#### **Policy 0410: Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities**

Original Adopted Date: 02/01/2014 | Last Revised Date: 12/13/2023 | Last Reviewed Date: 08/07/2024

This policy shall apply to all acts related to a school activity or school attendance and to all acts of the Governing Board and the Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the district.

The Board is committed to providing equal opportunity for all individuals in district programs and activities. District programs, activities, and practices shall be free from unlawful discrimination, including discrimination against an individual or group based on race; color; ancestry; nationality; national origin; immigration status; ethnic group identification; ethnicity; age; religion; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions and recovery; parental, family, or marital status; reproductive health decisionmaking; physical or mental disability; medical condition; sex; sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; veteran or military status; or genetic information; a perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

All individuals shall be treated equitably in the receipt of district and school services. Personally identifiable information collected in the implementation of any district program, including, but not limited to, student and family information for the free and reduced-price lunch program, transportation, or any other educational program, shall be used only for the purposes of the program, except when the Superintendent or designee authorizes its use for another purpose in accordance with law. Resources and data collected by the district shall not be used, directly or by others, to compile a list, registry, or database of individuals based on any of the categories identified above.

District programs and activities shall be free of any discriminatory use, selection, or rejection of textbooks, instructional materials, library books, or similar educational resources.

The use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library shall not be rejected or prohibited by the Board or district on the basis that it includes a study of the role and contributions of any individual or group consistent with the requirements of Education Code 51204.5 and 60040, unless such study would violate Education Code 51501 or 60044. (Education Code 243)

Additionally, the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library shall not be adopted by the Board or district if the use would subject a student to unlawful discrimination as specified in Education Code 220. (Education Code 244)

District programs and activities shall be free of any racially derogatory or discriminatory school or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually review district programs and activities to ensure the removal of any derogatory or discriminatory name, image, practice, or other barrier that may unlawfully prevent an individual or group in any of the protected categories stated above from accessing district programs and activities. The Superintendent or designee shall take prompt, reasonable actions to remove any identified barrier. The Superintendent or designee shall report the findings and recommendations to the Board after each review.

Except for allegations of sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, allegations of unlawful discrimination in district programs and activities shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, for students, and Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment, for employees. Complaints alleging sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and as specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures, for students, and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures, for employees.

Pursuant to 34 CFR 104.8 and 106.8, the Superintendent or designee shall notify students, parents/guardians, employees, employee organizations, applicants for admission and employment, and sources of referral for applicants about the district's policy on nondiscrimination and related complaint procedures. Such notification shall be included in the annual parental notification distributed pursuant to Education Code 48980 and, as applicable, in announcements, bulletins, catalogs, handbooks, application forms, or other materials distributed by the district. The

notification shall also be posted on the district's website and social media and in district schools and offices, including staff lounges, student government meeting rooms, and other prominent locations as appropriate.

In addition, the annual parental notification shall inform parents/guardians of their children's right to a free public education regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs, including information on educational rights issued by the California Attorney General. Alternatively, such information may be provided through any other cost-effective means determined by the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 234.7)

The district's nondiscrimination policy and related informational materials shall be published in a format that parents/guardians can understand. In addition, when 15 percent or more of a school's students speak a single primary language other than English, those materials shall be translated into that other language. (Education Code 48985; 20 USC 6312)

# Access for Individuals with Disabilities

District programs and facilities, viewed in their entirety, shall be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and any implementing standards and/or regulations. When structural changes to existing district facilities are needed to provide individuals with disabilities access to programs, services, activities, or facilities, the Superintendent or designee shall develop a transition plan that sets forth the steps for completing the changes.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's web and mobile applications comply with technical standards prescribed by law, and as necessary, shall provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services to afford individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in or enjoy the benefits of district services, programs, or activities. These aids and services may include, but are not limited to, qualified interpreters or readers, assistive listening devices, assistive technologies or other modifications to increase accessibility to district and school websites, notetakers, written materials, taped text, and Braille or large-print materials. Individuals with disabilities shall notify the Superintendent or designee if they have a disability that requires special assistance or services. Reasonable notification should be given prior to a school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

The individual identified in Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures as the employee responsible for coordinating the district's response to complaints and for complying with state federal civil rights laws is hereby designated as the district's ADA coordinator. The compliance officer shall receive and address requests for accommodation submitted by individuals with disabilities, and shall investigate and resolve complaints regarding their access to district programs, services, activities, or facilities.

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# **Policy 1312.3: Uniform Complaint Procedures**

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The Governing Board recognizes that the district has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The Board encourages the early resolution of complaints whenever possible. To resolve complaints which may require a more formal process, the Board adopts the uniform system of complaint processes specified in 5 CCR 4600-4670 and the accompanying administrative regulation.

# **Complaints Subject to UCP**

The district's uniform complaint procedures (UCP) shall be used to investigate and resolve complaints regarding the following programs and activities:

- 1. Accommodations for pregnant and parenting students (Education Code 46015)
- 2. Adult education programs (Education Code 8500-8538, 52334.7, 52500-52617)
- 3. After School Education and Safety programs (Education Code 8482-8484.65)
- 4. Agricultural career technical education (Education Code 52460-52462)
- 5. Career technical and technical education and career technical and technical training programs (Education Code 52300-52462)
- 6. Child care and development programs (Education Code 8200-8488)
- 7. Compensatory education (Education Code 54400)
- 8. Consolidated categorical aid programs (Education Code 33315; 34 CFR 299.10-299.12)
- 9. Course periods without educational content (Education Code 51228.1-51228.3)
- 10. Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in district programs and activities, including in those programs or activities funded directly by or that receive or benefit from any state financial assistance, based on a person's actual or perceived characteristics of race or ethnicity, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, physical or mental disability, medical condition, or genetic information; any other characteristic identified in Education Code 200 or 220, Government Code 11135, or Penal Code 422.55; or based on the person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics (5 CCR 4610)

Discrimination includes, but is not limited to, the Board's refusal to approve the use or prohibit the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library, on the basis that it includes a study of the role and contributions of any individual or group consistent with the requirements of Education Code 51204.5 and 60040, unless such study would violate Education Code 51501 or 60044. Additionally, discrimination includes, but is not limited to, the Board's adoption or approval of use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library if the use would subject a student to unlawful discrimination pursuant to Education Code 220. A complaint alleging such unlawful discrimination may, in addition to or in lieu of being filed with the district, be directly filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI). (Education Code 243, 244)

The UCP shall not be used to investigate and resolve employment discrimination complaints. (5 CCR 4611)

11. Educational and graduation requirements for students in foster care, students experiencing homelessness, students from military families, students formerly in a juvenile court school, students who are migratory, and newcomer students (Education Code 48645.7, 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2)

- 12. Every Student Succeeds Act (Education Code 52059.5; 20 USC 6301 et seq.)
- 13. Local control and accountability plan (Education Code 52075)
- 14. Migrant education (Education Code 54440-54445
- 15. Physical education instructional minutes (Education Code 51210, 51222, 51223)
- 16. Student fees (Education Code 49010-49013)
- 17. Reasonable accommodations to a lactating student (Education Code 222)
- 18. Regional occupational centers and programs (Education Code 52300-52334.7)
- 19. School plans for student achievement as required for the consolidated application for specified federal and/or state categorical funding (Education Code 64001)
- 20. School site councils as required for the consolidated application for specified federal and/or state categorical funding (Education Code 65000)
- 21. State preschool programs (Education Code 8207-8225)
- 22. State preschool health and safety issues in license-exempt programs (Education Code 8212)
- 23. Any complaint alleging retaliation against a complainant or other participant in the complaint process or anyone who has acted to uncover or report a violation subject to this policy
- 24. Any other state or federal educational program the SPI or designee deems appropriate

The Board recognizes that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) can, depending on the nature of the allegations, offer a process for resolving a complaint in a manner that is acceptable to all parties. An ADR process such as mediation may be offered to resolve complaints that involve more than one student and no adult. However, mediation shall not be offered or used to resolve any complaint where there is a reasonable risk that a party to the mediation would feel compelled to participate. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the use of ADR is consistent with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

The district shall protect all complainants from retaliation. In investigating complaints, the confidentiality of the parties involved shall be protected as required by law. For any complaint alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the Superintendent or designee shall keep the identity of the complainant, and/or the subject of the complaint if different from the complainant, confidential when appropriate and as long as the integrity of the complaint process is maintained.

When an allegation that is not subject to UCP is included in a UCP complaint, the district shall refer the non-UCP allegation to the appropriate staff or agency and shall investigate and, if appropriate, resolve the UCP-related allegation(s) through the district's UCP.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to district staff to ensure awareness and knowledge of current law and requirements related to UCP, including the steps and timelines specified in this policy and the accompanying administrative regulation.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of each complaint and subsequent related actions, including steps taken during the investigation and all information required for compliance with 5 CCR 4631 and 4633.

# **Non-UCP Complaints**

The following complaints shall not be subject to the district's UCP but shall be investigated and resolved by the specified agency or through an alternative process:

- 1. Any complaint alleging child abuse or neglect shall be referred to the County Department of Social Services Protective Services Division or the appropriate law enforcement agency (5 CCR 4611)
- 2. Any complaint alleging health and safety violations by a child development program shall, for licensed facilities, be referred to Department of Social Services (5 CCR 4611)
- 3. Any complaint alleging that a student, while in an education program or activity, was subjected to conduct known to the district that may reasonably constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, as defined in 34 CFR 106.2

Discrimination on the basis of sex includes sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery; and parental, marital, and family status. Such a complaint shall be addressed through the federal Title IX complaint procedures adopted pursuant to 34 CFR 106.44-106.45, as specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures. (34 CFR 106.2, 106.10, 106.11, 106.44)

4. Except for complaints alleging sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, any complaint alleging employment discrimination or harassment shall be investigated and resolved by the district in accordance with the procedures specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment, including the right to file the complaint with the California Civil Rights Department

Employment complaints alleging sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, shall be investigated and resolved as specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

- 5. Any complaint alleging a violation of a state or federal law or regulation related to special education, a settlement agreement related to the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE), failure or refusal to implement a due process hearing order to which the district is subject, or a physical safety concern that interferes with the district's provision of FAPE shall be submitted to the California Department of Education (CDE) in accordance with Administrative Regulation 6159.1 Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education (5 CCR 3200-3205)
- 6. Any complaint alleging noncompliance of the district's food service program with laws regarding meal counting and claiming, reimbursable meals, eligibility of children or adults, or use of cafeteria funds and allowable expenses shall be filed with or referred to CDE in accordance with Board Policy 3555 Nutrition Program Compliance (5 CCR 15580-15584)
- Any allegation of discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in the district's food service program shall be filed with or referred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in accordance with Board Policy 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance (5 CCR 15582)
- 8. Any complaint related to sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials, emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health or safety of students or staff, or teacher vacancies and misassignments shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with Administrative Regulation 1312.4 Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures (Education Code 35186)

**Regulation 1312.3: Uniform Complaint Procedures** 

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Except as may otherwise be specifically provided in other district policies, these uniform complaint procedures (UCP) shall be used to investigate and resolve only the complaints specified in the accompanying Board policy.

# **Compliance Officers**

The district designates the individual(s), position(s), or unit(s) identified below as responsible for receiving, coordinating, and investigating complaints and for complying with state and federal civil rights laws. The individual(s), position(s), or unit(s) also serve as the compliance officer(s) specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment responsible for handling complaints regarding unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying and in Administrative Regulation 5145.7 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment for handling complaints regarding sex discrimination and sex-based harassment.

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The compliance officer who receives a complaint may assign another compliance officer to investigate and resolve the complaint. The compliance officer shall promptly notify the complainant and respondent if another compliance officer is assigned to the complaint.

In no instance shall a compliance officer be assigned to a complaint in which the compliance officer has a bias or conflict of interest that would prohibit the fair investigation or resolution of the complaint. Any complaint against a compliance officer or that raises a concern about the compliance officer's ability to investigate the complaint fairly and without bias shall be filed with the Superintendent or designee who shall determine how the complaint will be investigated.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that employees assigned to investigate and resolve complaints receive training and are knowledgeable about the laws and programs at issue in the complaints to which they are assigned. Training provided to such employees shall cover current state and federal laws and regulations governing the program; applicable processes for investigating and resolving complaints, including those alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying; applicable standards for reaching decisions on complaints; and appropriate corrective measures. Assigned employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

The compliance officer or, if necessary, an appropriate administrator shall determine whether interim measures are necessary during an investigation and while the result is pending. If interim measures are determined to be necessary, the compliance officer or the administrator shall consult with the Superintendent, the Superintendent's designee, or, if appropriate, the site principal to implement one or more interim measures. The interim measures shall remain in place until the compliance officer determines that they are no longer necessary or until the district issues its final written decision, whichever occurs first.

# Notifications

The district's UCP policy and administrative regulation shall be posted in all district schools and offices, including staff lounges and student government meeting rooms. (Education Code 234.1)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall annually provide written notification of the district's UCP to students, employees, parents/guardians of district students, district advisory committee members, school advisory committee members, appropriate private school officials or representatives, and other interested parties. (5 CCR 4622)

The notice shall include:

1. A statement that the district is primarily responsible for compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, including those related to prohibition of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or

bullying against any protected group, and a list of all programs and activities that are subject to UCP as identified in "Complaints Subject to UCP" in the accompanying Board policy

- 2. The title of the position responsible for processing complaints, the identity of the person(s) currently occupying that position if known, and a statement that such persons will be knowledgeable about the laws and programs that they are assigned to investigate
- 3. A statement that a UCP complaint, except a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, must be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred
- 4. A statement that a UCP complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying must be filed no later than six months from the date of the alleged conduct or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged conduct
- 5. A statement that a student enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a fee for participation in an educational activity that constitutes an integral fundamental part of the district's educational program, including curricular and extracurricular activities
- 6. A statement that a complaint regarding student fees or the local control and accountability plan (LCAP) may be filed anonymously if the complainant provides evidence or information leading to evidence to support the complaint
- 7. A statement that the district will post a standardized notice of the educational and graduation requirements of foster youth, students experiencing homelessness, children of military families, former juvenile court school students now enrolled in the district, students who are migratory, and newcomer students as specified in Education Code 48645.7, 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, and 51225.2, and the complaint process
- 8. A statement that complaints will be investigated in accordance with the district's UCP and a written decision will be sent to the complainant within 60 days from the receipt of the complaint, unless this time period is extended by written agreement of the complainant
- 9. A statement that, for programs within the scope of the UCP as specified in the accompanying Board policy, the complainant has a right to appeal the district's investigation report to the California Department of Education (CDE) by filing a written appeal, including a copy of the original complaint and the district's decision, within 30 calendar days of receiving the district's decision
- 10. A statement advising the complainant of any civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders that may be available under state or federal laws prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, if applicable
- 11. A statement that copies of the district's UCP are available free of charge

The annual notification, complete contact information of the compliance officer(s), and information related to Title IX as required pursuant to Education Code 221.61 and 34 CFR 106.8 shall be posted on the district and district school websites, published in handbooks, catalogs, announcements, bulletins, and application forms, and may be provided through district-supported social media, if available.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all students and parents/guardians, including students and parents/guardians with limited English proficiency, have access to the relevant information provided in the district's policy, regulation, forms, and notices concerning the UCP.

If 15 percent or more of students enrolled in a particular district school speak a single primary language other than English, the district's UCP policy, regulation, forms, and notices shall be translated into that language, in accordance with Education Code 234.1 and 48985. In all other instances, the district shall ensure meaningful access to all relevant UCP information for parents/guardians with limited English proficiency.

# **Filing of Complaints**

The complaint shall be presented to the compliance officer who shall maintain a log of complaints received, providing each with a code number and a date stamp. If a site administrator not designated as a compliance officer receives a complaint, the site administrator shall notify the compliance officer.

All complaints, except for those that allege sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, shall be filed in writing and signed by the complainant. If a complainant is unable to put a complaint in writing due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, district staff shall assist in the filing of the complaint. (5 CCR 4600; 34 CFR 106.2)

Complaints shall also be filed in accordance with the following rules, as applicable:

- A complaint alleging district violation of applicable state or federal law or regulations governing the programs specified in the accompanying Board policy may be filed by any individual, public agency, or organization (5 CCR 4600)
- 2. Any complaint alleging noncompliance with law regarding the prohibition against student fees, deposits, and charges or any requirement related to the LCAP may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence, or information leading to evidence, to support an allegation of noncompliance

A complaint about a violation of the prohibition against the charging of unlawful student fees may be filed with the principal of the school or with the Superintendent or designee.

3. A UCP complaint, except for a UCP complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred (5 CCR 4630)

For complaints related to the LCAP, the date of the alleged violation is the date when the County Superintendent of Schools approves the LCAP that was adopted by the Governing Board. (5 CCR 4630)

- 4. A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying may be filed only by a person who alleges having personally suffered unlawful discrimination, a person who believes that any specific class of individuals has been subjected to unlawful discrimination, or a duly authorized representative who alleges that an individual student has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying (5 CCR 4630)
- 5. A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be initiated no later than six months from the date that the alleged unlawful discrimination occurred, or six months from the date that the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination (5 CCR 4630)

The time for filing may be extended for up to 90 days by the Superintendent or designee for good cause upon written request by the complainant setting forth the reasons for the extension. (5 CCR 4630)

- 6. When a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying is filed anonymously, the compliance officer shall pursue an investigation or other response as appropriate, depending on the specificity and reliability of the information provided and the seriousness of the allegation
- 7. When a complainant of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying or the alleged victim, when not the complainant, requests confidentiality, the compliance officer shall inform the complainant or victim that the request may limit the district's ability to investigate the conduct or take other necessary action

When honoring a request for confidentiality, the district shall nevertheless take all reasonable steps to investigate and resolve/respond to the complaint consistent with the request.

# Mediation

Within three business days after receiving the complaint, the compliance officer may informally discuss with all the parties the possibility of using mediation to resolve the complaint. Mediation shall be offered to resolve complaints that involve more than one student and no adult. However, mediation shall not be offered or used to resolve any complaint where there is a reasonable risk that a party to the mediation would feel compelled to participate. If the parties agree to mediation, the compliance officer shall make all arrangements for this process.

Before initiating the mediation of a complaint alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the compliance officer shall ensure that all parties agree to permit the mediator access to all relevant confidential information. The compliance officer shall also notify all parties of the right to end the informal process at any time.

If the mediation process does not resolve the problem within the parameters of law, the compliance officer shall

proceed with an investigation of the complaint.

The use of mediation shall not extend the district's timelines for investigating and resolving the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to such an extension of time. If mediation is successful and the complaint is withdrawn, then the district shall take only the actions agreed upon through the mediation. If mediation is unsuccessful, the district shall then continue with subsequent steps specified in this administrative regulation.

# Investigation of Complaint

The compliance officer shall begin an investigation into the complaint within 10 business days of receiving the complaint.

Within one business day of initiating the investigation, the compliance officer shall provide the complainant and/or the complainant's representative with the opportunity to present the information contained in the complaint to the compliance officer and shall notify the complainant and/or representative of the opportunity to present the compliance officer with any evidence, or information leading to evidence, to support the allegations in the complaint. Such evidence or information may be presented at any time during the investigation.

In conducting the investigation, the compliance officer shall collect all available documents and review all available records, notes, or statements related to the complaint, including any additional evidence or information received from the parties during the course of the investigation. The compliance officer shall individually interview all available witnesses with information pertinent to the complaint, and may visit any reasonably accessible location where the relevant actions are alleged to have taken place. At appropriate intervals, the compliance officer shall inform the parties of the status of the investigation.

To investigate a complaint alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the compliance officer shall interview the alleged victim(s), any alleged offender(s), and other relevant witnesses privately, separately, and in a confidential manner. As necessary, additional staff or legal counsel may conduct or support the investigation.

A complainant's refusal to provide the district's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation, or any other obstruction of the investigation may result in the dismissal of the complaint because of a lack of evidence to support the allegation. Refusal by the district to provide the investigator with access to records and/or information related to the allegations in the complaint, failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation, or any other obstruction of the investigation may result in a finding based on evidence collected that a violation has occurred and in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

# **Timeline for Investigation Report**

Unless extended by written agreement with the complainant, the compliance officer shall prepare and send to the complainant a written investigation report, as described in the section "Investigation Report" below, within 60 calendar days of the district's receipt of the complaint. (5 CCR 4631)

For any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the respondent shall be informed of any extension of the timeline agreed to by the complainant.

# **Investigation Report**

For all complaints, the district's investigation report shall include: (5 CCR 4631)

- 1. The findings of fact based on the evidence gathered
- 2. A conclusion providing a clear determination for each allegation as to whether the district is in compliance with the relevant law
- 3. Corrective action(s) whenever the district finds merit in the complaint, including, when required by law, a remedy to all affected students and parents/guardians and, for a student fees complaint, a remedy that complies with Education Code 49013 and 5 CCR 4600

- 4. Notice of the complainant's right to appeal the district's investigation report to CDE, except when the district has used the UCP to address a complaint not specified in 5 CCR 4610
- 5. Procedures to be followed for initiating an appeal to CDE

The investigation report may also include follow-up procedures to prevent recurrence or retaliation and for reporting any subsequent problems.

In consultation with district legal counsel, information about the relevant part of an investigation report may be communicated to a victim who is not the complainant and to other parties who may be involved in implementing the investigation report or are affected by the complaint, so long as the privacy of the parties is protected. In a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, notice of the investigation report to the alleged victim shall include information about any sanction to be imposed upon the respondent that relates directly to the alleged victim.

If the complaint involves a limited-English-proficient (LEP) student or parent/guardian, then the district's response, if requested by the complainant, and the investigation report shall be written in English and the primary language in which the complaint was filed.

For complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying based on state law, the investigation report shall also include a notice to the complainant that:

- 1. The complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the district's complaint procedures, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders or other remedies or orders, 60 calendar days after the filing of an appeal with CDE (Education Code 262.3)
- 2. The 60 days moratorium does not apply to complaints seeking injunctive relief in state courts or to discrimination complaints based on federal law (Education Code 262.3)
- 3. Complaints alleging discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender, disability, or age may also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights at www.ed.gov/ocr within 180 days of the alleged discrimination

# **Corrective Actions**

When a complaint is found to have merit, the compliance officer shall adopt any appropriate corrective action permitted by law. Appropriate corrective actions that focus on the larger school or district environment may include, but are not limited to, actions to reinforce district policies; training for faculty, staff, and students; updates to school policies; or school climate surveys.

For complaints involving retaliation or unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, appropriate remedies that may be offered to the victim but not communicated to the respondent may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Counseling
- 2. Academic support
- 3. Health services
- 4. Assignment of an escort to allow the victim to move safely about campus
- 5. Information regarding available resources and how to report similar incidents or retaliation
- 6. Separation of the victim from any other individuals involved, provided the separation does not penalize the victim
- 7. Restorative justice
- 8. Follow-up inquiries to ensure that the conduct has stopped and there has been no retaliation

For complaints of retaliation or unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying involving a student as

the respondent, appropriate corrective actions that may be provided to the student include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Transfer from a class or school as permitted by law
- 2. Parent/guardian conference
- 3. Education regarding the impact of the conduct on others
- 4. Positive behavior support
- 5. Referral to a student success team
- 6. Denial of participation in extracurricular or cocurricular activities or other privileges as permitted by law
- 7. Disciplinary action, such as suspension or expulsion, as permitted by law

When an employee is found to have committed retaliation or unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the district shall take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with applicable law and collective bargaining agreement.

The district may also consider training and other interventions for the larger school community to ensure that students, staff, and parents/guardians understand the types of behavior that constitute unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, that the district does not tolerate it, and how to report and respond to it.

When a complaint is found to have merit, an appropriate remedy shall be provided to the complainant or other affected person.

However, if a complaint alleging noncompliance with the law regarding student fees, deposits, and other charges, physical education instructional minutes, courses without educational content, or any requirement related to the LCAP is found to have merit, the district shall provide a remedy to all affected students and parents/guardians subject to procedures established by regulation of the State Board of Education. (Education Code 49013, 51222, 51223, 51228.3, 52075)

For complaints alleging noncompliance with the law regarding student fees, the district, by engaging in reasonable efforts, shall attempt in good faith to identify and fully reimburse all affected students and parents/guardians who paid the unlawful student fees within one year prior to the filing of the complaint. (Education Code 49013; 5 CCR 4600)

# Appeals to the California Department of Education

Any complainant who is dissatisfied with the district's investigation report on a complaint regarding any specified federal or state educational program subject to UCP may file an appeal in writing with CDE within 30 calendar days of receiving the district's investigation report. (5 CCR 4632)

The appeal shall be sent to CDE with a copy of the original locally filed complaint and a copy of the district's investigation report for that complaint. The complainant shall specify and explain the basis for the appeal, including at least one of the following: (5 CCR 4632)

- 1. The district failed to follow its complaint procedures
- 2. Relative to the allegations of the complaint, the district's investigation report lacks material findings of fact necessary to reach a conclusion of law
- 3. The material findings of fact in the district's investigation report are not supported by substantial evidence
- 4. The legal conclusion in the district's investigation report is inconsistent with the law
- 5. In a case in which the district found noncompliance, the corrective actions fail to provide a proper remedy

Upon notification by CDE that the district's investigation report has been appealed, the Superintendent or designee

shall forward the following documents to CDE within 10 days of the date of notification: (5 CCR 4633)

- 1. A copy of the original complaint
- 2. A copy of the district's investigation report
- 3. A copy of the investigation file including, but not limited to, all notes, interviews, and documents submitted by the parties and gathered by the investigator
- 4. A report of any action taken to resolve the complaint
- 5. A copy of the district's UCP
- 6. Other relevant information requested by CDE

If notified by CDE that the district's investigation report failed to address allegation(s) raised by the complaint, the district shall, within 20 days of the notification, provide CDE and the appellant with an amended investigation report that addresses the allegation(s) that were not addressed in the original investigation report. The amended report shall also inform the appellant of the right to separately appeal the amended report with respect to the allegation(s) that were not addressed in the original report. (5 CCR 4632)

# Health and Safety Complaints in License-Exempt Preschool Programs

Any complaint regarding health or safety issues in a license-exempt California State Preschool Program (CSPP) shall be addressed through the procedures described in 5 CCR 4690-4694.

