

Personnel

BP 4119.23(a)

4219.23

4319.23

UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL/ PRIVILEGED INFORMATION

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of keeping confidential information confidential. Staff shall maintain the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of their employment. Confidential/privileged information shall be released only to the extent authorized by law.

Disclosure of Closed Session Information

An employee shall not disclose confidential information acquired by being present during a closed session to a person not entitled to receive such information, unless the Board authorizes disclosure of that information. (Government Code 54963)

Confidential information means a communication made in a closed session that is specifically related to the basis for the Board to meet lawfully in closed session. (Government Code 54963)

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

An employee who willfully discloses confidential information acquired during a closed session may be subject to disciplinary action if he/she has received training or notice as to the requirements of this policy. (Government Code 54963)

(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Note: The following optional paragraph specifies one method to help ensure that employees who attend closed sessions receive notice of the law's requirements. This paragraph should be modified to reflect district practice.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide all employees who attend closed sessions a copy of this policy. New employees who may attend closed sessions shall also receive a copy of this policy.

The district shall not take disciplinary action against any employee for disclosing confidential information acquired in a closed session, nor shall the disclosure be considered a violation of the law or Board policy, when the employee is: (Government Code 54963)

1. Making a confidential inquiry or complaint to a district attorney or grand jury concerning a perceived violation of law, including disclosing facts necessary to establish the illegality or potential illegality of a Board action that has been the subject of deliberation during a closed session

(cf. 4119.1/4219.1/4319.1 - Civil and Legal Rights)

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2. Expressing an opinion concerning the propriety or legality of Board action in closed session, including disclosure of the nature and extent of the illegal or potentially illegal action
3. Disclosing information that is not confidential

Other Disclosures

An employee who willfully releases confidential/privileged information about the district, students or staff shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Note: Government Code 1098 prohibits the disclosure of confidential information for pecuniary or financial gain. Pursuant to Education Code 35160, the Board may prohibit the disclosure of confidential information even if the release is not for pecuniary gain. The following paragraph may be modified to reflect district practice.

No employee shall disclose confidential information acquired in the course of his/her official duties. Confidential information includes information that is not a public record subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act, information that by law may not be disclosed, or information that may have a material financial effect on the employee.

(cf. 4112.5/4212.5/4312.5 - Criminal Record Check)
(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)
(cf. 4143/4243 - Negotiations/Consultation)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)
(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Any action by an employee which inadvertently or carelessly results in release of confidential/privileged information shall be recorded, and the record shall be placed in the employee's personnel file. Depending on the circumstances, the Superintendent or designee may deny the employee further access to any privileged information and shall take any steps necessary to prevent any further unauthorized release of such information.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

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Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35010 *Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules*

35146 *Closed sessions*

35160 *Authority of governing boards*

44031 *Personnel file contents and inspection*

44932 *Grounds for dismissal of permanent employees*

44933 *Other grounds for dismissal*

45113 *Rules and regulations for classified service*

49060-49079 *Pupil records*

GOVERNMENT CODE

1098 *Public officials and employees: confidential information*

6250-6270 *Inspection of public records*

54950-54963 *Brown Act*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act*

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>