Subject: Harassment-Free Workplace
Effective Date: August 19, 2013
Approved By: Board of Directors
Policy: 8004.1

Empire Springs Charter School (the "Charter School") is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment. The Charter School's policy prohibits sexual harassment and harassment based upon pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, race, religion, creed, color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance, or regulation. The Charter School will not condone or tolerate harassment of any type by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which the Charter School does business. This policy applies to all employee actions and relationships, regardless of position or gender. The Charter School will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

Prohibited Unlawful Harassment

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes, or comments or slurs
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with work because of sex, race or any other protected basis
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment
- Deferential or preferential treatment based on any of the protected classes above

Prohibited Unlawful Sexual Harassment

In accordance with existing policy, discrimination on the basis of gender in education institutions is prohibited. All persons, regardless of gender, are afforded equal rights and opportunities and freedom from unlawful discrimination in

education programs or activities conducted by the Charter School.

The Charter School is committed to provide a workplace free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action, up to, and including dismissal, of the offending employee.

Sexual harassment consists of sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission of the conduct is either made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) an employment decision is based upon an individual's acceptance or rejection of that conduct; (3) that conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an employee who has articulated a good faith concern about sexual harassment against him/her or against another individual.

All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment training within six (6) months of their assumption of a supervisory position and will receive further training once every two (2) years thereafter. All staff will receive sexual harassment training and/or instruction concerning sexual harassment in the workplace as required by law.

Each employee has the responsibility to maintain a workplace free from any form of sexual harassment. Consequently, should any individual, in particular those with supervisory responsibilities, become aware of any conduct that may constitute sexual harassment or other prohibited behavior, immediate action should be taken to address such conduct. Employees and students are expected to act in a positive and professional manner and to contribute to a productive school environment that is free from harassing or disruptive activity. Any employee who believes they have been harassed or has witnessed harassment is encouraged to immediately report such harassment to their supervisor or the Superintendent. See Attachment for the "Harassment Complaint Form."

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
    - Rape, sexual battery, molestation, or attempts to commit these assaults and
    - Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's

body, or poking another's body.

- Unwanted sexual advances, propositions, or other sexual comments, such as:
    - Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience.
    - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an employee for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any employee to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or deferential treatment for rejecting sexual conduct.
    - Subjecting or threats of subjecting an employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making performance of the employee's job more difficult because of the employee's sex.

- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere at the workplace by employees, such as:
    - Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing to work or possessing any such material to read, display or view at work.
    - Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the work environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning, or pornographic; and
    - Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an employee by sex in an area of the workplace (other than restrooms or similar rooms).

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under this policy.

Complainants and witnesses under these policies will be protected from further harassment and will not be retaliated against in any aspect of their employment due to their participation in or filing of a complaint or reporting sexual harassment.

The Charter School will investigate complaints promptly and provide a written report of the investigation and decision as soon as practicable. The investigation will be handled in as confidential a manner as possible consistent with a full, fair, and proper investigation.

Employees may also direct their complaints to the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH"), which has authority to conduct investigation of the facts. The deadline for filing complaints with the DFEH is one year from the date of the alleged unlawful conduct. If the DFEH believes a complaint is valid and settlement efforts fail, the DFEH may seek an administrative hearing before the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission ("FEHC") or file a lawsuit in court. Both the FEHC and the courts have authority to award monetary and non-monetary relief in meritorious cases. Employees can contact the nearest DFEH office or the FEHC by checking the State Government listings in the local telephone directory.

While in most situations a personal relationship is a private matter, these relationships are not appropriate in a professional setting, particularly where one of the parties has management or supervisory responsibilities.

HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM

It is the policy of the Empire Springs Charter School ("Charter School") that all of its employees be free from harassment including sexual harassment. This form is provided for you to report what you believe to be harassment, so that the Charter School may investigate and take appropriate disciplinary or other action when the facts show that there has been harassment.

If you are an employee of the Charter School, you may file this form with the Superintendent or Board Chair.
Please review the Charter School's policies concerning harassment for a definition of sexual harassment and a description of the types of conduct that are considered to be harassment.

The Charter School will undertake every effort to handle the investigation of your complaint in a confidential manner. In that regard, the Charter School will disclose the contents of your complaint only to those persons having a need to know. For example, to conduct its investigation, the Charter School will need to disclose portions of your factual allegations to potential witnesses, including anyone you have identified as having knowledge of the facts on which you are basing your complaint, as well as the alleged harasser.

In signing this form below, you authorize the Charter School to disclose to others the information you have provided herein, and information you may provide in the future. Please note that the more detailed information you provide, the more likely it is that the Charter School will be able to address your complaint to your satisfaction.

Charges of harassment are taken very seriously by the Charter School both because of the harm caused to the person harassed, and because of the potential sanctions that may be taken

against the harasser. It is therefore very important that you report the facts as accurately and completely as possible and that you cooperate fully with the person or persons designated to investigate your complaint.

Your Name: _____ Date: _____
Date of Alleged Incident(s):
_____

Name of Person(s) you believe harassed you or someone else: _____
_____

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 acknowledge that I have read and that I understand the above statements. I hereby authorize the Charter School 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.

Date: _____ Signature of Complainant: _____

Print Name: _____

Received by: _____