

# Champion Preparatory Academy

## Employee Ethical Standards-Policy and Procedures

### Employment Screening

1. All Volunteers, Staff and Teachers are screened using VECHS fingerprint and background check.
2. All volunteers, staff and teacher are disqualified from employment if they are convicted of an act listed under [Section 1012.315, Florida Statutes](#).
3. All VECHS reports are reviewed by the CPA administrator.
4. New instructional personal and administrators are screened using the two employee screening tools developed by the Department of Education.

### Employee Standards of Ethical Conduct

Champion Preparatory Academy has adopted the policies establishing standards of ethical conduct for instructional personnel and school administrators.

### 6B-1.006 Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida

#### *6B-1.001 Code of Ethics of the Education Profession in Florida.*

1. The educator values the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. Essential to the achievement of these standards are the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal opportunity for all.
2. The educator's primary professional concern will always be for the student and for the development of the student's potential. The educator will therefore strive for professional growth and will seek to exercise the best professional judgment and integrity.
3. Aware of the importance of maintaining the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents, and of other members of the community, the educator strives to achieve and sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct.

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#### *6B-1.006 Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida.*

1. The following disciplinary rule shall constitute the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida.
2. Violation of any of these principles shall subject the individual to revocation or suspension of the individual educator's certificate, or the other penalties as provided by law.
3. Obligation to the student requires that the individual:

- a. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental and/or physical health and/or safety.
  - b. Shall not unreasonably restrain a student from independent action in pursuit of learning.
  - c. Shall not unreasonably deny a student access to diverse points of view.
  - d. Shall not intentionally suppress or distort subject matter relevant to a student's academic program.
  - e. Shall not intentionally expose a student to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement.
  - f. Shall not intentionally violate or deny a student's legal rights.
  - g. Shall not harass or discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition, sexual orientation, or social and family background and shall make reasonable effort to assure that each student is protected from harassment or discrimination.
  - h. Shall not exploit a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.
  - i. Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law.
4. Obligation to the public requires that the individual:
- a. Shall take reasonable precautions to distinguish between personal views and those of any educational institution or organization with which the individual is affiliated.
  - b. Shall not intentionally distort or misrepresent facts concerning an educational matter in direct or indirect public expression.
  - c. Shall not use institutional privileges for personal gain or advantage.
  - d. Shall accept no gratuity, gift, or favor that might influence professional judgment.
  - e. Shall offer no gratuity, gift, or favor to obtain special advantages.
5. Obligation to the profession of education requires that the individual:
- a. Shall maintain honesty in all professional dealings.
  - b. Shall not on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, handicapping condition if otherwise qualified, or social and family background deny to a colleague professional benefits or advantages or participation in any professional organization.
  - c. Shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political or civil rights and responsibilities.
  - d. Shall not engage in harassment or discriminatory conduct which unreasonably interferes with an individual's performance of professional or work responsibilities or with the orderly processes of education or which creates a hostile, intimidating, abusive, offensive, or oppressive environment; and, further, shall make reasonable effort to assure that each individual is protected from such harassment or discrimination.
  - e. Shall not make malicious or intentionally false statements about a colleague.
  - f. Shall not use coercive means or promise special treatment to influence professional judgments of colleagues.
  - g. Shall not misrepresent one's own professional qualifications.
  - h. Shall not submit fraudulent information on any document in connection with professional activities.
  - i. Shall not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact in one's own or another's application for a professional position.

- j. Shall not withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
- k. Shall provide upon the request of the certificated individual a written statement of specific reason for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment.
- l. Shall not assist entry into or continuance in the profession of any person known to be unqualified in accordance with these Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida and other applicable Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rules.
- m. Shall self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to appropriate authorities (as determined by district) any arrests/charges involving the abuse of a child or the sale and/or possession of a controlled substance. Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this rule, school districts shall comply with the confidentiality provisions of Sections 943.0585(4)(c) and 943.059(4)(c), Florida Statutes.
- n. Shall report to appropriate authorities any known allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education Rules as defined in Section 1012.795(1), Florida Statutes.
- o. Shall seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported any allegation of a violation of the Florida School Code or State Board of Education Rules as defined in Section 1012.795(1), Florida Statutes.
- p. Shall comply with the conditions of an order of the Education Practices Commission.
- q. Shall, as the supervising administrator, cooperate with the Education Practices Commission in monitoring the probation of a subordinate.

The code of ethics established for Florida certified educators is available on the [Office of Professional Practices Services Web site](#). This example may be used as a template; however, private school standards of conduct must include additional language for the items below:

- a. The private school standards of ethical conduct must establish the **duty to report**, and **procedures for reporting**, alleged employee or administrator misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student.
- b. The standards must provide an **explanation of the employee liability protections** provided under ss. [39.203](#) and [768.095](#), F.S.
- c. The standards must require private school instructional personnel and administrators to **complete training** on the adopted standards of ethical conduct. Documentation demonstrating that training was completed by each employee and school administrator will be required as part of the compliance application/renewal process.