In order to identify appropriate subjects of CSPP health and safety issues pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1596.7925, a notice shall be posted in each license-exempt CSPP classroom in the district notifying parents/guardians, students, and teachers of the health and safety requirements of Title 5 regulations that apply to CSPP programs pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1596.7925 and the location at which to obtain a form to file any complaint alleging noncompliance with those requirements. For this purpose, the Superintendent or designee may download and post a notice available from the CDE website. (Education Code 8212; 5 CCR 4691)

The district's annual UCP notification distributed pursuant to 5 CCR 4622 shall clearly indicate which of its CSPP programs are operating as exempt from licensing and which CSPP programs are operating pursuant to requirements under Title 22 of the Code of Regulations. (5 CCR 4691)

Any complaint regarding specified health or safety issues in a license-exempt CSPP program shall be filed with the preschool program administrator or designee, and may be filed anonymously. The complaint form shall specify the location for filing the complaint, contain a space to indicate whether the complainant desires a response to the complaint, and allow a complainant to add as much text as desired to explain the complaint. (Education Code 8212; 5 CCR 4690)

If it is determined that the complaint is beyond the authority of the preschool program administrator, the matter shall be forwarded to the Superintendent or designee in a timely manner, not to exceed 10 working days, for resolution. The preschool administrator or the Superintendent or designee shall make all reasonable efforts to investigate any complaint within their authority. (Education Code 8212; 5 CCR 4692)

Investigation of a complaint regarding health or safety issues in a license-exempt CSPP program shall begin within 10 days of receipt of the complaint. (Education Code 8212; 5 CCR 4692)

The preschool administrator or designee shall remedy a valid complaint within a reasonable time period not to exceed 30 working days from the date the complaint was received. If the complainant has indicated on the complaint form a desire to receive a response to the complaint, the preschool administrator or Superintendent's designee shall, within 45 working days of the initial filing of the complaint, report the resolution of the complaint to the complainant and CDE's assigned field consultant. If the preschool administrator makes this report, the information shall be reported at the same time to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 8212; 5 CCR 4692)

If a complaint regarding health or safety issues in a license-exempt CSPP program involves an LEP student or parent/guardian, then the district's response, if requested by the complainant, and the investigation report shall be written in English and the primary language in which the complaint was filed.

If a complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of a complaint, the complainant has the right to describe the complaint to the Board at a regularly scheduled hearing and, within 30 days of the date of the written report, may file a written appeal of the district's decision to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with 5 CCR 4632. (Education Code 8212; 5 CCR 4693, 4694)

All complaints and responses are public records. (5 CCR 4690)

On a quarterly basis, the Superintendent or designee shall report summarized data on the nature and resolution of all CSPP health and safety complaints, including the number of complaints by general subject area with the number of resolved and unresolved complaints, to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting and to the County Superintendent. (5 CCR 4693)

#### Original Adopted Date: 05/01/2016 | Last Revised Date: 06/07/2023

The Governing Board is determined to provide a safe, positive environment where all district employees are assured of full and equal employment access and opportunities, protection from harassment and intimidation, and freedom from any fear of reprisal or retribution for asserting their employment rights in accordance with law. For purposes of this policy, employees include job applicants, interns, volunteers, and persons who contracted with the district to provide services, as applicable.

No district employee shall be discriminated against or harassed by any coworker, supervisor, manager, or other person with whom the employee comes in contact in the course of employment, on the basis of the employee's actual or perceived race; color; ancestry; national origin; age; religious creed; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions and recovery; parental, family, or marital status; physical or mental disability; medical condition; genetic information; veteran or military status; sex; sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Employers are also prohibited from discrimination against employees or job applicants on the basis of reproductive health decision-making, defined as a person's decision to use or access a particular drug, device, product, or medical service for reproductive health. (Government Code 12926, 12940)

The district shall not inquire into any employee's immigration status nor discriminate against an employee on the basis of immigration status, unless there is clear and convincing evidence that such inquiry is necessary to comply with federal immigration law. (2 CCR 11028)

Unless otherwise provided for in law, the district may not discriminate against an employee, including an applicant for employment, in any term or condition of employment, or otherwise penalize a person, including termination, based on the person's use of cannabis off the job and away from the workplace, or on a drug screening which finds that the person has nonpsychoactive cannabis metabolites in the applicant's hair, blood, urine, or other bodily fluid. However, the district retains the right to maintain drug-free schools or prohibit employees from possessing, being impaired by, or using cannabis while on the job. (Government Code 12954)

Discrimination in employment based on the characteristics listed above is prohibited in all areas of employment and in all employment-related practices, including the following:

- 1. Hiring, compensation, terms, conditions, and other privileges of employment
- 2. Taking adverse employment actions such as termination or denial of employment, promotion, job assignment, or training
- 3. Unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is offensive and so severe or pervasive as to adversely affect an employee's employment opportunities or that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment
- 4. Actions and practices identified as unlawful or discriminatory pursuant to Government Code 12940 or 2 CCR 11006-11086, such as:
  - a. Sex discrimination as specified in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment
  - b. Religious creed discrimination based on an employee's religious belief or observance, including religious dress or grooming practices, or based on the district's failure or refusal to use reasonable means to accommodate an employee's religious belief, observance, or practice which conflicts with an

employment requirement

- c. Requiring medical or psychological examination of a job applicant or making an inquiry into whether a job applicant has a mental or physical disability or a medical condition or as to the severity of any such disability or condition, without the showing of a job-related need or business necessity
- d. Failure to make reasonable accommodation for the known physical or mental disability of an employee or to engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with an employee who has requested such accommodations in order to determine the effective reasonable accommodations, if any, to be provided to the employee
- e. Requiring an applicant or employee to disclose information relating to the employee's reproductive health decision-making

The Board also prohibits retaliation against any district employee who opposes any discriminatory employment practice by the district or its employees, agents, or representatives or who complains, reports an incident, testifies, assists, or in any way participates in the district's complaint process pursuant to this policy. No employee who requests an accommodation for any protected characteristic listed in this policy shall be subjected to any punishment or sanction, regardless of whether the request was granted. (Government Code 12940; 2 CCR 11028)

No employee shall, in exchange for a raise or bonus or as a condition of employment or continued employment, be required to sign a release of the employee's claim or right to file a claim against the district or a nondisparagement agreement or other document that has the purpose or effect of preventing the employee from disclosing information about harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful acts in the workplace, including any conduct that the employee has reasonable cause to believe is unlawful. (Government Code 12964.5)

Complaints concerning employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation shall immediately be investigated in accordance with procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. However, complaints alleging sex discrimination under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

Any supervisory or management employee who observes or has knowledge of an incident of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including harassment of an employee by a nonemployee, shall report the incident to the Superintendent or designated district coordinator within one workday. All other employees shall report such incidents to their supervisor or designated district coordinator within one workday.

The Superintendent or designee shall use all appropriate means to reinforce the district's nondiscrimination policy, including providing training and information to employees about how to recognize harassment, discrimination, or other prohibited conduct, how to respond appropriately, and components of the district's policies and regulations regarding discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the district's employment practices and, as necessary, shall take action to ensure district compliance with the nondiscrimination laws.

Any district employee who engages in prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation or who aids, abets, incites, compels, or coerces another to engage or attempt to engage in such behavior in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

The district shall maintain and preserve all applications, personnel, membership, or employment referral records and files for at least four years after the records are initially created or received or, for an applicant or a terminated employee, for four years after the date the employment action was taken. However, when the district is notified that a complaint has been filed with the California Civil Rights Department, records related to the employee involved shall be maintained and preserved until the later of the first date after the time for filing a civil action has expired or the first date after the complaint has been fully and finally disposed of and all administrative proceedings, civil actions, appeals, or related proceedings have been terminated. (Government Code 12946)

**Regulation 4030: Nondiscrimination In Employment** 

Original Adopted Date: 12/01/2015 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

All allegations of discrimination in employment, including those involving an employee, job applicant, intern, volunteer, or other person contracted to provide services to the district shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with procedures specified in this administrative regulation. However, complaints alleging sex discrimination under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

The district designates the position identified below as its coordinator for nondiscrimination in employment (coordinator) to organize and manage the district's efforts to comply with state and federal nondiscrimination laws and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies. The coordinator may be contacted at:

Superintendent (707) 882-2803 45 Lake Street, PO Box 87 Point Arena, CA 95468

# **Measures to Prevent Discrimination**

To prevent unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation in district employment, the Superintendent or designee shall implement the following measures:

- 1. Display in a prominent and accessible location at every work site where the district has employees, and post electronically in a conspicuous location on computers for employee use, up-to-date California Civil Rights Department (CRD) posters on the prohibition of workplace discrimination and harassment, including sex-based harassment, the rights of transgender employees, and the rights and obligations of employees who are pregnant, have a related medical condition, or are recovering from childbirth (Government Code 12950; 2 CCR 11013, 11023, 11049)
- 2. Publicize the district's nondiscrimination policy and regulation, including the complaint procedures and the coordinator's contact information, by: (5 CCR 4960; 34 CFR 100.6, 106.8)
  - a. Including them in each announcement, bulletin, or application form that is used in employee recruitment
  - b. Posting them in all district schools and offices, including staff lounges and other prominent locations
  - c. Posting them on the district's website and providing easy access to them through district-supported social media, when available
- 3. Disseminate the district's nondiscrimination policy and administrative regulation to all employees by one or more of the following methods: (2 CCR 11023)
  - a. Printing and providing a copy to all employees, with an acknowledgment form for each employee to sign and return
  - b. Sending a copy via email with an acknowledgment return form
  - c. Posting a copy on the district intranet with a tracking system ensuring all employees have read and acknowledged receipt of the policies
  - d. Discussing the policy and regulation with employees upon hire and/or during a new hire orientation session
  - e. Any other way that ensures employees receive and understand the policy
- 4. Post in a prominent location on the district's website and include in each handbook, catalog, announcement, bulletin, and application form for students, parents/guardians or other authorized legal representative, and employees, the Title IX notice of nondiscrimination which includes the following: (34 CFR 106.8)

- a. The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that it operates
- b. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator and/or the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights
- c. The name or title, office and email address, and telephone number of the district's Title IX Coordinator
- d. How to locate the district's nondiscrimination policy and the district's grievance procedures for Title IX complaints
- e. How to report conduct that may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX
- f. How to make a complaint of Title IX sex discrimination

If necessary due to the format or size of any publication specified above, the district may include only the statement that the district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, that individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator, and the location of the complete notice on the district's website.

The district shall not distribute a publication stating that the district treats students, employees or applicants differently on the basis of sex, unless such treatment is permitted by Title IX.

- 5. Provide to employees a handbook which contains information that clearly describes the district's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filing a complaint, and resources available to employees who believe they have been the victim of any discriminatory or harassing behavior
- 6. Provide training regarding the district's nondiscrimination policy, including what constitutes unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and how and to whom a report of an incident should be made, as well as any additional training as specified in 34 CFR 106.8 related to the prohibition of Title IX sex discrimination

The district may also provide bystander intervention training to employees that includes information and practical guidance on how to recognize potentially problematic behaviors and which may motivate them to take action when they observe such behaviors. The training and education may include exercises to provide employees with the skills and confidence to intervene as appropriate and to provide them with resources they can call upon that support their intervention. (Government Code 12950.2)

- Periodically review the district's recruitment, hiring, and promotion processes and regularly monitor the terms, conditions, and privileges of employment to ensure district compliance with law and Board Policy 4111 -Recruitment and Selection
- For any district facility where 10 percent of employees have a language other than English as their spoken language, translate the policy into every language spoken by at least 10 percent of the workforce (2 CCR 11023)

### **Complaint Procedure**

Any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination or harassment shall be addressed in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Notice and Receipt of Complaint: A complainant may inform a direct supervisor, another supervisor, the coordinator, the Superintendent or, if available, a complaint hotline or an ombudsman. The complainant's direct supervisor may be bypassed in filing a complaint when the supervisor is the subject of the complaint.

The complainant may first attempt to resolve the situation informally with the complainant's supervisor before filing a written complaint.

A supervisor or manager who has received information about an incident of discrimination or harassment, or has observed such an incident, shall report it to the coordinator, whether or not the complainant files a written complaint.

The written complaint should contain the complainant's name, the name of the individual who allegedly committed the act, a description of the incident, the date and location where the incident occurred, any witnesses who may have relevant information, any available evidence of the discrimination or harassment, and any other pertinent information which may assist in investigating and resolving the complaint.

2. Investigation Process: The coordinator shall initiate an impartial investigation of an allegation of discrimination or harassment within five business days of receiving notice of the alleged discriminatory or harassing behavior, regardless of whether a written complaint has been filed or whether the written complaint is complete.

The coordinator shall meet with the complainant to describe the district's complaint procedure and discuss the actions being sought by the complainant in response to the allegation. The coordinator shall inform the complainant that the investigation of the allegations will be fair, timely, and thorough and will be conducted in a manner that provides all parties due process and reaches reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected. The coordinator shall also inform the parties that the investigation will be kept confidential to the extent possible, but that some information may be disclosed as necessary to conduct an effective investigation.

If the coordinator determines that a detailed fact-finding investigation is necessary, the investigation shall begin immediately. As part of this investigation, the coordinator should interview the complainant, the person accused, and other persons who could be expected to have relevant information.

The coordinator shall track and document the progress of the investigation to ensure reasonable progress and shall inform the parties as necessary.

When necessary to carry out the investigation or to protect employee safety, the coordinator may discuss the complaint with the Superintendent or designee, district legal counsel, or the district's risk manager.

The coordinator shall also determine whether interim measures, such as scheduling changes, transfers, or leaves, need to be taken before the investigation is completed in order to prevent further incidents. The coordinator shall ensure that such interim measures do not constitute retaliation.

