

Whistleblower Policy

High Tech Los Angeles (“HTLA” or “School”) requires its directors, officers, employees, and volunteers to observe high standards of ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities within the School. As representatives of the School, such individuals must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling all responsibilities and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of this policy is to create an ethical and open work environment, to ensure that the School has a governance and accountability structure that supports its mission, and to encourage and enable directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School to raise serious concerns about the occurrence of illegal or unethical actions within the School before turning to outside parties for resolution.

All directors, officers, employees, and volunteers of the School have a responsibility to report any action or suspected action taken within the School that is illegal, unethical or violates any adopted policy of the School, or local rule or regulation. Anyone reporting a violation must act in good faith, without malice to the School or any individual at the School and have reasonable grounds for believing that the information shared in the report indicates that a violation has occurred. A person who makes a report does not have to prove that a violation has occurred. However, any report which the reporter has made maliciously or any report which the reporter has good reason to believe is false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense. No one who in good faith reports a violation, or who, in good faith, cooperates in the investigation of a violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment action. Further, no one who in good faith discloses, who may disclose, or who the School believes disclosed or may disclose, information regarding alleged violations to a person with authority over the employee or another employee who had responsibility for investigating, discovering or correcting the purported violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment action.

Investigation Process

1. The complainant will reduce his or her complaint to writing, indicating all known and relevant facts. Complaints should be made using the “Internal Complaint Form” (**Appendix A**).
2. Except when circumstances dictate otherwise, the Principal or designee will investigate the complaint and take remedial action as necessary.
3. If the complaint is about one (1) or more Board Members, the Principal shall confer with those Board Members not named in the complaint and may conduct a fact-finding or a third party may be authorized to investigate on behalf of the Board. The investigation’s findings will be reported to those Board Members not named in the complaint for review and action, if necessary.
4. If the complaint is about the Principal, the complainant may file his or her complaint with the Board Chair, who will then confer with the Board that may conduct a fact-finding or authorize a third party to investigate on behalf of the Board. The Board Chair or investigator will report his or her findings to the Board for review and action, if necessary.

Investigation Requirements

1. Confidentiality: All complainants will be notified that information obtained from the complainants and thereafter gathered will be maintained in a manner as confidential as possible, but in some circumstances absolute confidentiality cannot be assured.
2. Non-Retaliation: All complainants will be advised that they will be protected against retaliation as a result of the filing of any complaints or participation in any complaint process.
3. Resolution: The Board (if a complaint is about the Principal) or the Principal or designee will investigate complaints appropriately under the circumstances and pursuant to the applicable procedures, and if necessary, take appropriate remedial measures to ensure effective resolution of any complaint.

APPENDIX A

INTERNAL COMPLAINT FORM

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s): _____

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against: _____

List any witnesses that were present: _____

Where did the incident(s) occur?

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e., specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I hereby authorize High Tech Los Angeles (“HTLA”) to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand providing false information in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Signature of Complainant

Date: _____

Print Name

To be completed by HTLA:

Received by: _____ Date: _____