

Adopted: 11/21/2023

Revised:

Star of the North Academy Policy 415 WHISTLEBLOWER

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the conduct protected by the whistleblower law in Minnesota (Minn. Stat. §181.932), and to identify the procedures for reporting suspected violations of law.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of Star of the North Academy to fully comply with state and federal law regarding protection for individuals who report a violation or suspected violation of any federal or state law, or rule adopted pursuant to law.

III. PROTECTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES MAKING GOOD FAITH REPORTS

Prohibited actions. Star of the North Academy shall not discharge, discipline, threaten, otherwise discriminate against, or penalize an employee regarding the employee's compensation, terms, conditions, location, or privileges of employment because:

1. The employee, or a person acting on behalf of an employee, in good faith, reports a violation or suspected violation of any federal or state law or rule adopted pursuant to law to the Star of the North Academy Board or Executive Director, or to any governmental body or law enforcement official;
2. The employee is requested by Star of the North Academy Board, or Executive Director to participate in an investigation, hearing, inquiry;
3. The employee refuses an order from the Star of the North Academy Board or Executive Director, or the employee's supervisor, to perform an action that the employee has an objective basis in fact to believe violates any state or federal law or rule or regulation adopted pursuant to law, and the employee informs the employer that the order is being refused for that reason;
4. The employee, in good faith, reports a situation in which the quality of health care services provided by a health care facility, organization, or health care provider violates a standard established by federal or state law or a professionally recognized

national clinical or ethical standard and potentially places the public at risk of harm;
or

5. The employee communicates the findings of a scientific or technical study that the employee, in good faith, believes to be truthful and accurate, including reports to a governmental body or law enforcement official. The disclosures protected under this policy do not authorize the disclosure of data otherwise protected by law.

IV. RETALIATION PROHIBITED

No director, officer or employee who takes action as described above shall suffer harassment, retaliation or adverse employment consequence. An employee who retaliates against an individual who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns within Star of the North Academy.

V. REPORTING VIOLATIONS

[DESIGNATED OFFICIAL] has an open door policy and encourages employees to share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints with someone who can address them properly. In most cases, an employee's supervisor is in the best position to address an area of concern. However, if an employee is not comfortable speaking with a supervisor or is not satisfied with your supervisor's response, the employee is encouraged to speak with anyone in management. Supervisors and managers are required to report suspected violations of this policy to Star of the North Academy, who has the responsibility to investigate all reported violations. For suspected fraud, or when an employee is not comfortable with this open-door policy, individuals should contact Star of the North Academy's Compliance Officer directly.

VI. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATION

Star of the North Academy is responsible for investigating and resolving all reported complaints and allegations concerning violations of this policy and shall advise the Executive Director and / or form a committee.

VII. ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING MATTERS

The finance committee of the Board of directors shall address all reported concerns or complaints regarding corporate accounting practices, internal controls or auditing. The Executive Director shall immediately notify the finance committee of any such complaint and work with the committee until the matter is resolved.

VIII. ACTING IN GOOD FAITH

Anyone filing a complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation of any federal or state law, or rule adopted pursuant to law, must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a legal violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

IX. CONFIDENTIALITY

Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant or may be submitted anonymously to Executive Director. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law and consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

X. HANDLING OF REPORTED VIOLATIONS

All reports will be promptly investigated and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted by the investigation.

Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §181.932 (Disclosure of Information by Employees)