3. Written Report on Findings and Remedial/Corrective Action: No more than 20 business days after receiving the complaint, the coordinator shall conclude the investigation and prepare a written report of the findings. This timeline may be extended for good cause. If an extension is needed, the coordinator shall notify the parties and explain the reasons for the extension.

The report shall include the decision and the reasons for the decision and shall summarize the steps taken during the investigation. If a determination has been made that discrimination or harassment occurred, the report shall also include any corrective action(s) that have been or will be taken to address the behavior, provide appropriate options for remedial actions and resolutions for the complainant, and ensure that retaliation or further discrimination or harassment is prevented. The report shall be presented to the Superintendent or designee.

A summary of the findings shall be presented to the complainant and the person accused.

4. Appeal to the Governing Board: The complainant or the person accused may appeal any findings to the Board within 10 business days of receiving the written report of the coordinator's findings. The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with all information presented during the investigation. Upon receiving an appeal, the Board shall schedule a hearing as soon as practicable. Any complaint against a district employee shall be addressed in closed session in accordance with law. The Board shall render its decision within 10 business days.

# **Other Remedies**

In addition to filing a discrimination or harassment complaint with the district, a person may file a complaint with either CRD or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The time limits for filing such complaints are as follows:

1. For filing a complaint with CRD alleging a violation of Government Code 12940-12952, within three years of the alleged discriminatory act(s), unless an exception exists pursuant to Government Code 12960 (Government Code 12960)

- 2. For filing a complaint with EEOC, within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act(s) (42 USC 2000e-5)
- 3. For filing a complaint with EEOC after first filing a complaint with CRD, within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory act(s) or within 30 days after the termination of proceedings by CRD, whichever is earlier (42 USC 2000e-5)

An employee may also file a complaint with the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor for an alleged violation of the PUMP Act and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for failure to provide reasonable accommodations pursuant to the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. (29 USC 218c, 218d, 42 USC 2000gg-2)

Additionally, an employee may file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner at the California Department of Industrial Relations for any alleged violation of Labor Code 1030-1034. (Labor Code 1034)

# Policy 4033: Lactation Accommodation

Original Adopted Date: 07/01/2011 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The Governing Board recognizes the immediate and long-term health benefits of breastfeeding and desires to provide a supportive environment for any district employee to express breast milk for an infant child upon returning to work following the birth of the child. The Board prohibits discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation against any district employee for seeking an accommodation to express breast milk for an infant child while at work.

An employee shall notify the employee's supervisor or other appropriate district administrator in advance of the intent to request an accommodation. The supervisor or appropriate district administrator shall respond to the request and shall work with the employee to make arrangements. If needed, the supervisor or appropriate district administrator shall address scheduling in order to ensure that the employee's essential job duties are covered during the break time.

Lactation accommodations shall be granted unless limited circumstances exist as specified in law. (Labor Code 1031, 1032; 29 USC 218d, 42 USC 2000gg-1)

Before a determination is made to deny lactation accommodations to an employee, the employee's supervisor shall consult with the Superintendent or designee. When lactation accommodations are denied, the Superintendent or designee shall document the options that were considered and the reasons for denying the accommodations.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a written response to any employee who was denied the accommodation(s). (Labor Code 1034)

The district shall include this policy in its employee handbook or in any set of policies that the district makes available to employees. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall distribute this policy to new employees upon hire and when an employee makes an inquiry about or requests parental leave. (Labor Code 1034)

# **Break Time and Location Requirements**

The district shall provide a reasonable amount of break time to accommodate an employee each time the employee has a need to express breast milk for an infant child. (Labor Code 1030; 42 USC 2000gg-1; 34 CFR 106.57)

To the extent possible, any break time granted for lactation accommodation shall run concurrently with the break time already provided to the employee. Any additional break time used by a non-exempt employee for this purpose shall be unpaid. (Labor Code 1030; 29 USC 218d)

The employee shall be provided a lactation space which may be used by the employee for expressing breast milk or breastfeeding as needed. The lactation space shall be a private room or location, other than a bathroom, which may be the employee's work area or another location that is in close proximity to the employee's work area, and shall meet the following requirements: (Labor Code 1031; 29 USC 218d; 34 CFR 106.57)

- 1. Is shielded from view and free from intrusion while the employee is expressing breast milk
- 2. Is safe, clean, and free of hazardous materials, as defined in Labor Code 6382
- 3. Contains a place to sit and a surface to place a breast pump and personal items
- 4. Has access to electricity or alternative devices, including, but not limited to, extension cords or charging stations, needed to operate an electric or battery-powered breast pump
- 5. Has access to a sink with running water and a refrigerator or, if a refrigerator cannot be provided, another

cooling device suitable for storing breast milk in close proximity to the employee's workspace

If a multipurpose room is used for lactation, among other uses, the use of the room for lactation shall take precedence over other uses for the time it is in use for lactation purposes. (Labor Code 1031)

# **Dispute Resolution**

Complaints alleging sex discrimination under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

Additionally, an employee may file a complaint with the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor for an alleged violation of the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections for Nursing Mothers Act and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for failure to provide reasonable accommodations pursuant to the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. (29 USC 218c, 218d, 42 USC 2000gg-2).

In addition, an employee may file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner at the California Department of Industrial Relations for any alleged violation of Labor Code 1030-1034. (Labor Code 1034)

#### Policy 4119.11: Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 12/01/2015 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The following policy shall apply to all district employees, interns, volunteers, contractors, job applicants, and other persons with an employment relationship with the district.

The Governing Board is committed to providing a safe work environment that is free of discrimination, harassment, and intimidation. The Board prohibits sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, as defined in the accompanying administrative regulation, in district programs and activities by and against district employees.

Additionally, the Board prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who complains or testifies about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, reports such conduct, or otherwise participates or refuses to participate in the complaint process established for the purpose of this policy. (Education Code 220.1; 34 CFR 106.71)

The Superintendent or designee shall take all actions necessary to ensure the prevention, investigation, and correction of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, including but not limited to:

- 1. Providing training to employees in accordance with law and administrative regulation
- 2. Publicizing and disseminating the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policy to employees and others to whom the policy may apply
- 3. Publicizing, in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8 and as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 -Nondiscrimination in Employment, a Title IX notice of nondiscrimination to employees, applicants for employment, and bargaining units
- 4. Ensuring prompt, thorough, fair, and equitable investigation of complaints through the appropriate state and/or federal procedures
- 5. Taking timely and appropriate corrective/remedial action(s), which may require interim separation of the complainant and the alleged harasser and subsequent monitoring of developments

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the district's strategies to prevent and address sex discrimination and sex-based harassment. Such evaluation may involve conducting regular anonymous employee surveys to assess whether sex discrimination and/or sex-based harassment is occurring or is perceived to be tolerated, partnering with researchers or other agencies with the needed expertise to evaluate the district's prevention strategies, and using any othaer effective tool for receiving feedback on systems and/or processes. As necessary, changes shall be made to harassment policy(ies), complaint procedures, or training, as appropriate and in accordance with law.

# **Reports and Complaints**

Any district employee who has experienced sex discrimination or sex-based harassment in the district's education program or activity may file a complaint with the district's Title IX Coordinator. (34 CFR 106.2, 106.44)

Any employee with knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sex-based harassment by or against another district employee, a student, or a third party in a district education program or activity shall notify the Title IX Coordinator within one workday. An employee may be subject to discipline for failure to timely report such conduct. (34 CFR 106.44)

Once notified, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure the complaint or allegation is addressed through Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the complainant and, if the district has begun grievance procedures or offered an informal resolution process to the respondent, offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the respondent as deemed appropriate under the circumstances. (34 CFR 106.44)

Upon investigation of a sex discrimination or sex-based harassment complaint, any district employee found to have engaged or participated in sex discrimination or sex-based harassment or to have aided, abetted, incited, compelled, or coerced another to commit sex discrimination or sex-based harassment in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with law and the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

**Regulation 4119.11: Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment** 

Original Adopted Date: 12/01/2016 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its programs or activities and complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations. Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, is prohibited in district education programs and activities.

The following administrative regulation shall apply to all allegations of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment by and against district employees, interns, volunteers, and job applicants, but shall not be used to resolve any complaint by a student.

# Definitions

*Sex discrimination* includes treating an employee differently based on the employee's sex, which includes differential treatment based on sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions and recovery; parental, family, or marital status; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct and occurs when prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's term or condition of employment; or otherwise adversely affects an employee's employment opportunities.

*Sex-based harassment* is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, or other bases specified above. Conduct will constitute sex-based harassment when it takes the form of: (34 CFR 106.2, 106.11)

- 1. Quid pro quo harassment: A district employee, agent, or other individual authorized by the district to provide an aid, benefit, or service in the district's education program or activity conditioning the provision of district aid, benefit, or service on a student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct
- 2. Hostile environment harassment: Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the district's education program or activity

Any prohibited conduct that occurs off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored programs or activities will be regarded as sex-based harassment in violation of district policy if it has a continuing effect on a student's ability to participate in or benefit from district educational programs or activities.

3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, as defined in 34 CFR 106.2

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, regardless of whether the conduct is motivated by sexual desire. Conduct is considered to be sexual harassment when made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the work or educational setting under any of the following conditions: (Education Code 212.5; Government Code 12940; 2 CCR 11034)

- 1. Submission to the conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the individual's employment
- 2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting the individual
- 3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment
- 4. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits, services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the district

# **Examples of Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment**

Examples of actions that might constitute sex-based harassment under state and/or federal law in accordance with the definitions above, in the work or educational setting, whether committed by a supervisor, a co-worker, or a non-employee, include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Unwelcome verbal conduct such as sex-based flirtations or propositions; graphic comments about an individual's body; overly personal conversations or pressure for sex-based activity; sex-based jokes or stories; unwelcome sex-based slurs, epithets, threats, innuendoes; derogatory comments; sex-based degrading descriptions; or the spreading of sex-based rumors
- 2. Unwelcome visual conduct such as drawings, pictures, graffiti, or gestures; sexually explicit emails or messaging; or displaying sexually suggestive objects
- 3. Unwelcome physical conduct such as massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking, or brushing the body; touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way; or cornering, blocking, leaning over, or impeding normal movements

# Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer

The district designates the following individual(s) as the responsible employee(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX in accordance with Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures, and oversee the district's response to discrimination complaints processed under Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment. The Title IX Coordinator(s) may be contacted at:

Superintendent (707) 882-2803 45 Lake Street, PO Box 87 Point Arena, CA 95468

# Training

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all employees receive training regarding sex discrimination and sexbased harassment in accordance with state and federal law.

Every two years, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that supervisory employees receive at least two hours, and nonsupervisory employees receive at least one hour, of classroom or other effective interactive training and education regarding sexual harassment as specified in Government Code 12950.1. All newly hired employees and employees promoted to a supervisory position shall receive training within six months of their assumption of the new position. (Government Code 12950.1)

A supervisory employee is any employee having the authority, in the interest of the district, to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or discipline other employees, or the responsibility to direct them, adjust their grievances, or effectively recommend such action, when the exercise of the authority is not of a merely routine or clerical nature, but requires the use of independent judgment. (Government Code 12926)

Such training may be completed by employees individually or as part of a group presentation, may be completed in shorter segments as long as the applicable hourly requirement is met, and may be provided in conjunction with other training provided to the employees. The training shall be presented by trainers or educators with knowledge and expertise in the prevention of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. (Government Code 12950.1)

The district's sexual harassment training and education program shall include, but is not limited to, the following: (Government Code 12950.1; 2 CCR 11024)

- 1. Information and practical guidance regarding federal and state laws concerning the prohibition, prevention, and correction of sexual harassment
- 2. The types of conduct that constitute sexual harassment
- 3. Remedies available for victims in civil actions, and potential employer/individual exposure/liability

- 4. Strategies to prevent harassment in the workplace
- 5. Supervisors' obligation to report sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation of which they become aware
- 6. Practical examples which illustrate sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation using training modalities such as role plays, case studies, and group discussions, based on factual scenarios taken from case law, news and media accounts, and hypotheticals based on workplace situations and other sources
- 7. The limited confidentiality of the complaint process
- 8. Resources for victims of unlawful harassment, such as to whom they should report any alleged harassment
- 9. Steps necessary to take appropriate remedial measures to correct harassing behavior, which includes the district's obligation to conduct an effective workplace investigation of a harassment complaint
- 10. What to do if the supervisor is personally accused of harassment
- 11. The essential elements of the district's anti-harassment policy, and how to use the policy if a harassment complaint is filed

Employees shall receive a copy of the district's sexual harassment policy and administrative regulations, which they shall read and acknowledge that they have received.

