



Uniform Complaint Procedures Pamphlet 2022-2023

California Department of Education

December 2, 2022

Authorized by: *California Code of Regulations*, Title 5 sections 4600-4694

What is a UCP complaint?

A complaint under the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) is a written and signed statement alleging a violation of federal or state laws governing certain educational programs.

What agencies are subject to the UCP?

The UCP covers alleged violations by local educational agencies (LEAs) (school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools) and local public or private agencies which receive direct or indirect funding from the State to provide specific school programs, activities, or related services.

What educational programs and services are covered by the UCP?

- Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Pupils
- Adult Education
- After School Education and Safety
- Agricultural Career Technical Education
- Career Technical and Technical Education and Career Technical and Technical Training Programs
- Child Care and Development
- Compensatory Education
- Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs
- Course Periods without Educational Content
- Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against any protected group as identified under sections 200 and 220 and Section 11135 of the Government Code, including any actual or perceived characteristic as set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution, as defined in Section 210.3, that is funded directly by, or that receives or benefits from, any state financial assistance
- Educational and graduation requirements for pupils in foster care, pupils who are homeless, pupils from military families and pupils formerly in Juvenile Court now enrolled in a school district
- Every Student Succeeds Act
- Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP)

- Files a written complaint by following the steps described in the LEA's UCP complaint procedures.
 1. The signature on a complaint may be handwritten, typed (including in an email) or electronically-generated.
 2. A complaint filed on behalf of an individual student may only be filed by that student or that student's duly authorized representative.
 3. All complaints must be filed within one year from the date of the alleged violation. For Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) complaints the date of the alleged violation is the date when the reviewing authority approves the LAP or annual update that was adopted by the LEA.
- Cooperates in the investigation and provides the LEA investigator with information and other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint.
- May file a written appeal to the CDE within 30 calendar days of receiving the LEA's decision if they believe the LEA's decision is incorrect.
- Must specify the basis for the appeal and whether the LEA's facts are incorrect and/or the law is misapplied. The appeal packet must contain a copy of the original complaint to the LEA and a copy of the LEA's decision.
- Where applicable, within 30 calendar days of receiving the CDE's decision or report, may submit a request for reconsideration by the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the CDE or their designee. The request for reconsideration must specify and explain the reason(s) for contesting the findings of fact, conclusions of law, or corrective actions in the appeal Decision.
- When filing an appeal with the CDE, must specify and explain the basis for the appeal, including at least one of the following:
 1. The LEA failed to follow its complaint procedures, and/or;
 2. Relative to the allegations of the complaint, the LEA Investigation Report lacks material findings of fact necessary to reach a conclusion of law, and/or;
 3. The material findings of fact in the LEA Investigation Report are not supported by substantial evidence, and/or;
 4. The legal conclusion in the LEA Investigation Report is inconsistent with the law, and/or;
 5. In a case in which the LEA found noncompliance, the corrective actions fail to provide a proper remedy.

- The complainant alleges and the CDE verifies that, through no fault of the complainant, the LEA fails to act within 60 calendar days of receiving the complaint.
 - The complainant appeals an LEA decision if they believe the decision is factually and/or legally incorrect.
 - When requested by the complainant, the CDE determines when direct intervention is applicable.
- Requires corrective action by the LEA if noncompliance issues are identified during the investigation.
- Provides monitoring and technical assistance to LEAs to ensure resolution of findings of noncompliance.
- Where applicable, notifies the parties of the right to request reconsideration of the CDE's decision/report by the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the CDE within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the decision/report.
- For those programs governed by part 76 of Title 34 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, notifies the parties of the right to appeal to the United States Secretary of Education.
- If the CDE finds merit in an appeal, it must issue corrective actions for, including, but not limited to, complaints involving pupil fees, courses of study, instructional minutes for physical education and local control and accountability plans, and must include a remedy to all affected pupils, parents, and guardians.
- The CDE must issue an appeal Decision within 60 days, unless extended by written agreement with the Appellant, or the CDE documents exceptional circumstances and informs the Appellant, or the CDE receives notice that the matter has been resolved at the local level, or the CDE receives notice that the matter has been judicially decided.
- On reconsideration, the CDE will not consider new information unless it was unknown during the appeal and could not have become known with due diligence.
- The CDE must act on the reconsideration request within 60 days. During the reconsideration period, the CDE appeal Decision remains in effect and enforceable, unless stayed by a court.
- The CDE may at its discretion directly intervene without waiting for an LEA investigation in certain enumerated situations.
- The CDE must directly intervene if the complaint alleges that an agency that is not an LEA violated laws relating to a Child Care and Development program.

State Preschool Health and Safety Issues in LEAs Exempt from Licensing

A complaint regarding State Preschool Health and Safety issues incorporate emergency and/or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health and safety of students. They may be filed anonymously. LEAs must have a complaint form available for these types of complaints, but will not reject a complaint if the form is not used as long as the complaint is submitted in writing. Under applicable regulations, a notice must be posted in each state preschool classroom notifying parents and guardians of the matters subject to these complaints and where to obtain a form to file a complaint.

A state preschool health and safety complaint must be resolved by the school principal or by the district superintendent or his or her designee. A complainant who is not satisfied with the resolution has the right to describe the complaint to the governing board of the school district at a regularly scheduled meeting of the board. A complainant who is not satisfied with the resolution proffered by the preschool program administrator or the designee of the district superintendent has the right to file an appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

For further information please go to the CDE Web site and search for **State Preschool Health and Safety Issues in LEAs Exempt from Licensing** Complaints and Appeals.

Additional Information

For additional information, contact the appropriate office listed, or visit the UCP Web page at Uniform Complaint Procedures.

School Plans for Student Achievement, Local Agency Systems Support Office; 916-319-0809

Schoolsite Councils, Local Agency Systems Support Office; 916-319-0809

State Preschool Health and Safety Issues in LEAs Exempt from Licensing, Early Education and Care Division; 916-322-6233

**Butteville Union Elementary School District
2020-2021**

**ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF
THE UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (UCP)**

For students, employees, parents or guardians of its students, school and district advisory committees, appropriate private school officials or representatives, and other interested parties

The *Butteville Elementary School District* has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations and has established procedures to address allegations of unlawful discrimination and complaints alleging violation of state or federal laws governing educational programs.

The *Butteville Elementary School District* shall investigate and seek to resolve complaints using policies and procedures known as the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) adopted by our local board. Unlawful discrimination complaints may be based on actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, or mental or physical disability, or age, or on a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, in any program or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance. The UCP shall also be used when addressing complaints alleging failure to comply with state and/or federal laws regarding Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs, Migrant Education, Child Nutrition Programs, Special Education Programs, and Federal Safety Planning Requirements.

A complaint of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees may be filed pursuant to the local UCP. A pupil enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity.

A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

1. A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
2. A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
3. A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.

A pupil fee complaint shall not be filed later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees are filed with a principal of a school. A complaint regarding pupil fees may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence or information to support an allegation of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees.