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Time to Update Your Charter School's Uniform Complaint Procedures

<u>New laws</u> bring changes to the Uniform Complaint Procedures. You may have received notice from the California Department of Education ("CDE") regarding changes to a number of laws that became effective on January 1, 2016.

What is the Uniform Complaint Procedure ("UCP")? The UCP is a set of complaint policies and procedures that charter schools must have in place in case a person makes a certain type of complaint against your school. There are generally two categories of complaints covered: those that allege noncompliance with enumerated laws or programs, and those that allege discrimination based upon a protected class. Various laws specify which types of complaints fall under the UCP.

What are the changes? Under the new laws, there are new specific types of complaints that fall under the UCP. Specifically, AB 302 requires public schools, including charter schools, to provide reasonable accommodations for lactating pupils on campus. Complaints of non-compliance with AB 302 are filed under the UCP.

Further, two new laws (applicable to charter schools) expanded the list of CDE-administered programs covered by the UCP. SB 81 states that complaints related to Adult Education Programs and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs are filed under the UCP. In addition, AB 379 states that complaints related to Foster and Homeless Youth Services are filed under the UCP.

For assistance updating your charter school's UCP, please contact Janelle Ruley, Megan Moore, or Daniel Robertson at the Law Offices of Young, Minney & Corr, LLP at (916) 646-1600. Or find us on the web at: www.mycharterlaw.com.

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