

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining an educational environment that is free from harassment. The Board prohibits sexual harassment of students by other students, employees or other persons, at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against persons who complain, testify, assist or otherwise participate in the complaint process established pursuant to this policy and the administrative regulation.

Furthermore, it is the policy of the district that sexual harassment of students by any student or employee shall not be tolerated. The Board considers sexual harassment to be a major offense which can result in suspension or expulsion of the offending student or disciplinary action to the offending employee. Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors or other unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature made against another person of the same or opposite gender, in the educational setting when:

1. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by a student is used as a basis for academic decisions affecting the student
2. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the student's academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment
3. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by the student is used as the basis for any decision affecting the student regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through any district program or activity

Instruction/Information

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district students receive age-appropriate instruction and information on sexual harassment. Such instruction and information shall include:

1. What acts and behavior constitute sexual harassment, including the fact that sexual harassment could occur between people of the same gender
2. A clear message that students do not have to endure sexual harassment
3. Encouragement to report observed instances of sexual harassment, even where the victim of the harassment has not complained
4. Information about the person(s) to whom a report of sexual harassment should be made

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (continued)

Complaint Process

Any student who feels that he/she is being or has been subjected to sexual harassment shall immediately contact his/her teacher or any other employee. A school employee to whom a complaint is made shall, within 24 hours of receiving the complaint, report it to the principal or designee.

Any school employee who observes any incident of sexual harassment involving a student shall report this observation to the principal or designee, whether or not the victim files a complaint.

In any case of sexual harassment involving the principal or any other district employee to whom the complaint would ordinarily be made, the employee who receives the student's report or who observes the incident shall report to the nondiscrimination coordinator or the Superintendent or designee.

The principal or designee to whom a complaint of sexual harassment is reported shall immediately investigate the complaint in accordance with administrative regulation. Where the principal or designee finds that sexual harassment occurred, he/she shall take prompt, appropriate action to end the harassment and address its effects on the victim. The principal or designee shall also advise the victim of any other remedies that may be available. The principal or designee shall file a report with the Superintendent or designee and refer the matter to law enforcement authorities, where required.

Disciplinary Measures

Any student who engages in sexual harassment of anyone at school or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity is in violation of this policy and shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4 through 8, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion, provided that in imposing such discipline the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account.

Record-Keeping

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of sexual harassment to enable the district to monitor, address and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in its schools.

All complaints and allegations of sexual harassment shall be kept confidential except as necessary to carry out the investigation or take other subsequent necessary action.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 *Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex*
48900.2 *Additional grounds for suspension or expulsion; sexual harassment*
48904 *Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct*
48980 *Notice at beginning of term*

CIVIL CODE

51.9 *Liability for sexual harassment; business, service and professional relationships*
1714.1 *Liability of parents/guardians for willful misconduct of minor*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4900-4965 *Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs receiving state financial assistance*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 *Title IX, Discrimination*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000d-2000d-7 *Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964*
2000e-2000e-17 *Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

106.1-106.71 *Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs*

COURT DECISIONS

Reese v. Jefferson School District, (2001) 208 F.3d 736
Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, (1999) 526 U.S. 629
Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, (1998) 118 S.Ct. 1989
Nabozny v. Podlesny, (1996, 7th Cir.) 92 F.3d 446
Doe v. Petaluma City School District, (1995, 9th Cir.) 54 F.3d 1447
Oona R.-S. etc. v. Santa Rosa City Schools et al, (1995) 890 F.Supp. 1452
Rosa H. v. San Elizario Ind. School District, (W.D. Tex. 1995) 887 F. Supp. 140, 143
Clyde K. v. Puyallup School District #3, (1994) 35 F.3d 1396
Patricia H. v. Berkeley Unified School District, (1993) 830 F.Supp. 1288
Franklin v. Gwinnet County Schools, (1992) 112 S. Ct. 1028
Kelson v. City of Springfield, Oregon, (1985, 9th Cir.) 767 F.2d 651

Management Resources:

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Protecting Students from Harassment and Hate Crime: A Guide for Schools, January 1999

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS' PUBLICATIONS

Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance, January 2001

Sexual Harassment Guidance, March 1997

WEB SITES

OCR: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR>