pregnancy disability leave, she will return with the same seniority she had when the leave commenced.

#### Medical Certifications

1. An employee requesting a pregnancy disability leave must provide medical certification from her healthcare provider. Failure to provide the required certification in a timely manner (within fifteen (15) days of the leave request) may result in a denial of the leave request until such certification is provided.
2. Recertifications are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the healthcare provider. Failure to submit required recertification can result in termination of the leave.

## Requesting and Scheduling Pregnancy Disability Leave

1. An employee should request pregnancy disability leave by completing a Request for Leave form and submitting it to the Chief of Staff. An employee asking for a Request for Leave form will be referred to the School's then current pregnancy disability leave policy.
2. Employee should provide not less than thirty (30) days' notice or as soon as is practicable, if the need for the leave is foreseeable. Failure to provide such notice is grounds for denial of the leave request, except if the need for pregnancy disability leave was an emergency and was otherwise unforeseeable.
3. Where possible, employees must make a reasonable effort to schedule foreseeable planned medical treatments so as not to unduly disrupt the School's operations.
4. Pregnancy disability leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically advisable, as determined by the employee's healthcare provider.
5. If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee may be transferred temporarily to an available alternative position for which he or she is qualified that has equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.
6. The School will respond to a pregnancy disability leave request within ten (10) days of receiving the request. If a pregnancy disability leave request is granted, the School will notify the employee in writing and leave will be counted against the employee's pregnancy disability leave entitlement. This notice will explain the employee's obligations and the consequences of failing to satisfy them.

## Return to Work

1. Upon timely return at the expiration of the pregnancy disability leave period, an employee is entitled to the same position unless the employee would not otherwise have been employed in the same position at the time reinstatement is requested. If the employee is not reinstated to the same position; she must be reinstated to a comparable position unless one of the following is applicable:
  - a. The employer would not have offered a comparable position to the employee if she would have been continuously at work during the pregnancy disability leave.
  - b. There is no comparable position available, to which the employee is either qualified or entitled, on the employee's scheduled date of reinstatement or within sixty (60) calendar days thereafter. The School will take reasonable steps to provide notice to the employee if and when comparable positions become available during the sixty (60) day period.

A "comparable" position is a position that involves the same or similar duties and responsibilities and is virtually identical to the employee's original position in terms of pay, benefits, and working conditions.
2. When a request for pregnancy disability leave is granted to an employee, the School will give the employee a written guarantee of reinstatement at the end of the leave (with the limitations explained above).
3. In accordance with CCS policy, before an employee will be permitted to return from a pregnancy disability leave of three (3) days or more, the employee must obtain a certification from their healthcare provider that they are able to resume work.
4. If the employee can return to work with limitations, the School will evaluate those limitations and, if possible, will accommodate the employee as required by law. If

accommodation cannot be made, the employee will be medically separated from the School.

### Employment during Leave

No employee, including employees on pregnancy disability leave, may accept employment with any other employer without the School's written permission. An employee who accepts such employment without written permission will be deemed to have resigned from employment.

### **Industrial Injury Leave (Workers' Compensation)**

CCS, in accordance with State law, provides insurance coverage for employees in case of work-related injuries. The workers' compensation benefits provided to injured employees may include:

- Medical care;
- Cash benefits, tax-free to replace lost wages; and
- Vocational rehabilitation to help qualified injured employees return to suitable employment.

To ensure employees receive any workers' compensation benefits to which they may be entitled, employees will need to:

- Immediately report any work-related injury to the Chief Financial Officer;
- Seek medical treatment and follow-up care if required;
- Complete a written Employee's Claim Form (DWC Form 1) and return it to the Chief of Staff; and
- Provide the School with a certification from a health care provider regarding the need for workers' compensation disability leave as well as the employee's eventual ability to return to work from the leave.

It is the School's policy that when there is a job-related injury, the first priority is to ensure that the injured employee receives appropriate medical attention. CCS, with the help of its insurance carrier has selected medical centers to meet this need. Each medical center was selected for its ability to meet anticipated needs with high quality medical service and a location that is convenient to the School's operation.

- If an employee is injured on the job, he/she is to go or be taken to the approved medical center for treatment. If injuries are such that they require the use of emergency medical systems ("EMS") such as an ambulance, the choice by the EMS personnel for the most appropriate medical center or hospital for treatment will be recognized as an approved center.
- All accidents and injuries must be reported to the Chief Financial Officer and to the individual responsible for reporting to the School's insurance carrier. Failure by an employee to report a work-related injury by the end of his/her shift could result in loss of insurance coverage for the employee. An employee may choose to be treated by his/her personal physician at his/her own expense, but he/she is still required to go to the School's approved medical center for evaluation. All job-related injuries must be reported to the appropriate State Workers' Compensation Bureau and the insurance carrier.
- When there is a job-related injury that results in lost time, the employee must have a medical release from the School's approved medical facility before returning to work.
- Any time there is a job-related injury, the School's policy requires drug/alcohol testing along with any medical treatment provided to the employee.

## **Military and Military Spousal Leave of Absence**

CCS shall grant a military leave of absence to any employee who must be absent from work due to service in the uniformed services in accordance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re- Employment Rights Act of 1994 ("USERRA"). All employees requesting military leave must provide advance written notice of the need for such leave, unless prevented from doing so by military necessity or if providing notice would be impossible or unreasonable.

If military leave is for thirty (30) or fewer days, the School shall continue the employee's health benefits. For service of more than thirty (30) days, employees shall be permitted to continue their health benefits at their option through COBRA. Employees are entitled to use accrued vacation or paid time off as wage replacement during time served, provided such vacation/paid time off accrued prior to the leave.

Except for employees serving in the National Guard, CCS will reinstate those employees returning from military leave to their same position or one of comparable seniority, status, and pay if they have a certificate of satisfactory completion of service and apply within ninety (90) days after release from active duty or within such extended period, if any, as required by law. For those employees serving in the National Guard, if he or she left a full-time position, the employee must apply for reemployment within forty (40) days of being released from active duty, and if he or she left part-time employment, the employee must apply for reemployment within five (5) days of being released from active duty.

An employee who was absent from work while fulfilling his or her covered service obligation under the USERRA or California law shall be credited, upon his or her return to the School, with the hours of service that would have been performed but for the period of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA-covered service. Exceptions to this policy will occur wherever necessary to comply with applicable laws.

CCS shall grant up to ten (10) days of unpaid leave to employees who work more than twenty (20) hours per week and who are spouses of deployed military servicemen and servicewomen. The leave may be taken when the military spouse is on leave from deployment during a time of military conflict. To be eligible for leave, an employee must provide the School with (1) notice of intention to take military spousal leave within two (2) business days of receiving official notice that the employee's military spouse will be on leave from deployment, and (2) documentation certifying that the employee's military spouse will be on leave from deployment during the time that the employee requests leave.

## **Bereavement Leave**

Each full-time employee will be provided with three (3) paid bereavement days for family members. Family members will be defined as members of the employee's or spouse's immediate family which means the parents, grandparents, spouse, significant other, child or grandchild, brother, sister, (step or foster) or any other living in the immediate household of the employee.

If an employee requires more than the three (3) days off for bereavement leave, the employee may use accrued sick and/or vacation days.



## **Jury Duty or Witness Leave**

Jury and Witness leave is provided for any employee who is called to serve jury or witness duty in any court during regularly assigned working hours. Prior notification to and approval by the Human Resources Department is required. The School will pay an employee up to fifteen (15) of days paid per jury service term.

If an employee is asked to use the call-in jury system and he/she is not selected to appear the next morning, the employee must report to work. The employee must notify HR if he/she has been selected to serve on a jury and if possible to notify how long the trial may last in order to plan ahead.

As a reminder as of August 2004, in an effort to avoid duplicate payment of public funds, California Superior Court jurors employed by a government entity (including school districts) who receive their regular compensation during jury service may not be paid daily jury duty fees by the court (California Code of Civil Procedure, Section 215). Hence, when completing the juror affidavit questionnaire, it is your responsibility to check the "Government/Public Employee" box (rather than "Employed"). This alerts the court to withhold payment of jury fees (although you will still receive mileage reimbursement, unless you have elected to waive it).

Note: Employees summoned to United States District Court are entitled to jury fees. Therefore, in accordance with current employee agreements, an amount equal to the jury fees paid by the court will automatically be withheld from the employee's subsequent pay.

Employees must provide a copy of Jury Summons or Witness Subpoena when requesting Jury Duty Leave and must submit employer paperwork received from the court at the completion of jury service. Employees must request time off for Jury Service using the BambooHR system.