- 12. Information, including practical examples, of harassment based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation
- 13. Prevention of abusive conduct, including a review of the definition and elements of abusive conduct pursuant to Government Code 12950.1, the negative effects that abusive conduct has on the victim and other in the workplace, the detrimental consequences of this conduct on employee productivity and morale, and that a single act does not constitute abusive conduct unless the act is severe or egregious

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all employees receive annual training related to their duties under Title IX in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8, and that a newly hired employee receive training promptly upon hire or change of position that alters the employee's duties under Title IX. (34 CFR 106.8)

The district's Title IX sex discrimination and sex-based harassment training shall include: (34 CFR 106.8)

- 1. The district's obligation to address sex-based discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in its education program or activity
- 2. The scope of conduct that constitutes sex discrimination under Title IX, including the definition of sex-based harassment
- 3. The notification and information requirements specified in 34 CFR 106.40 and 106.44

The district's Title IX sex-based harassment training and education program shall also include additional training required of supervisors; investigators, decisionmakers, and other persons who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; facilitators of an informal resolution process; and Title IX Coordinators and designees. (34 CFR 106.8)

The Superintendent or designee shall retain for at least two years the records of any training provided to supervisory employees. Such records shall include the names of trained employees, date of the training, type of training, and name of the training provider. (2 CCR 11024)

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall retain for at least seven years the materials used to provide training as specified in 34 CFR 106.8, and to make these materials available, upon request, to members of the public. (34 CFR 106.8)

# Notifications

To prevent unlawful sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, including retaliation, in district programs and

activities, the Superintendent or designee shall provide notifications and implement measures to prevent discrimination and harassment as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

In addition to the measures to prevent discrimination as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a copy of the Board policy and this administrative regulation:

- 1. Be displayed in a prominent location in the main administrative building, district office, or other area of the school where notices of district rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted (Education Code 231.5)
- 2. Be provided to every district employee at the beginning of the first quarter or semester of the school year or whenever a new employee is hired (Education Code 231.5)
- 3. Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school's or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct (Education Code 231.5)

All employees shall receive a copy of an information sheet prepared by the California Civil Rights Department (CRD) or the district that contains, at a minimum, components on: (Government Code 12950)

- 1. The illegality of sex-based harassment
- 2. The definition of sex-based harassment under applicable state and federal law
- 3. A description of sex-based harassment, with examples
- 4. The district's complaint process available to the employee
- 5. The legal remedies and complaint process available through CRD and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- 6. Directions on how to contact CRD and the EEOC
- 7. The protection against retaliation provided by 2 CCR 11021 for opposing harassment prohibited by law or for filing a complaint with or otherwise participating in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing conducted by CRD and the EEOC

Additionally, the district shall post, in a prominent and accessible location, the CRD poster on discrimination in employment and the illegality of sex-based harassment, and the CRD poster regarding transgender rights. (Government Code 12950)

# **Complaint Procedures**

All complaints and allegations of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment by and against employees shall be investigated and resolved as specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

If sex discrimination or sex-based harassment is found following an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator, or designee in consultation with the Title IX Coordinator, shall take prompt action to stop the sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effects.

#### Policy 4219.11: Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 12/01/2015 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The following policy shall apply to all district employees, interns, volunteers, contractors, job applicants, and other persons with an employment relationship with the district.

The Governing Board is committed to providing a safe work environment that is free of discrimination, harassment, and intimidation. The Board prohibits sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, as defined in the accompanying administrative regulation, in district programs and activities by and against district employees.

Additionally, the Board prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who complains or testifies about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, reports such conduct, or otherwise participates or refuses to participate in the complaint process established for the purpose of this policy. (Education Code 220.1; 34 CFR 106.71)

The Superintendent or designee shall take all actions necessary to ensure the prevention, investigation, and correction of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, including but not limited to:

- 1. Providing training to employees in accordance with law and administrative regulation
- 2. Publicizing and disseminating the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policy to employees and others to whom the policy may apply
- 3. Publicizing, in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8 and as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 -Nondiscrimination in Employment, a Title IX notice of nondiscrimination to employees, applicants for employment, and bargaining units
- 4. Ensuring prompt, thorough, fair, and equitable investigation of complaints through the appropriate state and/or federal procedures
- 5. Taking timely and appropriate corrective/remedial action(s), which may require interim separation of the complainant and the alleged harasser and subsequent monitoring of developments

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the district's strategies to prevent and address sex discrimination and sex-based harassment. Such evaluation may involve conducting regular anonymous employee surveys to assess whether sex discrimination and/or sex-based harassment is occurring or is perceived to be tolerated, partnering with researchers or other agencies with the needed expertise to evaluate the district's prevention strategies, and using any othaer effective tool for receiving feedback on systems and/or processes. As necessary, changes shall be made to harassment policy(ies), complaint procedures, or training, as appropriate and in accordance with law.

# **Reports and Complaints**

Any district employee who has experienced sex discrimination or sex-based harassment in the district's education program or activity may file a complaint with the district's Title IX Coordinator. (34 CFR 106.2, 106.44)

Any employee with knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sex-based harassment by or against another district employee, a student, or a third party in a district education program or activity shall notify the Title IX Coordinator within one workday. An employee may be subject to discipline for failure to timely report such conduct. (34 CFR 106.44)

Once notified, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure the complaint or allegation is addressed through Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the complainant and, if the district has begun grievance procedures or offered an informal resolution process to the respondent, offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the respondent as deemed appropriate under the circumstances. (34 CFR 106.44)

Upon investigation of a sex discrimination or sex-based harassment complaint, any district employee found to have engaged or participated in sex discrimination or sex-based harassment or to have aided, abetted, incited, compelled, or coerced another to commit sex discrimination or sex-based harassment in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with law and the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

**Regulation 4219.11: Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment** 

Original Adopted Date: 12/01/2016 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its programs or activities and complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations. Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, is prohibited in district education programs and activities.

The following administrative regulation shall apply to all allegations of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment by and against district employees, interns, volunteers, and job applicants, but shall not be used to resolve any complaint by a student.

# Definitions

*Sex discrimination* includes treating an employee differently based on the employee's sex, which includes differential treatment based on sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions and recovery; parental, family, or marital status; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct and occurs when prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's term or condition of employment; or otherwise adversely affects an employee's employment opportunities.

*Sex-based harassment* is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, or other bases specified above. Conduct will constitute sex-based harassment when it takes the form of: (34 CFR 106.2, 106.11)

- 1. Quid pro quo harassment: A district employee, agent, or other individual authorized by the district to provide an aid, benefit, or service in the district's education program or activity conditioning the provision of district aid, benefit, or service on a student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct
- 2. Hostile environment harassment: Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the district's education program or activity

Any prohibited conduct that occurs off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored programs or activities will be regarded as sex-based harassment in violation of district policy if it has a continuing effect on a student's ability to participate in or benefit from district educational programs or activities.

3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, as defined in 34 CFR 106.2

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, regardless of whether the conduct is motivated by sexual desire. Conduct is considered to be sexual harassment when made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the work or educational setting under any of the following conditions: (Education Code 212.5; Government Code 12940; 2 CCR 11034)

- 1. Submission to the conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the individual's employment
- 2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting the individual
- 3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment
- 4. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits, services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the district

# **Examples of Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment**

Examples of actions that might constitute sex-based harassment under state and/or federal law in accordance with the definitions above, in the work or educational setting, whether committed by a supervisor, a co-worker, or a non-employee, include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Unwelcome verbal conduct such as sex-based flirtations or propositions; graphic comments about an individual's body; overly personal conversations or pressure for sex-based activity; sex-based jokes or stories; unwelcome sex-based slurs, epithets, threats, innuendoes; derogatory comments; sex-based degrading descriptions; or the spreading of sex-based rumors
- 2. Unwelcome visual conduct such as drawings, pictures, graffiti, or gestures; sexually explicit emails or messaging; or displaying sexually suggestive objects
- 3. Unwelcome physical conduct such as massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking, or brushing the body; touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way; or cornering, blocking, leaning over, or impeding normal movements

# Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer

The district designates the following individual(s) as the responsible employee(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX in accordance with Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures, and oversee the district's response to discrimination complaints processed under Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment. The Title IX Coordinator(s) may be contacted at:

Superintendent (707) 882-2803 45 Lake Street, PO Box 87 Point Arena, CA 95468

# Training

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all employees receive training regarding sex discrimination and sexbased harassment in accordance with state and federal law.

Every two years, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that supervisory employees receive at least two hours, and nonsupervisory employees receive at least one hour, of classroom or other effective interactive training and education regarding sexual harassment as specified in Government Code 12950.1. All newly hired employees and employees promoted to a supervisory position shall receive training within six months of their assumption of the new position. (Government Code 12950.1)

A supervisory employee is any employee having the authority, in the interest of the district, to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or discipline other employees, or the responsibility to direct them, adjust their grievances, or effectively recommend such action, when the exercise of the authority is not of a merely routine or clerical nature, but requires the use of independent judgment. (Government Code 12926)

Such training may be completed by employees individually or as part of a group presentation, may be completed in shorter segments as long as the applicable hourly requirement is met, and may be provided in conjunction with other training provided to the employees. The training shall be presented by trainers or educators with knowledge and expertise in the prevention of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. (Government Code 12950.1)

The district's sexual harassment training and education program shall include, but is not limited to, the following: (Government Code 12950.1; 2 CCR 11024)

- 1. Information and practical guidance regarding federal and state laws concerning the prohibition, prevention, and correction of sexual harassment
- 2. The types of conduct that constitute sexual harassment
- 3. Remedies available for victims in civil actions, and potential employer/individual exposure/liability

- 4. Strategies to prevent harassment in the workplace
- 5. Supervisors' obligation to report sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation of which they become aware
- 6. Practical examples which illustrate sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation using training modalities such as role plays, case studies, and group discussions, based on factual scenarios taken from case law, news and media accounts, and hypotheticals based on workplace situations and other sources
- 7. The limited confidentiality of the complaint process
- 8. Resources for victims of unlawful harassment, such as to whom they should report any alleged harassment
- 9. Steps necessary to take appropriate remedial measures to correct harassing behavior, which includes the district's obligation to conduct an effective workplace investigation of a harassment complaint
- 10. What to do if the supervisor is personally accused of harassment
- 11. The essential elements of the district's anti-harassment policy, and how to use the policy if a harassment complaint is filed

Employees shall receive a copy of the district's sexual harassment policy and administrative regulations, which they shall read and acknowledge that they have received.

- 12. Information, including practical examples, of harassment based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation
- 13. Prevention of abusive conduct, including a review of the definition and elements of abusive conduct pursuant to Government Code 12950.1, the negative effects that abusive conduct has on the victim and other in the workplace, the detrimental consequences of this conduct on employee productivity and morale, and that a single act does not constitute abusive conduct unless the act is severe or egregious

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all employees receive annual training related to their duties under Title IX in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8, and that a newly hired employee receive training promptly upon hire or change of position that alters the employee's duties under Title IX. (34 CFR 106.8)

The district's Title IX sex discrimination and sex-based harassment training shall include: (34 CFR 106.8)

- 1. The district's obligation to address sex-based discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in its education program or activity
- 2. The scope of conduct that constitutes sex discrimination under Title IX, including the definition of sex-based harassment
- 3. The notification and information requirements specified in 34 CFR 106.40 and 106.44

The district's Title IX sex-based harassment training and education program shall also include additional training required of supervisors; investigators, decisionmakers, and other persons who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; facilitators of an informal resolution process; and Title IX Coordinators and designees. (34 CFR 106.8)

The Superintendent or designee shall retain for at least two years the records of any training provided to supervisory employees. Such records shall include the names of trained employees, date of the training, type of training, and name of the training provider. (2 CCR 11024)

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall retain for at least seven years the materials used to provide training as specified in 34 CFR 106.8, and to make these materials available, upon request, to members of the public. (34 CFR 106.8)

# Notifications

To prevent unlawful sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, including retaliation, in district programs and

activities, the Superintendent or designee shall provide notifications and implement measures to prevent discrimination and harassment as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

In addition to the measures to prevent discrimination as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a copy of the Board policy and this administrative regulation:

- 1. Be displayed in a prominent location in the main administrative building, district office, or other area of the school where notices of district rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted (Education Code 231.5)
- 2. Be provided to every district employee at the beginning of the first quarter or semester of the school year or whenever a new employee is hired (Education Code 231.5)
- 3. Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school's or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct (Education Code 231.5)

All employees shall receive a copy of an information sheet prepared by the California Civil Rights Department (CRD) or the district that contains, at a minimum, components on: (Government Code 12950)

- 1. The illegality of sex-based harassment
- 2. The definition of sex-based harassment under applicable state and federal law
- 3. A description of sex-based harassment, with examples
- 4. The district's complaint process available to the employee
- 5. The legal remedies and complaint process available through CRD and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- 6. Directions on how to contact CRD and the EEOC
- 7. The protection against retaliation provided by 2 CCR 11021 for opposing harassment prohibited by law or for filing a complaint with or otherwise participating in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing conducted by CRD and the EEOC

Additionally, the district shall post, in a prominent and accessible location, the CRD poster on discrimination in employment and the illegality of sex-based harassment, and the CRD poster regarding transgender rights. (Government Code 12950)

# **Complaint Procedures**

All complaints and allegations of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment by and against employees shall be investigated and resolved as specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

If sex discrimination or sex-based harassment is found following an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator, or designee in consultation with the Title IX Coordinator, shall take prompt action to stop the sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effects.

#### Policy 4319.11: Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 12/01/2015 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The following policy shall apply to all district employees, interns, volunteers, contractors, job applicants, and other persons with an employment relationship with the district.

The Governing Board is committed to providing a safe work environment that is free of discrimination, harassment, and intimidation. The Board prohibits sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, as defined in the accompanying administrative regulation, in district programs and activities by and against district employees.

