

MITCH Charter School Reporting Requirements Regarding Sexual Conduct with Students

Sexual conduct by public charter school employees as defined by Oregon law will not be tolerated. All public charter school employees are subject to this policy.

“Sexual conduct” as defined by Oregon law is any verbal or physical [or other] conduct by a school employee that is sexual in nature; directed toward a kindergarten through grade 12 student; unreasonably interferes with a student’s educational performance; and creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. The definition for sexual conduct does not include behavior that would be considered child abuse as outlined by Oregon law and charter school Board policy JHFE and JHFE-AR - Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child.

Any public charter school employee who has reasonable cause to believe that another public charter school employee or volunteer has engaged in sexual conduct with a student must immediately notify the public charter school administrator.

When the public charter school receives a report of suspected sexual conduct by a public charter school employee, the public charter school may decide to place the employee on paid administrative leave or in a position that does not involve direct, unsupervised contact with students while conducting an investigation. An investigation is a detailed inquiry into the factual allegations of a report of suspected sexual conduct that is based on interviews with the complainant, witnesses, the public charter school employee or student who is the subject of the report.

If, following the investigation, the report is substantiated, the public charter school will inform the employee that the report has been substantiated and provide information regarding the appeal process. The employee may appeal the public charter school decision through an appeal process administered by a neutral third party. A volunteer may appeal the public charter school decision through the public charter school’s complaint procedure. A substantiated report is one that: a) an educational provider has reasonable cause to believe is founded based on the available evidence after conducting an investigation; and b) involves conduct that the educational provider determines is sufficiently serious to be documented in the employee’s personnel file.

If the employee decides not to appeal the determination or if the determination is sustained after an appeal, a record of the substantiated report will be placed in the employee’s personnel file. The employee will be notified that this information may be disclosed to a potential employer.

The public charter school will post in each school building the name and contact information of the person designated to receive sexual conduct reports, as well as the procedures the public charter school administrator will follow upon receipt of a report. In the event that the designated person is the suspected perpetrator, the Board chair shall receive the report. When the public charter school administrator takes action on the report, the person who initiated the report must be notified.

The initiation of a report in good faith about suspected sexual conduct may not adversely affect any terms or conditions of employment or the work environment of the complainant. If a student initiates a report of suspected sexual conduct by a public charter school employee in good faith, the student will not be disciplined by the public charter school board or any public charter school employee.

The public charter school will provide annual training to public charter school employees, parents and students regarding the prevention and identification of sexual conduct. The public charter school will provide to employees at the time of hire a description of conduct that may constitute sexual conduct and a description of records subject to disclosure if a sexual conduct report is substantiated.

Educational providers shall follow hiring and reporting procedures as outlined in ORS 339.374 for all public charter school employees.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 338.115\(j\)](#)

[ORS 339.326](#)

[ORS 339.370 to-339.400](#)

[ORS 418.746 to-418.751](#)

[ORS 419B.005 to-419B.045](#)