

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF THE UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (UCP)

For learners, employees, parents/guardians, school committee members, school officials, and other interested parties.

iLEAD Lancaster (“Charter School”) annually notifies learners, employees, parents or guardians, and other interested parties of the Uniform Complaint Procedures (“UCP”) process. The Charter School is primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, including those related to unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying against any protected group, and all programs and activities that are subject to the UCP.

Programs and Activities Subject to the UCP:

- Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Learners
- Adult Education Programs
- After School Education and Safety
- Agricultural Career Technical Education
- Career Technical and Technical Education; Career Technical and Technical Training Programs
- Child Care and Development Programs
- Compensatory Education
- Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs
- Course Periods without Educational Content (grades nine through twelve)
- Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation and/or Bullying against any protected group as identified in Education Code §§ 200 and 220 and Government Code § 11135, including any actual or perceived characteristics set forth in Penal Code § 422.55, or on the basis of a person’s association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution, as defined in Education Code § 210.3, that is funded directly by, or that receives or benefits from, any state financial assistance. Unlawful discrimination further includes noncompliance with Education Code §§ 243(a) and 244.
- Education and Graduation requirements of learners in foster care, learners who are homeless, learners from military families, learners formerly in Juvenile Court now enrolled in a school, learners who are migratory, and learners participating in a newcomer program
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Learner Fees
- Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP)
- Migrant Child Education
- Physical Education Instructional Minutes
- Reasonable Accommodations to a Lactating Learner
- Regional Occupational Centers and Programs
- School Plans for Student Achievement
- School or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames
- Schoolsite Councils
- State Preschool Health and Safety Issues in LEAs Exempt from Licensing
- State Preschool
- Any other state or federal educational program the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) or designee deems appropriate

Filing a UCP Complaint

Generally, a UCP complaint shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred. However, the one-year timeline shall not apply to complaints regarding the educational rights of learners experiencing foster care per 5 CCR 4630.5. Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be initiated no later than six (6) months from the date when the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying occurred, or six (6) months from the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. For complaints relating to Local Control and Accountability Plans ("LCAP"), the date of the alleged violation is the date when the reviewing authority approves the LCAP or annual update that was adopted by the Charter School.

Complaints Concerning learner Fees

A learner enrolled in the Charter School shall not be required to pay a learner fee for participation in an educational activity. A learner fees complaint may be filed with the School Director or designee.

A learner fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

1. A fee charged to a learner as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
2. A security deposit, or other payment, that a learner is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
3. A purchase that a learner is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.

A learner fee or LCAP complaint may be filed anonymously (without an identifying signature) if the complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support an allegation of noncompliance.

Designated Official

The designated official ("Responsible Employee") to receive and investigate complaints is:

Brian Florence
School Director
254 E. Avenue K-4
Lancaster, CA 93535
director@ileadlancaster.org
(661) 722-4287

The Charter School will ensure that the Responsible Employee and other employees who may be assigned to investigate complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs at issue in the complaints for which they are responsible.

Investigation Report and Right to Appeal

Complaints will be investigated and an Investigation Report will be sent to the complainant within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of the complaint. This time period may be extended by written agreement of the complainant. The person responsible for investigating the complaint shall conduct and complete the investigation in accordance with the Charter School's UCP policies and procedures.

The complainant has a right to appeal the Charter School's decision concerning complaints regarding specific programs and activities subject to the UCP to the California Department of Education ("CDE") by filing a written appeal within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving our decision. The appeal must be accompanied by a copy of the originally-filed complaint and a copy of the Investigation Report.

Charter School's Responsibilities

The Charter School advises complainants of the opportunity to appeal an Investigation Report of complaints regarding programs within the scope of the UCP to the CDE.

The Charter School advises complainants of civil law remedies, including injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders that may be available under state or federal discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying laws, if applicable. A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the Charter School's complaint procedures.

All Charter School learners have a right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs. For more information about this issue, we recommend families review the "Know Your Rights" immigration enforcement established by the California Attorney General and available on the California Attorney General website here:

<https://oag.ca.gov/immigrant/rights>. The Charter School shall inform learners who are victims of hate crimes of their right to report such crimes.

For UCP Complaints Regarding State Preschool Health and Safety Issues Pursuant to Section 1596.7925 of the California Health and Safety Code

In order to identify appropriate subjects of state preschool health and safety issues pursuant to Section 1596.7925 of the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), a notice shall be posted in each California state preschool program classroom in each school in a local educational agency. The Charter School does not currently operate a preschool program.

The notice is in addition to this UCP annual notice and addresses parents, guardians, pupils, and teachers of (1) the health and safety requirements under Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) that apply to California state preschool programs pursuant to HSC Section 1596.7925, and (2) the location at which to obtain a form to file a complaint.