Additionally, the Board prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who complains or testifies about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, reports such conduct, or otherwise participates or refuses to participate in the complaint process established for the purpose of this policy. (Education Code 220.1; 34 CFR 106.71)

The Superintendent or designee shall take all actions necessary to ensure the prevention, investigation, and correction of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, including but not limited to:

- 1. Providing training to employees in accordance with law and administrative regulation
- 2. Publicizing and disseminating the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policy to employees and others to whom the policy may apply
- 3. Publicizing, in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8 and as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 -Nondiscrimination in Employment, a Title IX notice of nondiscrimination to employees, applicants for employment, and bargaining units
- 4. Ensuring prompt, thorough, fair, and equitable investigation of complaints through the appropriate state and/or federal procedures
- 5. Taking timely and appropriate corrective/remedial action(s), which may require interim separation of the complainant and the alleged harasser and subsequent monitoring of developments

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the district's strategies to prevent and address sex discrimination and sex-based harassment. Such evaluation may involve conducting regular anonymous employee surveys to assess whether sex discrimination and/or sex-based harassment is occurring or is perceived to be tolerated, partnering with researchers or other agencies with the needed expertise to evaluate the district's prevention strategies, and using any othaer effective tool for receiving feedback on systems and/or processes. As necessary, changes shall be made to harassment policy(ies), complaint procedures, or training, as appropriate and in accordance with law.

# **Reports and Complaints**

Any district employee who has experienced sex discrimination or sex-based harassment in the district's education program or activity may file a complaint with the district's Title IX Coordinator. (34 CFR 106.2, 106.44)

Any employee with knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sex-based harassment by or against another district employee, a student, or a third party in a district education program or activity shall notify the Title IX Coordinator within one workday. An employee may be subject to discipline for failure to timely report such conduct. (34 CFR 106.44)

Once notified, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure the complaint or allegation is addressed through Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the complainant and, if the district has begun grievance procedures or offered an informal resolution process to the respondent, offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the respondent as deemed appropriate under the circumstances. (34 CFR 106.44)

Upon investigation of a sex discrimination or sex-based harassment complaint, any district employee found to have engaged or participated in sex discrimination or sex-based harassment or to have aided, abetted, incited, compelled, or coerced another to commit sex discrimination or sex-based harassment in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with law and the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

# Board Policy Manual Point Arena Schools

### **Regulation 4319.11: Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment**

#### Status: DRAFT

#### Original Adopted Date: 12/01/2016 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its programs or activities and complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations. Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, is prohibited in district education programs and activities.

The following administrative regulation shall apply to all allegations of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment by and against district employees, interns, volunteers, and job applicants, but shall not be used to resolve any complaint by a student.

#### Definitions

*Sex discrimination* includes treating an employee differently based on the employee's sex, which includes differential treatment based on sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions and recovery; parental, family, or marital status; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct and occurs when prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's term or condition of employment; or otherwise adversely affects an employee's employment opportunities.

*Sex-based harassment* is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, or other bases specified above. Conduct will constitute sex-based harassment when it takes the form of: (34 CFR 106.2, 106.11)

- 1. Quid pro quo harassment: A district employee, agent, or other individual authorized by the district to provide an aid, benefit, or service in the district's education program or activity conditioning the provision of district aid, benefit, or service on a student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct
- 2. Hostile environment harassment: Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the district's education program or activity

Any prohibited conduct that occurs off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored programs or activities will be regarded as sex-based harassment in violation of district policy if it has a continuing effect on a student's ability to participate in or benefit from district educational programs or activities.

3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, as defined in 34 CFR 106.2

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, regardless of whether the conduct is motivated by sexual desire. Conduct is considered to be sexual harassment when made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the work or educational setting under any of the following conditions: (Education Code 212.5; Government Code 12940; 2 CCR 11034)

- 1. Submission to the conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the individual's employment
- 2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting the individual
- 3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment
- 4. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits, services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the district

# **Examples of Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment**

Examples of actions that might constitute sex-based harassment under state and/or federal law in accordance with the definitions above, in the work or educational setting, whether committed by a supervisor, a co-worker, or a non-employee, include, but are not limited to:

- Unwelcome verbal conduct such as sex-based flirtations or propositions; graphic comments about an individual's body; overly personal conversations or pressure for sex-based activity; sex-based jokes or stories; unwelcome sex-based slurs, epithets, threats, innuendoes; derogatory comments; sex-based degrading descriptions; or the spreading of sex-based rumors
- 2. Unwelcome visual conduct such as drawings, pictures, graffiti, or gestures; sexually explicit emails or messaging; or displaying sexually suggestive objects
- 3. Unwelcome physical conduct such as massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking, or brushing the body; touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way; or cornering, blocking, leaning over, or impeding normal movements

# Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer

The district designates the following individual(s) as the responsible employee(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX in accordance with Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures, and oversee the district's response to discrimination complaints processed under Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment. The Title IX Coordinator(s) may be contacted at:

Superintendent (707) 882-2803 45 Lake Street, PO Box 87 Point Arena, CA 95468

## Training

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all employees receive training regarding sex discrimination and sexbased harassment in accordance with state and federal law.

Every two years, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that supervisory employees receive at least two hours, and nonsupervisory employees receive at least one hour, of classroom or other effective interactive training and education regarding sexual harassment as specified in Government Code 12950.1. All newly hired employees and employees promoted to a supervisory position shall receive training within six months of their assumption of the new position. (Government Code 12950.1)

A supervisory employee is any employee having the authority, in the interest of the district, to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or discipline other employees, or the responsibility to direct them, adjust their grievances, or effectively recommend such action, when the exercise of the authority is not of a merely routine or clerical nature, but requires the use of independent judgment. (Government Code 12926)

Such training may be completed by employees individually or as part of a group presentation, may be completed in shorter segments as long as the applicable hourly requirement is met, and may be provided in conjunction with other training provided to the employees. The training shall be presented by trainers or educators with knowledge and expertise in the prevention of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. (Government Code 12950.1)

The district's sexual harassment training and education program shall include, but is not limited to, the following: (Government Code 12950.1; 2 CCR 11024)

- 1. Information and practical guidance regarding federal and state laws concerning the prohibition, prevention, and correction of sexual harassment
- 2. The types of conduct that constitute sexual harassment
- 3. Remedies available for victims in civil actions, and potential employer/individual exposure/liability
- 4. Strategies to prevent harassment in the workplace

- 5. Supervisors' obligation to report sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation of which they become aware
- 6. Practical examples which illustrate sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation using training modalities such as role plays, case studies, and group discussions, based on factual scenarios taken from case law, news and media accounts, and hypotheticals based on workplace situations and other sources
- 7. The limited confidentiality of the complaint process
- 8. Resources for victims of unlawful harassment, such as to whom they should report any alleged harassment
- 9. Steps necessary to take appropriate remedial measures to correct harassing behavior, which includes the district's obligation to conduct an effective workplace investigation of a harassment complaint
- 10. What to do if the supervisor is personally accused of harassment
- 11. The essential elements of the district's anti-harassment policy, and how to use the policy if a harassment complaint is filed

Employees shall receive a copy of the district's sexual harassment policy and administrative regulations, which they shall read and acknowledge that they have received.

- 12. Information, including practical examples, of harassment based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation
- 13. Prevention of abusive conduct, including a review of the definition and elements of abusive conduct pursuant to Government Code 12950.1, the negative effects that abusive conduct has on the victim and other in the workplace, the detrimental consequences of this conduct on employee productivity and morale, and that a single act does not constitute abusive conduct unless the act is severe or egregious

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all employees receive annual training related to their duties under Title IX in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8, and that a newly hired employee receive training promptly upon hire or change of position that alters the employee's duties under Title IX. (34 CFR 106.8)

The district's Title IX sex discrimination and sex-based harassment training shall include: (34 CFR 106.8)

- 1. The district's obligation to address sex-based discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in its education program or activity
- 2. The scope of conduct that constitutes sex discrimination under Title IX, including the definition of sex-based harassment
- 3. The notification and information requirements specified in 34 CFR 106.40 and 106.44

The district's Title IX sex-based harassment training and education program shall also include additional training required of supervisors; investigators, decisionmakers, and other persons who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; facilitators of an informal resolution process; and Title IX Coordinators and designees. (34 CFR 106.8)

The Superintendent or designee shall retain for at least two years the records of any training provided to supervisory employees. Such records shall include the names of trained employees, date of the training, type of training, and name of the training provider. (2 CCR 11024)

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall retain for at least seven years the materials used to provide training as specified in 34 CFR 106.8, and to make these materials available, upon request, to members of the public. (34 CFR 106.8)

## Notifications

To prevent unlawful sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, including retaliation, in district programs and activities, the Superintendent or designee shall provide notifications and implement measures to prevent

discrimination and harassment as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

In addition to the measures to prevent discrimination as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a copy of the Board policy and this administrative regulation:

- 1. Be displayed in a prominent location in the main administrative building, district office, or other area of the school where notices of district rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted (Education Code 231.5)
- 2. Be provided to every district employee at the beginning of the first quarter or semester of the school year or whenever a new employee is hired (Education Code 231.5)
- 3. Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school's or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct (Education Code 231.5)

All employees shall receive a copy of an information sheet prepared by the California Civil Rights Department (CRD) or the district that contains, at a minimum, components on: (Government Code 12950)

- 1. The illegality of sex-based harassment
- 2. The definition of sex-based harassment under applicable state and federal law
- 3. A description of sex-based harassment, with examples
- 4. The district's complaint process available to the employee
- 5. The legal remedies and complaint process available through CRD and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- 6. Directions on how to contact CRD and the EEOC
- 7. The protection against retaliation provided by 2 CCR 11021 for opposing harassment prohibited by law or for filing a complaint with or otherwise participating in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing conducted by CRD and the EEOC

Additionally, the district shall post, in a prominent and accessible location, the CRD poster on discrimination in employment and the illegality of sex-based harassment, and the CRD poster regarding transgender rights. (Government Code 12950)

## **Complaint Procedures**

All complaints and allegations of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment by and against employees shall be investigated and resolved as specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

If sex discrimination or sex-based harassment is found following an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator, or designee in consultation with the Title IX Coordinator, shall take prompt action to stop the sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effects.

# Board Policy Manual Point Arena Schools

# Regulation 4119.12: Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures

Status: DRAFT

#### Original Adopted Date: 07/01/2020 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The complaint procedures described in this administrative regulation shall be used to address any complaint governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 alleging that a district employee, while in an education program or activity, was subjected to conduct on or after August 1, 2024, including, but not limited to, conduct that is under the authority of the district, that constitutes sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. For conduct that occurred prior to this date, the district should utilize its policies in place at the time the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred, so long as they are in accordance with the applicable statutes and regulations.

Sex discrimination and sex-based harassment include, but are not limited to, sex-based conduct as specified in Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment.

## **Basic Requirements**

When implementing Title IX grievance procedures, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Treat complainants and respondents equitably
- 2. Ensure that the Title IX Coordinator or designee, investigator, or decisionmaker not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent

The investigator and the decisionmaker may be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

- 3. Presume that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, until a determination is made at the conclusion of the grievance procedures
- 4. Establish reasonably prompt timeframes for the major stages of the grievance procedures, such as evaluation of whether to dismiss or investigate a complaint, investigation, decision, and appeals if any
- 5. Establish a process that allows for the reasonable extension of timeframes on a case-by-case basis for good cause with notice to the parties that includes the reason for the delay

Additionally, the district shall not disclose personally identifiable information obtained while implementing Title IX complaint procedures unless the district has obtained prior written consent from a person with the legal right to consent to the disclosure; the information is disclosed to a parent/guardian or other authorized legal representative with the legal right to receive disclosures on behalf of the person whose personally identifiable information is at issue; to take action to address conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, in the district's education program or activity; as required by federal law, regulations, or as a condition to a federal award; as required by state or local law; or to the extent such disclosures are not otherwise in conflict with Title IX. (34 CFR 106.44)

If the respondent is a student with a disability, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consult with one or more members, as appropriate, of the student's individualized education program or 504 team, to determine how to comply with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

## Filing a Complaint

Upon receiving information of an allegation of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall notify the individual(s) specified in law of the Title IX grievance procedures, and of the informal resolution process, if available and appropriate.

A complaint is an oral or written request that can objectively be understood by the Title IX Coordinator or designee

as a request for the district to investigate and make a determination about alleged sex discrimination, including sexbased harassment. (34 CFR 106.2)

Complaints of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment may only be brought by an employee, or former employee, who was participating or attempting to participate in the district's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex-based harassment, or the Title IX Coordinator or designee. (34 CFR 106.45)

If the alleged victim chooses not to bring a complaint, or withdraws any or all of the allegations in a complaint, and in the absence or termination of an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consider whether to initiate a complaint. To do so, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall first consider the following factors: (34 CFR 106.44)

- 1. The victim's request not to proceed with initiation of a complaint
- 2. The victim's reasonable safety concerns regarding initiation of a complaint
- 3. The risk that additional acts of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, would occur if a complaint is not initiated
- 4. The severity of the alleged sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, including whether the discrimination, if established, would require the removal of a respondent from campus or imposition of another disciplinary sanction to end the discrimination and prevent its recurrence
- 5. The age and relationship of the parties, including whether the respondent is an employee of the district
- 6. The scope of the alleged sex discrimination, including information suggesting a pattern; ongoing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment; or sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, alleged to have impacted multiple individuals
- 7. The availability of evidence to assist a decisionmaker in determining whether sex discrimination, including sexbased harassment, occurred
- 8. Whether the district could end the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and prevent its recurrence without initiating the Title IX grievance procedures

If, after considering these factors, the Title IX Coordinator determines that the alleged conduct presents an imminent and serious threat to the health and safety of the complainant or another person, or that the conduct as alleged prevents the district from ensuring equal access to a district program or activity on the basis of sex, the Title IX Coordinator may initiate a complaint.

If the Title IX Coordinator initiates a complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide the alleged victim notice of the complaint as well as other notices as required by the Title IX regulations at specific points in the complaint process. The Title IX Coordinator shall also address reasonable concerns about the victim's safety or the safety of others, including providing supportive measures as described in "Supportive Measures" below, and taking other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district. (34 CFR 106.44)

The Title IX Coordinator or designee, investigator, decisionmaker, other person who is responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures, or a facilitator of an informal resolution process shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. Such persons shall receive training in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8. (34 CFR 106.44)

In order to ensure that employees are not barred from reporting information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator shall monitor the district for barriers to reporting and take steps reasonably calculated to address such barriers. (34 CFR 106.44, 106.45)

### **Supportive Measures**

Upon receipt of a report of Title IX sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall offer and coordinate supportive measures. Supportive measures may vary depending on what the district determines to be reasonably available and shall not unreasonably burden either the complainant or respondent. Supportive measures shall be provided without charging a fee to the complainant or respondent and be designed to protect the safety of the complainant, respondent, and the district's educational environment, and to provide support during any grievance procedures implemented as specified in 34 CFR 106.45 or informal resolution process as specified in 34 CFR 106.44. The district shall not impose such measures for punitive or disciplinary reasons. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to, counseling; extensions of deadlines and other course- or work-related adjustment; changes in class, work, housing, or extracurricular or any other activity regardless of whether there is a comparable alternative; campus escort services; modifications of class or work schedules; mutual restrictions on contact; changes in class or work locations; leaves of absence; increased security; monitoring of certain areas of the campus; and, training and education programs related to sex-based harassment. (34 CFR 106.2, 106.44)

Unless there is an allegation of sex-based harassment or retaliation, the district may provide supportive measures without altering the alleged discriminatory conduct. (34 CFR 106.44)

Upon the conclusion of any grievance procedures implemented as specified in 34 CFR 106.45 or informal resolution process as specified in 34 CFR 106.44, the district may continue with the supportive measures, or modify or terminate such measures, as appropriate. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall provide a complainant or respondent for whom supportive measures have been implemented with a timely opportunity to seek, from an impartial employee with authority to modify or reverse the supportive measures, modification or reversal of the district's decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate such measures, and to seek additional modification or termination of the supportive measures if circumstances materially change. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall not disclose information about supportive measures to any person other than the person to whom they apply, including informing one party of supportive measures provided to another party, unless the disclosure is necessary to providing the supportive measures, or restoring or preserving a party's access to the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.44)

## **Emergency Removal**

If a district employee is the respondent, the employee may be placed on administrative leave during the pendency of the formal complaint process. (34 CFR 106.44)

If the respondent is a student, the district may, on an emergency basis, remove the student from the district's education program or activity, provided that the district conducts an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that removal is justified due to an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of a complainant or any student, employee, or other individual arising from the allegations, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. This authority to remove a student does not modify a student's rights under the IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (34 CFR 106.44)

# **Dismissal of Complaint**

The Title IX Coordinator or designee may dismiss a complaint if: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. The district is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so
- 2. The respondent is not participating in the district's education program or activity and is not employed by the district
- 3. The district determines that the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX

Before dismissing the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

4. The complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all of the allegations in the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint, and the Title IX Coordinator determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX, even if proven

The Title IX Coordinator shall determine whether to dismiss or investigate any complaint of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, within \_\_\_\_\_days, unless such timeline is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

Upon dismissal, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly notify the complainant of the dismissal and the reasons for the dismissal. Additionally, if the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide such notification to the respondent, which shall occur simultaneously to both parties if the notification is in writing. The Title IX Coordinator shall also inform the complainant, and the respondent if the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, of their right to appeal. Dismissals may be appealed on the following bases: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. A procedural irregularity that would change the outcome
- 2. New evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the dismissal was made
- 3. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decisionmaker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome

If the dismissal is appealed, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Notify the parties of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent
- 2. Implement appeal procedures equally for the parties
- 3. Ensure that the decisionmaker for the appeal did not take part in an investigation of the allegations or dismissal of the complaint
- 4. Ensure that the decisionmaker for the appeal has been trained consistent with the Title IX regulations
- 5. Provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome
- 6. Notify the parties of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result

If a complaint is dismissed, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall offer supportive measures as described above in "Supportive Measures" to the complainant. Additionally, the respondent shall be offered supportive measures if the complaint was dismissed because the complainant voluntarily withdrew any or all of the allegations in the complaint and the district determined that without the withdrawn allegations the conduct, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX, or if the complaint was dismissed because the district determined, after taking reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations of the complaint, that the alleged conduct would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, even if proven. The Title IX Coordinator shall also take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

If a complaint is dismissed, the conduct may still be addressed pursuant to Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment as applicable.

## **Informal Resolution Process**

At any time prior to determining whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred under the complaint procedures specified in 34 CFR 106.45, the district may offer, if it is determined to be appropriate upon receiving information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or when a complaint of sex discrimination is made, an informal resolution process, such as mediation, to the complainant and respondent. However, the district shall not offer an informal resolution process if the complaint alleges that an employee engaged in sex-based harassment of an elementary or secondary school student or that such process would conflict with federal, state, or local law. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall not require or pressure a party to participate in the informal resolution process, or to waive the right to an investigation and determination of a complaint as a condition of employment or continuing employment, or exercise of any other right. The district may decline to offer an informal resolution process including, but not limited to, when the district determines that the alleged conduct would present a future risk of harm to others. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district may facilitate an informal resolution process provided that the district, prior to initiating such process: (34 CFR 106.44)

- 1. Provides the parties with written notice disclosing the allegations; the requirements of the informal resolution process; the right to withdraw from the informal process and resume the formal complaint process; the inability to initiate or resume complaint procedures arising from the same allegations once the informal resolution process is concluded; the potential terms that may be requested or offered in an informal resolution agreement, including that the agreement would only be binding on the parties; and the information that the district will maintain and whether and how the district could disclose such information for use in Title IX grievance procedures if such procedures are initiated or resumed
- 2. Obtains the parties' voluntary consent to the informal resolution process

The Title IX Coordinator or designee shall ensure that the facilitator of the informal resolution process is not the same person as the investigator or decisionmaker of any ongoing or newly initiated complaint process specified in 34 CFR 106.45, does not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent, and receives training in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8. (34 CFR 106.44)

If the district facilitates an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall, to the extent necessary, take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district' education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

# **Notice of Allegations**

If the district initiates a formal Title IX investigation, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall provide the known parties with written notice of the following: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. The district's complaint process, including any informal resolution process
- 2. Sufficient information, available at the time, to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including, to the extent available, the identity of parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct allegedly constituting sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incidentSuch notice shall be provided with sufficient time for the parties to prepare a response before any initial interview.

If, during the course of the investigation, new Title IX allegations arise about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the initial notice, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties.

- 3. A statement that retaliation is prohibited
- 4. A statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of such evidence, as specified

The above notice may also include the name of the investigator, facilitator of an informal process, and decisionmaker

and shall inform the parties that, if at any time a party has concerns regarding conflict of interest or bias regarding any of these persons, the party should immediately notify the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

# **Consolidation of Complaints**

The district may consolidate complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, against more than one respondent; by more than one complainant against one or more respondents; or by one party against another party, when the allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, arise out of the same facts or circumstances. (34 CFR 106.45)

# **Investigation Procedures**

The district shall provide for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints. (34 CFR 106.45)

During the investigation process, the district's designated investigator shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible
- 2. Review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine which evidence is relevant and which evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance
- 3. Provide each party with an equal opportunity to access evidence that is relevant, and not otherwise impermissible, to the allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, by:
  - a. Providing an equal opportunity to access either the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of such evidence

If an accurate description is provided, the district shall, upon request of any party, provide the parties with an equal opportunity to access the relevant and permissible evidence.

- b. Providing a reasonable opportunity to respond to the evidence or to the accurate description of the evidence
- c. Taking reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the grievance procedures
- 4. Take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of parties and witnesses which do not restrict the ability of the parties to obtain and present evidence, including, by speaking to witnesses; consulting with family members, confidential resources, or advisors; or otherwise preparing for or participating in the grievance procedures
- 5. Objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, including that credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as complainant, respondent, or witness
- 6. Exclude as impermissible the following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence:
  - a. Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by state or federal law or evidence that is provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege
  - b. A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless the district obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures

Evidence that relates to the complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless evidence about the complainant's prior sexual conduct is offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct or is evidence about specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to the alleged sex-based

#### harassment.

The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent to the alleged sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

The district shall ensure that the decisionmaker is able to question parties and witnesses adequately to assess a party's or witness's credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations of sex-based harassment. (34 CFR 106.45)

If the complaint is against an employee, rights conferred under an applicable collective bargaining agreement shall be applied to the extent they do not conflict with the Title IX requirements.

The investigator shall complete the investigation within \_\_\_\_ days after the Title IX Coordinator determines to proceed with an investigation, unless such timeline is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

# Written Decision

The Superintendent shall designate an employee as the decisionmaker to determine responsibility for the alleged conduct, who may be the Title IX Coordinator or designee or the investigator so long as there is no conflict of interest or bias. (34 CFR 106.45)

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Use the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof to determine whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, has occurred
- 2. Notify the parties in writing of the determination of whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred

The notification shall include the rationale for such determination and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal, if applicable.

The written decision shall be issued within \_\_\_\_\_days after the investigation is completed, unless such time is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

## Appeal of the Decision

Either party may appeal the district's decision of a complaint or any allegation in the complaint. (34 CFR 106.45)

When conducting an appeal, the district shall follow the appeal process as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

Either party has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights within 180 days of the date of the most recently alleged misconduct.

The complainant shall be advised of any civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders that may be available under state or federal antidiscrimination laws, if applicable.

# **Extension of Timelines**

Any timelines specified in this administrative regulation may be extended by the district for good cause, with written notice to the parties. The written notice shall specify the reasons for the extension. (34 CFR 106.45)

# Remedies

When there is a determination that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, has occurred, the Title IX Coordinator shall coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to the complainant and other persons the district identifies as having had equal access to the district's education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment; coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent as described in "Disciplinary Actions" below, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions; and take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

# **Disciplinary Actions**

The district shall not impose any disciplinary sanctions or other actions against a respondent, other than supportive measures as described above in the section "Supportive Measures," until the complaint procedure has been completed and a determination of responsibility has been made. (34 CFR 106.44, 106.45)

When an employee is found to have committed sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, or retaliation, the district shall take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with applicable law and collective bargaining agreement.

The district shall not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the grievance procedures for making a false statement or for engaging in consensual sexual conduct based solely on the district's determination of whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred. (34 CFR 106.45)

## **Record-Keeping**

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain, for at least a period of seven years: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. For each complaint of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, records documenting any informal resolution process or formal investigation procedures
- For each notification the Title IX Coordinator or designee receives of information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, records documenting the actions taken to fulfill the district's obligations as specified in 34 CFR 106.44, including supportive measures offered and implemented
- 3. All materials used to train district employees; the Title IX Coordinator and designee(s); investigator(s), decisionmaker(s), and other person(s) who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process

The district shall make such training materials available upon request by members of the public.

For complaints containing allegations of childhood sexual assault, the Superintendent or designee shall also indefinitely maintain the following: (Code of Civil Procedure340.1):

- 1. A record of the allegation(s)
- 2. A record of the investigation procedures followed
- 3. A record of the written determination
- 4. A record of the corrective action implemented, if any
- 5. A record of any appeals and the outcome of the same
- 6. All training materials addressing the prohibition and investigation of childhood sexual assault

# Board Policy Manual Point Arena Schools

# Exhibit 4119.12-E(1): Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

# NOTICE OF TITLE IX NONDISCRIMINATION

The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Section 106.8 requires the district to issue the following notification to employees, job applicants, and employee organizations:

The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in any education program or activity that it operates. The prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sex is required by federal law (20 USC 1681-1688; 34 CFR Part 106) and extends to employment. The district also prohibits retaliation against any employee for filing a complaint or exercising any right granted under Title IX.

The district is required, as specified in Title IX, to take prompt and equitable action to address any potential Title IX violations that are brought to its attention. Any inquiries about the application of Title IX, this notice, and who is protected by Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The district has designated and authorized the following employee(s) as the district's Title IX Coordinator, to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sex-based harassment:

Superintendent (707) 882-2803 45 Lake Street, PO Box 87 Point Arena, CA 95468

Any individual may report sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator or any other school employee at any time, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon receiving an allegation of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly notify the parties, in writing, of the applicable district complaint procedure.

To view an electronic copy of the district's policies and administrative regulations on sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, including the grievance process that complies with 34 CFR 106.45, please see Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment, and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures on the district's website at www.pointarenaschools.org.

To inspect or obtain a copy of the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policies and administrative regulations, please contact: District Office, (707) 882-2803, 45 Lake Street, Point Arena, CA 95468

Materials used to train employees; the Title IX Coordinator; investigator(s), decisionmaker(s), and other person(s) who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; and any person(s) who facilitates an informal resolution process, are available at the district office upon request.

