

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Fraud Risk Policy

BACKGROUND	The fraud policy is established to facilitate the development of controls that will aid in the detection and prevention of fraud against Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical HS. It is the intent of GNBRVTHS to promote consistent organizational behavior by providing guidelines and assigning responsibility for the development of controls and conduct of investigations.
SCOPE OF POLICY	This policy applies to any irregularity, or suspected irregularity, involving employees as well as school committee members, consultants, vendors, contractors, outside agencies doing business with employees of such agencies, and/or any other parties with a business relationship with GNBRVTHS (also called the Company). Any investigative activity required will be conducted without regard to the suspected wrongdoer's length of service, position/title, or relationship to the Company.
POLICY	Management is responsible for the detection and prevention of fraud, misappropriations, and other irregularities. <i>Fraud</i> is defined as the intentional, false representation or concealment of a material fact for the purpose of inducing another to act upon it to his or her injury. Each member of the management team will be familiar with the types of improprieties that might occur within his or her area of responsibility and be alert for any indication of irregularity. Any irregularity that is detected or suspected must be reported immediately to the Superintendent, who coordinates all investigations with the Legal Counsel and other affected areas, both internal and external.
ACTIONS CONSTITUTING FRAUD	The terms <i>defalcation</i>, <i>misappropriation</i>, and <i>other fiscal irregularities</i> refer to, but are not limited to: • Any dishonest or fraudulent act. • Misappropriation of funds, securities, supplies, or other assets. • Impropriety in the handling or reporting of money or financial transactions. • Profiteering as a result of insider knowledge of school activities. • Disclosing confidential and proprietary information to outside parties. • Disclosing to other persons securities activities engaged in or contemplated by the company. • Accepting or seeking anything of material value from contractors, vendors, or persons providing services/materials to the Company. Exception: Gifts less than US \$50 in value. • Destruction, removal, or inappropriate use of records, furniture, fixtures, and equipment. • Any similar or related irregularity.
OTHER IRREGULARITIES	Irregularities concerning an employee's moral, ethical, or behavioral conduct should be resolved by departmental management, Human Resources, and the Superintendent. If there is any question as to whether an action constitutes fraud, contact the Superintendent for guidance.
INVESTIGATION	The School Business Administrator has the primary responsibility for the investigation of all suspected fraudulent acts as defined in the policy. If the investigation substantiates that fraudulent activities have occurred, the School Business Administrator will issue reports to appropriate designated personnel and, if appropriate, to the School Committee. Decisions to prosecute or refer the examination results to the appropriate law enforcement and/or regulatory

agencies for independent investigation will be made in conjunction with legal counsel and school committee, as will final decisions on disposition of the case.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Company treats all information received confidentially. Any employee who suspects dishonest or fraudulent activity will notify the Departmental Supervisor immediately, and should not attempt to personally conduct investigations or interviews/ interrogations related to any suspected fraudulent act (see Reporting Procedures section below).

Investigation results will not be disclosed or discussed with anyone other than those who have a legitimate need to know. This is important in order to avoid damaging the reputations of persons suspected but subsequently found innocent of wrongful conduct and to protect the Company from potential civil liability.

AUTHORIZATION FOR INVESTIGATING SUSPECTED FRAUD

- Free and unrestricted access to all Company records and premises, whether owned or rented.
- The authority to examine, copy, and/or remove all or any portion of the contents of files, desks, cabinets, and other storage facilities on the premises without prior knowledge or consent of any individual who might use or have custody of any such items or facilities when it is within the scope of their investigation.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

Great care must be taken in the investigation of suspected improprieties or irregularities so as to avoid mistaken accusations or alerting suspected individuals that an investigation is underway. An employee who discovers or suspects fraudulent activity will contact the Departmental Supervisor immediately. The employee or other complainant may remain anonymous. All inquiries concerning the activity under investigation from the suspected individual, his or her attorney or representative, or any other inquirer should be directed to the Superintendent or the Legal Counsel. No information concerning the status of an investigation will be given out. The proper response to any inquiries is: "I am not at liberty to discuss this matter." Under no circumstances should any reference be made to "the allegation," "the crime," "the fraud," "the forgery," "the misappropriation," or any other specific reference.

The reporting individual should be informed of the following:

- Do not contact the suspected individual in an effort to determine facts or demand restitution.
- Do not discuss the case, facts, suspicions, or allegations with anyone unless specifically asked to do so by the Legal Counsel or the Superintendent.

TERMINATION

If an investigation results in a recommendation to terminate an individual, the recommendation will be reviewed for approval by the designated representatives from the Superintendent, Human Resources and the Legal Counsel, before any such action is taken. The decision to terminate an employee is made by the Superintendent. Should the employee believe the management decision is inappropriate for the facts presented, the facts will be presented to the School Committee for a decision.

ADMINISTRATION

The School Committee/Superintendent is responsible for the administration, revision, interpretation, and application of this policy. The policy will be reviewed annually and revised as needed.

APPROVAL

(School Committee Chairperson)
(Superintendent)

Date: _____