## **Voting Time Off**

If an employee does not have sufficient time outside of working hours to vote in an official state-sanctioned election, the employee may take off enough working time to vote. Such time off shall be taken at the beginning or the end of the regular working shift, whichever allows for more free time and the time taken off shall be combined with the voting time available outside of working hours to a maximum of two (2) hours combined. Under these circumstances, an employee will be allowed a maximum of two (2) hours of time off during an election day without loss of pay. When possible, an employee requesting time off to vote shall give their immediate supervisor at least two (2) days' notice.

## **School Appearance and Activities Leave**

As required by law, CCS will permit an employee who is a parent or guardian (including a stepparent, foster parent, or grandparent) of school children, from kindergarten through grade twelve (12), or a child enrolled with a licensed child care provider, up to forty (40) hours of unpaid time off per school year (up to eight (8) hours in any calendar month of the school year) to participate in activities of a child's school or child care. If more than one (1) parent or guardian is an employee of CCS, the employee that first provides the leave request will be given the requested time off. Where necessary, additional time off will also be permitted where the school requires the employee(s) appearance.

The employee requesting school leave must provide reasonable advance notice of the planned absence. The employee must use accrued but unused paid leave (e.g., vacation or sick leave) to be paid during the absence.

When requesting time off for school activities, the employee must provide verification of participation in an activity as soon as practicable. When requesting time off for a required appearance, the employee(s) must provide a copy of the notice from the child's school requesting the presence of the employee.

### **Bone Marrow and Organ Donor Leave**

As required by law, eligible employees who require time off to donate bone marrow to another person may receive up to five (5) workdays off in a 12-month period. Eligible employees who require time off to donate an organ may receive up to sixty (60) workdays off in a twelve (12) month period.

To be eligible for bone marrow or organ donation leave ("Donor Leave"), the employee must have been employed by the School for at least ninety (90) days immediately preceding the Donor Leave.

An employee requesting Donor Leave must provide written verification to the School that he or she is a donor and that there is a medical necessity for the donation of the organ or bone marrow.

Up to five (5) days of leave for bone marrow donation, and up to thirty (30) days of leave for organ donation, may be paid provided the employee first uses five (5) days of accrued paid leave for bone marrow donation and two (2) weeks of accrued paid leave for organ donation. If the employee has an insufficient number of paid leave days available, the leave will otherwise be paid.

Employees returning from Donor Leave will be reinstated to the position held before the leave began, or to a position with equivalent status, benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. The School may refuse to reinstate an employee if the reason is unrelated to taking a Donor Leave. A Donor Leave is not permitted to be taken concurrently with an FMLA/CFRA Leave.

### **Victims of Abuse Leave**

CCS provides reasonable and necessary unpaid leave and other reasonable accommodations to employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Such leave may be taken to attend legal proceedings or to obtain or attempt to obtain any relief necessary, including a restraining order, to ensure the employee's own health, safety or welfare, or that of the employee's child or children. Employees may also request unpaid leave for the following purposes:

- Seek medical attention for injuries caused by domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- Obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, program, or rape crisis center.
- Obtain psychological counseling for the domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- Participate in safety planning, such as relocation, to protect against future domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

To request leave under this policy, an employee should provide CCS with as much advance notice as practicable under the circumstances. If advance notice is not possible, the employee requesting leave under this policy should provide CCS one (1) of the following certifications upon returning back to work:

1. A police report indicating that the employee was a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
2. A court order protecting the employee from the perpetrator or other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that the employee appeared in court.
3. Documentation from a licensed medical professional, domestic violence or sexual assault counselor, licensed health care provider, or counselor showing that the employee's absence was due to treatment for injuries or abuse from domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Employees requesting leave under this policy may choose to use accrued paid leave. In addition, CCS will provide reasonable accommodations to employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking for the employees' safety while at work. To request an accommodation under this policy, an employee should contact Human Resources.

### **Returning from Leave of Absence**

Employees cannot return from a medical leave of absence without first providing a sufficient doctor's return to work authorization.

When business considerations require, the job of an employee on leave may be filled by a temporary or regular replacement. An employee should give the Chief of Staff thirty (30) days' notice before returning from leave. Whenever the School is notified of an employee's intent to return from a leave, the School will attempt to place the employee in his former position or in a comparable position with regard to salary and other terms and conditions for which the employee is qualified. However, re-employment cannot always be guaranteed. If employees need further information regarding Leaves of Absence, they should be sure to consult the Chief of Staff.

