

Personnel Files

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain personnel files for all current employees. All personnel files are confidential and shall be available only to the employee, persons authorized by the employee and those authorized by the Superintendent or designee. Official personnel files shall be maintained at the District's Human Resource Services office. The Superintendent or designee shall determine the types of information to be included and shall process all material to be placed in a personnel file.

(cf. 4141/4241 – Collective Bargaining Agreement)

The contents of all personnel files shall be kept in strict confidence by any authorized reviewer.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 – Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

(cf. 9011 – Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

(cf. 9321 – Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

(cf. 9321.1 – Closed Session Actions and Reports)

Personnel files shall be reviewed and replaced within the shortest time possible. In no case shall a personnel file be left unattended or left unfiled overnight.

Files for District Police/Security Officers

Personnel files for District police or security officers shall be maintained and accessed in accordance with Governing Board policy and Government Code 3305-3306.

(cf. 3515.3 – District Police/Security Department)

Placement of Material in Personnel Files

Any person who places written material or drafts written material for placement in an employee's file shall sign the material and signify the date of placement.

When an employee is asked to sign any material that is to be placed in his/her file, it is with the understanding that his/her signature signifies only that he/she has read the material and does not necessarily indicate agreement with its contents.

Any request by an employee to include materials in his/her personnel file must be approved by the Superintendent or designee. Employees may initiate a written reaction or response to his/her performance evaluation and that response shall become a permanent attachment to the employee's personnel file.

(cf. 4115 – Evaluation/Supervision)

Derogatory Information

Information of a derogatory nature shall not be entered into an employee's personnel file unless and until the employee is given notice and an opportunity to review and comment on that information. Such a review shall take place during normal business hours. The employee shall be released from duty for this purpose without a salary reduction. The employee may enter his/her own comments and have them attached to the derogatory statement.

(Education Code 44031)

(cf. 1312.1 – Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 4117.4 – Dismissal)

(cf. 4118 – Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 – Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 5141.4 – Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

File Review by Employee

The contents of personnel records relating to the employee's performance or to any grievance concerning the employee shall be made available to the employee at reasonable intervals and at reasonable times. The Superintendent or designee shall not be required to make such records available at a time when the employee is required to render services to the District, unless the employee is required to view the file where it is stored.

(Labor Code 1198.5, Education Code 44031)

The Superintendent or designee shall permit the employee to inspect the personnel records at the location where the District stores the personnel records, with no loss of compensation to the employee. (Labor Code 1198.5) An employee wishing to inspect his/her personnel record shall contact Human Resource Services.

With the exceptions noted below, all personnel records related to the employee's performance or to any grievance concerning the employee shall be made available for inspection by the employee. Noncredentialed employees shall have access to any numerical scores obtained as result of written examinations. (Education Code 44031)

The Superintendent or designee shall not be required to make available to the employee:
(Labor Code 1198.5, Education Code 44031)

1. Records relating to the investigation of a possible criminal offense.
2. Letters of reference.
3. Ratings, reports or records that were obtained prior to the employee's employment, prepared by identifiable examination committee members, or obtained in connection with a promotional examination.

(cf. 4112.41/4212.41/4312.41 – Employee Drug Testing)

(cf. 4112.62/4212.62/4312.62 – Maintenance of Criminal Offender Records)

The employee may be accompanied by a representative of the employee's choice while reviewing the record.

Inspection shall take place in the presence of the Superintendent or designee. All reviews of personnel records shall be recorded, including the date and time the file was reviewed and the name and title of the person(s) present during the review.

In no instance shall any material be removed from the records. Requests for copies of material in a personnel record must be made in writing.

File Review by Management and Board

Management personnel or District legal counsel with a valid "right to know" or "need to know" may, with the Superintendent or designee's authorization, review an employee's personnel file.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 – Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

Board members are not individually allowed to request and access personnel files but the Board may request pertinent information from an employee's file in cases of personnel action.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35253 Regulations to destroy records

44031 Personnel file contents and inspection

44663 Performance appraisals and related materials

GOVERNMENT CODE

3305-3306 District police officers; personnel files

6254.3 Disclosure of home address and phone number

LABOR CODE

1198.5 Inspection of personnel files

PENAL CODE

11165.14 Report of investigation of child abuse complaint

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

16020 – 16022 Records, general provisions

16023 – 16027 Retention of records

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

Cal. Atty. Gen., Indexed Letter, no. IL 75-73 (June 6, 1975)

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