



Integrity Insights

Office of Professional Responsibility

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What is the Office of Professional Responsibility?

A recent *Notice to All Employees* issued over the district's domain caused calls to this office to increase 100%. Across the board, every caller wanted the answers to two simple questions, "When was this department started?" and "What do you do?"

The department has been in existence for several months. Superintendent of Schools, Michael Hinojosa, created the Office of District Integrity last August in order to meet the district financial accountability goals and to regain the public's trust.

Mr. Donald R. Smith was named to head of the department in February. After reviewing the initial purposes for creating the office, the Superintendent gave the department additional responsibilities. To reflect the new responsibilities, the department's name was changed to the Office of Professional Responsibility.

In addition to helping ensure the district's accountability in financial areas, staff in the Office of Professional Responsibility will work to detect and prevent fraudulent or unethical behavior by district staff by responding to reports that come from employees or the public via the website, in person, or by phone.

The staff will also review district office systems and procedures and make recommendations for changes that will save the district money or make departments more accountable, effective, and efficient.

Finally the Office of Professional Responsibility will train all new and current employees on the district's Code of Ethical Conduct and provide annual ethics training updates via the Internet, in person, or in the district's distance learning rooms.

To contact the Office of Professional Responsibility call (972) 925-5438.

Embodying Ethics

You and several members from your department/school are at a conference where a vendor the district does business with is also in attendance. The vendor invites you all to dinner at a nice seafood restaurant where, you are told, the meal includes appetizers, the entrée and dessert.

You and your co-workers stop by the restaurant to preview the menu. The total will be easily over \$75 per person, and the vendor wants to pick up the tab. What do you do?

Answer choices:

1. Go, but pay for my own meal and retain the receipt.
2. Accept the vendor's offer. After all it is a conference, and they will be feeding their other clients who attended this conference later.
3. Decline the invitation.

See the bottom of column one for the answer.

Past and Present Ethical Thinking

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Contact Us For Questions or Concerns About Employee Ethics or Integrity

Current:

Administration Building

Room 118

(972) 925-5438

Future:

Buckner Building

8th Floor

www.dallasisd.org/about/integrity

Report Fraud, Waste, or Abuse

Visit us in person

Call (972) 925-5438