## **DISCIPLINE AND TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

### **Rules of Conduct**

The following conduct is prohibited and will not be tolerated by the School. This list of prohibited conduct is illustrative only and applies to all employees of the School; other types of conduct that threaten security, personal safety, employee welfare and the School's operations also may be prohibited. Further, the specification of this list of conduct in no way alters the at-will employment relationship as to at-will employees of the School. If an employee is working under a contract with the School which grants procedural rights prior to termination, the procedural terms in the contract shall apply.

1. Insubordination - refusing to perform a task or duty assigned or act in accordance with instructions provided by an employee's manager or proper authority.
2. Inefficiency - including deliberate restriction of output, carelessness or unnecessary wastes of time or material, neglect of job, duties or responsibilities.
3. Unauthorized soliciting, collecting of contributions, distribution of literature, written or printed matter is strictly prohibited on School property by non-employees and by employees. This rule does not cover periods of time when employees are off their jobs, such as lunch periods and break times. However, employees properly off their jobs are prohibited from such activity with other employees who are performing their work tasks.
4. Acceptance, from any source, of a reward, gift, or other form of remuneration in excess of \$100.00, in addition to regular compensation to all staff.
5. Damaging, defacing, unauthorized removal, destruction or theft of another employee's property or of School property.
6. Fighting or instigating a fight on School premises.
7. Violations of the drug and alcohol policy including using, possessing, dealing, distributing, or being under the influence of intoxicating beverages, non-prescribed drugs or any unlawful drugs while on duty or at a work location.
8. Actions which constitute an unwholesome influence on scholars or other staff members, such as harassment, which includes sexual harassment.
9. Using or possessing firearms, weapons or explosives of any kind on School premises.
10. Gambling on School premises.
11. Tampering with or falsifying any report or record including, but not limited to, personnel, absentee, sickness or production reports or records, specifically including applications for employment and timecards.
12. Electronically clocking for another employee or permitting or arranging for another employee to record your clock time.
13. Use of profane, abusive or threatening language in conversations with other employees and/or intimidating or interfering with other employees.
14. Conducting personal business during business hours and/or unauthorized use of telephone lines for personal calls.
15. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness excused or unexcused.
16. Posting any notices on School premises without prior written approval of management, unless posting is on a School bulletin board designated for employee postings.
17. Immoral or indecent conduct.
18. Conviction of a criminal act, especially a felony, or conviction of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
19. Engaging in sabotage or espionage (industrial or otherwise)
20. Violation of the sexual harassment policy.
21. Violation of the School's policies regarding discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

22. Failure to report a job-related accident to the employee's manager or failure to take or follow prescribed tests, procedures or treatment.
23. Sleeping during work hours.
24. Release of confidential information relating to staff, scholars or CCS without prior authorization from the Human Resources Department and/or the Superintendent & CEO.
25. Any other conduct detrimental to other employees or the School's interests or its efficient operations.
26. Any willful act of conduct undertaken in bad faith, either during or outside of duty hours, which is of such a nature that causes discredit to the School.
27. Violation of any federal, state or local laws affecting the School or the employee's employment or fitness for employment with the School.
28. Failure to comply with the School's safety protocols and procedures.
29. Refusal to speak to supervisors or other employees.
30. Dishonesty.
31. Failure to possess or maintain the credential/certificate required of the position.

For employees who possess an employment contract which provides for other than at-will employment, the procedures and process for termination during the contract shall be specified in the contract.

### **Off-Duty Conduct**

While the School does not seek to interfere with the off-duty and personal conduct of its employees, certain types of off-duty conduct may interfere with the School's legitimate business interests. For this reason, employees are expected to conduct their personal affairs in a manner that does not adversely affect the School or its own integrity, reputation, or credibility. Illegal or immoral off-duty conduct by an employee that adversely affects the School's legitimate business interests or the employee's ability to perform his or her work will not be tolerated.

While employed by the School, employees are expected to devote their energies to their jobs with the School. For this reason, second jobs are strongly discouraged. The following types of additional employment elsewhere are strictly prohibited:

- Additional employment that conflicts with an employee's work schedule, duties, and responsibilities at our School.
- Additional employment that creates a conflict of interest or is incompatible with the employee's position with our School.
- Additional employment that impairs or has a detrimental effect on the employee's work performance with our School.
- Additional employment that requires the employee to conduct work or related activities on the School's property during the employer's working hours or using School facilities and/or equipment; and
- Additional employment that directly or indirectly competes with the business or the interests of our School.

Employees who wish to engage in additional employment that may create a real or apparent conflict of interest must submit a written request to the School explaining the details of the additional employment. If the additional employment is authorized, the School assumes no responsibility for it. CCS shall not provide workers' compensation coverage or any other benefit for injuries occurring from or arising out of additional employment. Authorization to engage in additional employment can be revoked at any time.

## **Termination of Employment**

Should it become necessary for an employee to terminate their at-will employment with the School, employees should notify the Chief of Staff regarding their intention as far in advance as possible. At least two (2) weeks' notice is expected whenever possible.

When an employee terminates their at-will employment, they will be entitled to all earned but unused vacation pay. If an employee is participating in the medical and/or dental plan, they will be provided information on their rights under COBRA.

## **INTERNAL COMPLAINT REVIEW**

The purpose of the “Internal Complaint Review Policy” is to afford all employees of the School the opportunity to seek internal resolution of their work-related concerns. All employees have free access to the Chief of Staff or Board of Directors to express their work-related concerns.

Specific complaints of unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation are addressed under the 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 School employee raises a complaint or concern about a coworker.

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 Chief of Staff or designee:

1. The complainant will bring the matter to the attention of the Chief of Staff as soon as possible after attempts to resolve the complaint with the immediate supervisor have failed or if not appropriate.
2. The complainant will reduce his or her complaint to writing, indicating all known and relevant facts. The Chief of Staff or designee will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation.
3. If the complaint is about the Chief of Staff, the complainant may file his or her complaint in writing to the Superintendent & CEO. The Superintendent & CEO or designee will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation.
4. If the complaint is about the Superintendent & CEO, the complainant may file his or her complaint in writing to the Chair of the 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 Chair 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 School values each employee’s ability to express concerns and the need for resolution without fear of adverse consequences 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 School employee.

If complaints cannot be resolved informally, complainants may file a written complaint with the Chief of Staff or Superintendent & CEO (if the complaint concerns the Chief of Staff) 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, Chief of Staff (or designee) shall abide by the following process:

1. The Chief of Staff 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 Chief of Staff (or designee) finds that a complaint against an employee is valid, the Chief of Staff (or designee) may take appropriate disciplinary action against the employee. As appropriate, the Chief of Staff (or designee) may also simply counsel/reprimand employees as to their conduct without initiating formal disciplinary measures.
3. The Chief of Staff's (or designee) decision relating to the complaint shall be final unless it is appealed to the Superintendent & CEO. The decision of the Superintendent & CEO 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 Superintendent & CEO) or the Chief of Staff 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.



## **AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

This Employee Handbook contains the employment policies and practices of the School in effect at the time of publication.

CCS reserves the right to amend, delete or otherwise modify this Handbook at any time provided that such modifications are in writing and duly approved by the employer.

Any written changes to the Handbook will be distributed to all employees. No oral statements can in any way alter the provisions of this Handbook.

**APPENDIX A**

**Harassment/Discrimination/Retaliation Complaint Form**

*It is the policy of the School that all of its employees be free from harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. This form is provided for you to report what you believe to be harassment, discrimination, or retaliation so that the School may investigate and take appropriate disciplinary or other action when the facts show that there has been harassment, discrimination, or retaliation.*

*If you are an employee of the School, you may file this form with the Chief of Staff or Superintendent & CEO.*

*Please review the School's policies concerning harassment, discrimination, and retaliation for a definition of such unlawful conduct and a description of the types of conduct that are considered unlawful.*

*CCS will undertake every effort to handle the investigation of your complaint in a confidential manner. In that regard, the School will disclose the contents of your complaint only to those persons having a need to know. For example, to conduct its investigation, the School will need to disclose portions of your factual allegations to potential witnesses, including anyone you have identified as having knowledge of the facts on which you are basing your complaint, as well as the alleged offender.*

*In signing this form below, you authorize the School to disclose to others the information you have provided herein, and information you may provide in the future. Please note that the more detailed information you provide, the more likely it is that the School will be able to address your complaint to your satisfaction.*

*Charges of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation are taken very seriously by the School both because of the harm caused by such unlawful conduct, and because of the potential sanctions that may be taken against the offender. It is therefore very important that you report the facts as accurately and completely as possible and that you cooperate fully with the person or persons designated to investigate your complaint.*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Alleged Incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person(s) you believe harassed, or discriminated or retaliated against, you or someone else:

\_\_\_\_\_

List any witnesses that were present: \_\_\_\_\_

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Where did the incident(s) occur?

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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):

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I acknowledge that I have read and that I understand the above statements. 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.

Signature of Complainant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

To be completed by School:

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_