

Revision

Policy

Descriptor Code: DIE

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Fraud Prevention

All employees, board members, consultants, vendors, contractors and other parties maintaining a business relationship with the District shall act with integrity and due diligence in matters involving District fiscal resources.

DEFINITION

As used in this policy, "fraud" refers to intentionally misrepresenting, concealing, or misusing information in an attempt to commit fiscal wrongdoing. Fraudulent actions include, but are not limited to:

- Behaving in a dishonest or false manner in relation to District assets, including theft of funds, securities, supplies, or other District properties.
- Forging or altering financial documents or accounts illegally or without proper authorization.
- Improper handling or reporting of financial transactions.
- Personally profiting as a result of insider knowledge.
- Disregarding confidentiality safeguards concerning financial information.
- Violating Board conflict of interest policies.
- Mishandling financial records or District assets (destroying, removing or misusing).

Waste: Squandering money or resources even if not illegal

Abuse: Excessive or improper use of something, or the employment of something in a manner contrary to the natural rules for its use; the intentional destruction, diversion, manipulation, misapplication, or misuse of resources of the School District; or extravagant or excessive use so as to abuse one's position or authority.

Corruption: Wrong doing on the part of an authority or powerful party through means that are illegitimate, immoral or incompatible with ethical standards.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees who suspect that financial fraud, impropriety or irregularity has occurred shall immediately report those suspicions to their immediate supervisor and/or the Superintendent/designee, who shall have the primary responsibility for

initiating necessary investigations. Investigations shall be conducted in coordination with legal counsel and/or other internal or external departments or agencies as appropriate.

The Superintendent/designee shall inform employees with financial/accounting responsibilities of the following anti-fraud regulations established by the Board:

1.
 1. The District shall operate in a climate of honesty and ethical behavior with employees doing all within their power to further that goal.
 2. Employees shall comply with all state and federal laws, rules, regulations and court orders, as well as Board policy addressing fiscal matters.
 3. Employees shall practice good stewardship of District financial resources, including timely reporting of fraudulent expenditures.
 4. Employees with financial/accounting responsibilities shall support and follow sound business practices to the best of their ability and in keeping with their assigned responsibilities and job-related training by:
 - a.
 - a. Maintaining and protecting District financial records; Performing one's job with the highest attention to detail to minimize and prevent error, falsification of accounting records, and omissions of transactions;
 - b. Reporting knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud, including intentional misstatements and omissions of amounts or disclosures;
 - c. Guarding against misappropriation of assets; Refusing to reveal to unauthorized persons or agencies investment activities engaged in or contemplated by the District;
 - d. Resisting incentives, pressures, and negative attitudes that detract from performance of assigned responsibilities.

INTERNAL CONTROLS/INVESTIGATIONS

The Superintendent/designee shall be responsible for developing internal controls to aid in preventing and detecting fraud or financial impropriety or irregularity within the District. Reports of suspected fraudulent activities shall be investigated in a manner that protects, to the extent possible, the confidentiality of the parties and avoids unfounded accusations. Employees involved in the investigation shall be advised to keep information about the investigation confidential. Employees who bring forth a legitimate concern or suspicion about potential impropriety shall not be retaliated against. Those who do retaliate against such an employee shall

be subject to disciplinary action.

If an investigation substantiates occurrence of a fraudulent activity, the Superintendent/ designee shall issue a report to appropriate personnel and to the Board of Education. Final disposition of the matter and any decision to file a criminal complaint or refer the matter to the appropriate law enforcement and/or regulatory agency for independent investigation shall be made in consultation with legal counsel. Results of the investigation shall not be disclosed to or discussed with anyone other than those individuals with a legitimate need to know until the results become subject to public disclosure in accordance with state law or federal law.

Jasper County Board of Education

Adopted Date: 2/15/2011

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Note: *The State of Georgia has moved the Georgia Code. This new environment no longer allows us to link directly to the Georgia Code. For example enter 20-02-0211 in the search window and the Georgia Code will appear.*

State Reference	Description
O.C.G.A 10-01-0912	<u>Notification required upon breach of security regarding personal information</u>
O.C.G.A 16-09-0122	<u>Attempting or conspiring to attempt identity fraud</u>
O.C.G.A 45-01-0004	<u>Complaints or information from public employees as to fraud, waste, and abuse in state programs and operations</u>
O.C.G.A 45-10-0001	<u>Code of Ethics for Government Service</u>
Federal Reference	Description
18 USC 1513	<u>Retaliating against a witness, victim, or an informant</u>