

OCS COMMUNICATION MODEL

The Communication Model applies to all members of the Ocean Charter School community. Its purpose is to encourage school officials and community members to share in the responsibility of using effective avenues of communication, and to be clear and consistent in their communications with each other.

Whether one is providing or seeking information, communication practices at Ocean Charter School should perpetuate a **climate of collegiality, mutual trust, and respect. If a question or concern arises, please first speak directly with the individual(s) involved.** Discuss the problem or concern openly, and make every effort to work out a solution before moving up the chain of authority (i.e., from teacher to administrator to Board of Trustees).

Within the Ocean Charter School Community, there are five general areas of accountability and information:

Interpersonal Relationships: Community members are encouraged to communicate openly with one another. All community members are strongly encouraged to resolve interpersonal disputes by speaking directly and respectfully with the other parties.

Procedures/Daily Operations: The Directors are the primary administrator of the school, and as such, are responsible for establishing procedures designed to regulate the daily operations of the school and carry out the policies adopted by the Board of Trustees. The Directors shall make every reasonable effort to communicate school policies and procedures, or changes to school policies and procedures, in writing to the community. Procedural/daily operational questions can be answered by an office staff member or addressed directly with a Director.

Pedagogy: Pedagogical issues pertain to anything that occurs in the classroom, i.e. teaching, curriculum, classroom management, or teacher-student relationships. It is the school's goal to work with parents/guardians in resolving questions or concerns they may have about their child's educational program. **Open communication with your child's teacher is the first step in any concern you may have.** Pedagogical issues may also be addressed to the Director.

Policies and Legal Issues: The Board of Trustees has final legal, financial, and fiduciary responsibility for Ocean Charter School, and it retains final approval over all school policies. At its discretion, the Board may delegate the development of policy recommendations to a particular committee. Questions, comments, or requests for changes regarding school policies may always be addressed directly to the Board of Trustees at one of their regular meetings.

Independent Charter School (District): Ocean Charter School acts as its own district, independent from Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Ocean Charter School is not accountable to LAUSD or California Ed Code without expressed adoption of policies by the Ocean Charter School Board of Trustees. LAUSD is not the legal arm of the school and does not oversee Ocean Charter School operations, policies and procedures. This handbook, under direct supervision of the Ocean Charter School Board of Trustees, outlines all methods of resolution.

Ombudsperson: A Board-appointed ombudsperson is available to assist with communication and informal dispute resolution within the school community. The ombudsperson acts as a neutral facilitator during discussions between the involved parties. Ms. Deborah Fryman is the ombudsperson. She may be contacted directly via phone at 310-621-7410 (cell) or e-mail at dfrymanmediation@gmail.com.