

Great Oaks Academy

Whistleblower Policy No. 425

I. Purpose

Great Oaks Academy requires board members, committee members, and employees to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. All directors, committee members, and employees must comply with all applicable laws and regulatory requirements.

II. Reporting Responsibility

Great Oaks Academy seeks to have an “Open Door Policy” and encourages board members and employees to share their questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints regarding the organization and its operations with someone who can address them properly. In most cases, a board member, committee member, or officer should present his or her concerns to the Chair of the Board. The Executive Director is generally in the best position to address an employee’s area of concern. However, if a board member is not comfortable speaking with the Board Chair or is not comfortable with the Board Chair’s response, or if an employee is not comfortable speaking with the Executive Director or if the employee is not satisfied with the Executive Director’s response, the board member, committee member, or employee is encouraged to speak with the Vice Chair.

III. No Retaliation

No board member, committee member, officer, or employee who in good faith reports a violation of a law or regulation requirement shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment consequence. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable persons to raise serious concerns within the Academy prior to seeking resolution outside the Academy.

IV. Compliance Officer

Great Oaks Academy’s Executive Director, working with the Chair of the Board, will act as Great Oaks Academy’s Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer is responsible for investigating and resolving all employee complaints and allegations concerning violations of the Academy’s policies for the school and the policies outlined in the Great Oaks Academy Employee Handbook. The Board Chair or the Vice Chair will take on the Compliance Officer role if the complaint involves the Executive Director. If the complaint involves both the Executive Director and Board Chair, the Vice Chair will carry out the functions of the Compliance Officer.

V. Accounting and Auditing Matters

The Finance Committee of the Board of Directors shall address all reported concerns or complaints regarding corporate accounting practices, internal controls, or auditing. The Compliance Officer shall immediately notify the Finance Committee of any such complaint and work with the Committee until the matter is resolved.

VI. Requirement of Good Faith

Anyone filing a complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation of the

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law or regulation requirements must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

VII. Confidentiality

Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant or may be submitted anonymously. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

VIII. Handling of Reported Violations

The Compliance Officer, or the person responsible for carrying out the Compliance Officer's role with respect to a reported or suspected violation, will acknowledge receipt of the reported violation or suspected violation by writing a letter (or e-mail) to the complainant within a reasonable timeframe (no later than five business days). All reports will be promptly investigated, and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted by the investigation.

Legal References:

Minnesota Statute section §181.932