2. **Champion Preparatory Academy prohibits confidentiality agreements with instructional personnel or school administrators who are dismissed, terminated, or resign in lieu of termination due to misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student.**

Any reference provided to a potential employer in an educational setting must disclose the misconduct.

3. **Champion Preparatory Academy posts in the teacher work area that all employees have a duty to report actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect using the posters provided by the state for reporting Professional Misconduct, Educator Misconduct, Professional Misconduct, Reporting Misconduct**

The notice must include the statewide toll-free abuse hotline number (1-800-96ABUSE).

Employees have immunity from liability if they report and will have a duty to comply with child protective investigations.

4. **Champion Preparatory Academy has posted on our school site and website policies and procedures for reporting misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student.**

The posting includes a contact person to whom the report is made and a statement about the penalties for personnel and administrators who fail to report abuse or misconduct.

5. **Champion Preparatory Academy** requires that legally sufficient allegations of misconduct by **Florida certified educators** must be reported to the Office of Professional Practices Services using the [Educator Misconduct Reporting Form](#).

## Child Abuse

Look for the signs

Dial 1-800-96-ABUSE

### Signs of Neglect

The child may have:

- unattended medical needs
- little or no supervision at home
- poor hygiene
- appear underweight

### Signs of Physical Abuse

The child may have unexplained:

- bruises, welts, cuts, or other injuries
- broken bones
- burns

A child experiencing physical abuse may:

- seem withdrawn or depressed
- seem afraid to go home or may run away
- shy away from physical contact
- be aggressive
- wear inappropriate clothing to hide injuries

### Signs of Sexual Abuse

The child may have:

- torn, stained or bloody underwear
- trouble walking or sitting
- pain or itching in genital area
- a sexually transmitted disease

A child experiencing sexual abuse may:

- have unusual knowledge of sex or act seductively
- fear a particular person
- seem withdrawn or depressed
- gain or lose weight suddenly

- shy away from physical contact
- run away from home

## FLORIDA STATUTES

### AND

### RULES

**Florida Statutes s. 1006.061** states all employees and agents of the district school board, charter schools and private schools that accept scholarship students, have an obligation to report misconduct by an instructional personnel member or school administrator

**Florida Statutes s. 1012.33** outlines disciplinary procedures regarding district employment contracts with instructional personnel staff, supervisors and school principals

**Florida Statutes s. 1012.795** provides the Education Practices Commission the authority to issue disciplinary action against an individual's Florida Educator certificate

**Florida Statutes s. 1012.796** provides authority for the Department of Education to investigate and prosecute allegations of educator misconduct

## HOW TO REPORT

### MISCONDUCT

- Report allegations or suspicion of misconduct by an instructional personnel member to your school administrator or district contact
- Report allegations or suspicion of misconduct by your school administrator to your district contact
- Document the activities or details of the event.
- Secure evidence (if applicable)

## **WHO SHOULD REPORT MISCONDUCT?**

All employees and agents of a district school board, charter school or private school have a duty to report misconduct.

If you are aware of or observe misconduct

**REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY!**

## **WHO SHOULD YOU REPORT?**

- Classroom teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Substitute teachers
- Librarians, guidance counselors and social workers
- Career specialists and school psychologists
- Principals, Assistant Principals and Deans

The following behavior may be indicative of misconduct that should be reported:

- being alone with a student in dark or closed room or secluded area
- behaving in an overly friendly or familiar way or failing to maintain an appropriate professional boundary with a student
- using forceful or unnecessary physical contact with a student
- administering discipline not compliant with district policy
- accepting or offering of gifts for return of a favor or privilege from students or colleagues
- badgering or habitually teasing a student
- mocking or belittling a student
- chronically embarrassing a student
- displaying prejudice or bigotry against a student
- suspicion of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- failing to properly supervise students or to ensure student safety
- cheating, falsifying information or testing violations
- retaliating against a student or colleague for reporting misconduct
- bantering or engaging in colloquial or slang communications with a student
- directing or using profane, offensive, or explosive language in the presence of students
- making lewd or suggestive comments or overtures toward a student or colleague

**Apply the litmus test**

1. If you feel uncomfortable
2. If you question the person's motives or actions
3. If you are unsure

Protect the students and yourself and report.

{CONTACT INFORMATION}

Vicki Phillips  
Champion Preparatory Academy  
Administrator  
407-788-0018 ext 2  
(1-800-96ABUSE) Abuse Hotline

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:  
CONTACT:**

**Florida Department of Education  
Office of Professional Practices  
Services  
Turlington Building  
325 West Gaines Street  
(850)245-0438**

[www.myfloridateacher.com](http://www.myfloridateacher.com)



