

FOREST CHARTER SCHOOL
INTERNAL COMPLAINT POLICY
("WHISTLEBLOWER" POLICY)
APPROVED MAY 2010

Suggestions for improving the School are always welcome. Your good-faith complaints, questions, and suggestions also are of concern to the School. We ask you to first discuss your concerns with your supervisor, following these steps:

- Within a week of the occurrence, bring the situation to the attention of your immediate supervisor, who will then investigate and provide a solution or explanation;
- If the problem persists, you may describe it in writing and present it to the Director who will investigate and provide a solution or explanation. We encourage you to bring the matter to the Director as soon as possible after you believe that your immediate supervisor has failed to resolve it; and,
- If the problem is not resolved, you may present the problem in writing to the Governing Council of the School, who will attempt to reach a final resolution. If you need assistance with the written complaint, contact the Director for help.

This procedure, which we believe is important for both you and the School, cannot guarantee that every problem will be resolved to your satisfaction. However, the School values your observations and you should feel free to raise issues of concern, in good faith, without the fear of retaliation.

POLICY FOR COMPLAINTS AGAINST EMPLOYEES

The School requires all employees to observe the highest standard of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As representatives of the School, employees must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

It is the responsibility of all employees to comply with school policies noted in the Employment Handbook and to report violations or suspected violations in accordance with this Whistleblower Policy.

Depending on the nature of the complaint, the complainant will be provided information concerning the applicable policy and procedures to be followed. If there is no applicable policy or procedures, the Director (or designee) shall encourage the parties involved to seek an informal resolution of the issues. If this is not possible due to the nature of the complaint or if informal resolution has been unsuccessfully attempted, the Director (or designee) shall undertake a responsible inquiry into the complaint to ensure it is reasonably and swiftly addressed. When appropriate, a written statement of the complaint will be obtained from the complainant.

If the complainant files a written complaint and no other school policy or procedure is applicable, the Director (or designee) shall abide by the following process:

1. Within 10 working days of the receipt of the complaint, the Director 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 Director (or designee) finds that a complaint against an employee is valid, the Director (or designee) may take appropriate disciplinary action against the employee. As appropriate, the Director (or designee) may also simply counsel/reprimand employees as to their conduct without initiating formal disciplinary measures.
3. The Director's (or designee's) decision relating to the complaint shall be final unless it is appealed to the Charter Council. The decision of the Council shall be final.

Confidentiality

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.

Non-Retaliation

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.

Resolution

The administration 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.

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 Forest Charter 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.

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Complainant

Print Name

To be completed by School:

Received by: _____ Date: _____