The Governing Board recognizes that the COE has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The COE shall investigate complaints alleging failure to comply with such laws and/or alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying and shall seek to resolve those complaints in accordance with the uniform complaint procedures.

The COE shall follow uniform complaint procedures to resolve any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying in COE programs and activities based on actual or perceived characteristics of race or ethnicity, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or any other characteristic identified in Education Code 200 or 220, Penal Code 422.55, or Government Code 11135, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Uniform complaint procedures shall also be sued when addressing complaints alleging the district’s failure to comply with the prohibition against requiring students to pay fees, deposits, or other charges for participation in educational activities, the requirements for the development and adoption of a school safety plan, and with state and/or federal laws in adult education programs, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, career technical and technical education and career technical and technical training programs, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs, and special education programs.

The Board acknowledges and respects every individual’s right to privacy. Discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process. This may include keeping the identity of the complainant confidential, as appropriate and except to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation or proceedings, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, on a case-by-case basis.

The County Board prohibits any form of retaliation against any complainant in the complaint process. Participation in the complaint process shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the complainant.

The County Board encourages the early, informal resolution of complaints at the site level whenever possible.

The County Board recognizes that a neutral mediator can often suggest a compromise that is agreeable to all parties in a dispute. In accordance with uniform complaint procedures, whenever all parties to a complaint agree to try resolving their problem through mediation, the Superintendent or designee shall initiate the process. The
Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the results are consistent with state and federal laws and regulations.

The COE’s Williams uniform complaint procedure, AR 1312.4, shall be used to investigate and resolve any complaint related to the following:

1. Sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials
2. Emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health or safety of students or staff
3. Teacher vacancies and misassignments
4. Local Control Funding Formula
5. Local Control Accountability Plan

Adopted: October 15, 2020
Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination
8200-8498 Child care and development programs
8500-8538 Adult basic education
18100-18203 School libraries
32289 School safety plan, uniform complaint procedures
35186 Williams uniform complaint procedures
48985 Notices in language other than English
49010-49013 Student fees
49060-49079 Student records
49490-49590 Child nutrition programs
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan, especially
52075 Complaint for lack of compliance with local control and accountability plan requirements
52160-52178 Bilingual education programs
52300-52490 Career technical education
52500-52616.24 Adult schools
52800-52870 School-based program coordination
54400-54425 Compensatory education programs
54440-54445 Migrant education
54460-54529 Compensatory education programs
56000-56867 Special education programs
59000-59300 Special schools and centers
64000-64001 Consolidated application process

GOVERNMENT CODE
11135 Nondiscrimination in programs or activities funded by state
12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act

PENAL CODE
422.55 Hate crime; definition
422.6 Interference with constitutional right or privilege

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
3080 Application of section
4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures

4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1221 Application of laws
1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
6301-6577 Title I basic programs
6801-6871 Title III language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students
7101-7184 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act
7201-7283g Title V promoting informed parental choice and innovative programs
7501-7372 Title V rural and low-income school programs
12101-12213 Title II equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities

Adopted: October 15, 2020