# Board Policy Manual Point Arena Schools

# Regulation 4219.12: Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures

Status: DRAFT

#### Original Adopted Date: 07/01/2020 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The complaint procedures described in this administrative regulation shall be used to address any complaint governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 alleging that a district employee, while in an education program or activity, was subjected to conduct on or after August 1, 2024, including, but not limited to, conduct that is under the authority of the district, that constitutes sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. For conduct that occurred prior to this date, the district should utilize its policies in place at the time the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred, so long as they are in accordance with the applicable statutes and regulations.

Sex discrimination and sex-based harassment include, but are not limited to, sex-based conduct as specified in Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment.

## **Basic Requirements**

When implementing Title IX grievance procedures, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Treat complainants and respondents equitably
- 2. Ensure that the Title IX Coordinator or designee, investigator, or decisionmaker not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent

The investigator and the decisionmaker may be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

- 3. Presume that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, until a determination is made at the conclusion of the grievance procedures
- 4. Establish reasonably prompt timeframes for the major stages of the grievance procedures, such as evaluation of whether to dismiss or investigate a complaint, investigation, decision, and appeals if any
- 5. Establish a process that allows for the reasonable extension of timeframes on a case-by-case basis for good cause with notice to the parties that includes the reason for the delay

Additionally, the district shall not disclose personally identifiable information obtained while implementing Title IX complaint procedures unless the district has obtained prior written consent from a person with the legal right to consent to the disclosure; the information is disclosed to a parent/guardian or other authorized legal representative with the legal right to receive disclosures on behalf of the person whose personally identifiable information is at issue; to take action to address conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, in the district's education program or activity; as required by federal law, regulations, or as a condition to a federal award; as required by state or local law; or to the extent such disclosures are not otherwise in conflict with Title IX. (34 CFR 106.44)

If the respondent is a student with a disability, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consult with one or more members, as appropriate, of the student's individualized education program or 504 team, to determine how to comply with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

## Filing a Complaint

Upon receiving information of an allegation of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall notify the individual(s) specified in law of the Title IX grievance procedures, and of the informal resolution process, if available and appropriate.

A complaint is an oral or written request that can objectively be understood by the Title IX Coordinator or designee

as a request for the district to investigate and make a determination about alleged sex discrimination, including sexbased harassment. (34 CFR 106.2)

Complaints of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment may only be brought by an employee, or former employee, who was participating or attempting to participate in the district's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex-based harassment, or the Title IX Coordinator or designee. (34 CFR 106.45)

If the alleged victim chooses not to bring a complaint, or withdraws any or all of the allegations in a complaint, and in the absence or termination of an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consider whether to initiate a complaint. To do so, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall first consider the following factors: (34 CFR 106.44)

- 1. The victim's request not to proceed with initiation of a complaint
- 2. The victim's reasonable safety concerns regarding initiation of a complaint
- 3. The risk that additional acts of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, would occur if a complaint is not initiated
- 4. The severity of the alleged sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, including whether the discrimination, if established, would require the removal of a respondent from campus or imposition of another disciplinary sanction to end the discrimination and prevent its recurrence
- 5. The age and relationship of the parties, including whether the respondent is an employee of the district
- 6. The scope of the alleged sex discrimination, including information suggesting a pattern; ongoing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment; or sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, alleged to have impacted multiple individuals
- 7. The availability of evidence to assist a decisionmaker in determining whether sex discrimination, including sexbased harassment, occurred
- 8. Whether the district could end the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and prevent its recurrence without initiating the Title IX grievance procedures

If, after considering these factors, the Title IX Coordinator determines that the alleged conduct presents an imminent and serious threat to the health and safety of the complainant or another person, or that the conduct as alleged prevents the district from ensuring equal access to a district program or activity on the basis of sex, the Title IX Coordinator may initiate a complaint.

If the Title IX Coordinator initiates a complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide the alleged victim notice of the complaint as well as other notices as required by the Title IX regulations at specific points in the complaint process. The Title IX Coordinator shall also address reasonable concerns about the victim's safety or the safety of others, including providing supportive measures as described in "Supportive Measures" below, and taking other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district. (34 CFR 106.44)

The Title IX Coordinator or designee, investigator, decisionmaker, other person who is responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures, or a facilitator of an informal resolution process shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. Such persons shall receive training in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8. (34 CFR 106.44)

In order to ensure that employees are not barred from reporting information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator shall monitor the district for barriers to reporting and take steps reasonably calculated to address such barriers. (34 CFR 106.44, 106.45)

### **Supportive Measures**

Upon receipt of a report of Title IX sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall offer and coordinate supportive measures. Supportive measures may vary depending on what the district determines to be reasonably available and shall not unreasonably burden either the complainant or respondent. Supportive measures shall be provided without charging a fee to the complainant or respondent and be designed to protect the safety of the complainant, respondent, and the district's educational environment, and to provide support during any grievance procedures implemented as specified in 34 CFR 106.45 or informal resolution process as specified in 34 CFR 106.44. The district shall not impose such measures for punitive or disciplinary reasons. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to, counseling; extensions of deadlines and other course- or work-related adjustment; changes in class, work, housing, or extracurricular or any other activity regardless of whether there is a comparable alternative; campus escort services; modifications of class or work schedules; mutual restrictions on contact; changes in class or work locations; leaves of absence; increased security; monitoring of certain areas of the campus; and, training and education programs related to sex-based harassment. (34 CFR 106.2, 106.44)

Unless there is an allegation of sex-based harassment or retaliation, the district may provide supportive measures without altering the alleged discriminatory conduct. (34 CFR 106.44)

Upon the conclusion of any grievance procedures implemented as specified in 34 CFR 106.45 or informal resolution process as specified in 34 CFR 106.44, the district may continue with the supportive measures, or modify or terminate such measures, as appropriate. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall provide a complainant or respondent for whom supportive measures have been implemented with a timely opportunity to seek, from an impartial employee with authority to modify or reverse the supportive measures, modification or reversal of the district's decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate such measures, and to seek additional modification or termination of the supportive measures if circumstances materially change. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall not disclose information about supportive measures to any person other than the person to whom they apply, including informing one party of supportive measures provided to another party, unless the disclosure is necessary to providing the supportive measures, or restoring or preserving a party's access to the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.44)

## **Emergency Removal**

If a district employee is the respondent, the employee may be placed on administrative leave during the pendency of the formal complaint process. (34 CFR 106.44)

If the respondent is a student, the district may, on an emergency basis, remove the student from the district's education program or activity, provided that the district conducts an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that removal is justified due to an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of a complainant or any student, employee, or other individual arising from the allegations, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. This authority to remove a student does not modify a student's rights under the IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (34 CFR 106.44)

# **Dismissal of Complaint**

The Title IX Coordinator or designee may dismiss a complaint if: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. The district is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so
- 2. The respondent is not participating in the district's education program or activity and is not employed by the district
- 3. The district determines that the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX

Before dismissing the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

4. The complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all of the allegations in the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint, and the Title IX Coordinator determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX, even if proven

The Title IX Coordinator shall determine whether to dismiss or investigate any complaint of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, within \_\_\_\_\_days, unless such timeline is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

Upon dismissal, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly notify the complainant of the dismissal and the reasons for the dismissal. Additionally, if the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide such notification to the respondent, which shall occur simultaneously to both parties if the notification is in writing. The Title IX Coordinator shall also inform the complainant, and the respondent if the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, of their right to appeal. Dismissals may be appealed on the following bases: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. A procedural irregularity that would change the outcome
- 2. New evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the dismissal was made
- 3. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decisionmaker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome

If the dismissal is appealed, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Notify the parties of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent
- 2. Implement appeal procedures equally for the parties
- 3. Ensure that the decisionmaker for the appeal did not take part in an investigation of the allegations or dismissal of the complaint
- 4. Ensure that the decisionmaker for the appeal has been trained consistent with the Title IX regulations
- 5. Provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome
- 6. Notify the parties of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result

If a complaint is dismissed, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall offer supportive measures as described above in "Supportive Measures" to the complainant. Additionally, the respondent shall be offered supportive measures if the complaint was dismissed because the complainant voluntarily withdrew any or all of the allegations in the complaint and the district determined that without the withdrawn allegations the conduct, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX, or if the complaint was dismissed because the district determined, after taking reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations of the complaint, that the alleged conduct would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, even if proven. The Title IX Coordinator shall also take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

If a complaint is dismissed, the conduct may still be addressed pursuant to Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment as applicable.

## **Informal Resolution Process**

At any time prior to determining whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred under the complaint procedures specified in 34 CFR 106.45, the district may offer, if it is determined to be appropriate upon receiving information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or when a complaint of sex discrimination is made, an informal resolution process, such as mediation, to the complainant and respondent. However, the district shall not offer an informal resolution process if the complaint alleges that an employee engaged in sex-based harassment of an elementary or secondary school student or that such process would conflict with federal, state, or local law. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall not require or pressure a party to participate in the informal resolution process, or to waive the right to an investigation and determination of a complaint as a condition of employment or continuing employment, or exercise of any other right. The district may decline to offer an informal resolution process including, but not limited to, when the district determines that the alleged conduct would present a future risk of harm to others. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district may facilitate an informal resolution process provided that the district, prior to initiating such process: (34 CFR 106.44)

- 1. Provides the parties with written notice disclosing the allegations; the requirements of the informal resolution process; the right to withdraw from the informal process and resume the formal complaint process; the inability to initiate or resume complaint procedures arising from the same allegations once the informal resolution process is concluded; the potential terms that may be requested or offered in an informal resolution agreement, including that the agreement would only be binding on the parties; and the information that the district will maintain and whether and how the district could disclose such information for use in Title IX grievance procedures if such procedures are initiated or resumed
- 2. Obtains the parties' voluntary consent to the informal resolution process

The Title IX Coordinator or designee shall ensure that the facilitator of the informal resolution process is not the same person as the investigator or decisionmaker of any ongoing or newly initiated complaint process specified in 34 CFR 106.45, does not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent, and receives training in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8. (34 CFR 106.44)

If the district facilitates an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall, to the extent necessary, take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district' education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

# **Notice of Allegations**

If the district initiates a formal Title IX investigation, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall provide the known parties with written notice of the following: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. The district's complaint process, including any informal resolution process
- 2. Sufficient information, available at the time, to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including, to the extent available, the identity of parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct allegedly constituting sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incidentSuch notice shall be provided with sufficient time for the parties to prepare a response before any initial interview.

If, during the course of the investigation, new Title IX allegations arise about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the initial notice, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties.

- 3. A statement that retaliation is prohibited
- 4. A statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of such evidence, as specified

The above notice may also include the name of the investigator, facilitator of an informal process, and decisionmaker

and shall inform the parties that, if at any time a party has concerns regarding conflict of interest or bias regarding any of these persons, the party should immediately notify the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

# **Consolidation of Complaints**

The district may consolidate complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, against more than one respondent; by more than one complainant against one or more respondents; or by one party against another party, when the allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, arise out of the same facts or circumstances. (34 CFR 106.45)

# **Investigation Procedures**

The district shall provide for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints. (34 CFR 106.45)

During the investigation process, the district's designated investigator shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible
- 2. Review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine which evidence is relevant and which evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance
- 3. Provide each party with an equal opportunity to access evidence that is relevant, and not otherwise impermissible, to the allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, by:
  - a. Providing an equal opportunity to access either the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of such evidence

If an accurate description is provided, the district shall, upon request of any party, provide the parties with an equal opportunity to access the relevant and permissible evidence.

- b. Providing a reasonable opportunity to respond to the evidence or to the accurate description of the evidence
- c. Taking reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the grievance procedures
- 4. Take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of parties and witnesses which do not restrict the ability of the parties to obtain and present evidence, including, by speaking to witnesses; consulting with family members, confidential resources, or advisors; or otherwise preparing for or participating in the grievance procedures
- 5. Objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, including that credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as complainant, respondent, or witness
- 6. Exclude as impermissible the following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence:
  - a. Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by state or federal law or evidence that is provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege
  - b. A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless the district obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures

Evidence that relates to the complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless evidence about the complainant's prior sexual conduct is offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct or is evidence about specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to the alleged sex-based

#### harassment.

The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent to the alleged sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

The district shall ensure that the decisionmaker is able to question parties and witnesses adequately to assess a party's or witness's credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations of sex-based harassment. (34 CFR 106.45)

If the complaint is against an employee, rights conferred under an applicable collective bargaining agreement shall be applied to the extent they do not conflict with the Title IX requirements.

The investigator shall complete the investigation within \_\_\_\_ days after the Title IX Coordinator determines to proceed with an investigation, unless such timeline is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

# Written Decision

The Superintendent shall designate an employee as the decisionmaker to determine responsibility for the alleged conduct, who may be the Title IX Coordinator or designee or the investigator so long as there is no conflict of interest or bias. (34 CFR 106.45)

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Use the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof to determine whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, has occurred
- 2. Notify the parties in writing of the determination of whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred

The notification shall include the rationale for such determination and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal, if applicable.

The written decision shall be issued within \_\_\_\_\_days after the investigation is completed, unless such time is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

## Appeal of the Decision

Either party may appeal the district's decision of a complaint or any allegation in the complaint. (34 CFR 106.45)

When conducting an appeal, the district shall follow the appeal process as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

Either party has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights within 180 days of the date of the most recently alleged misconduct.

The complainant shall be advised of any civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders that may be available under state or federal antidiscrimination laws, if applicable.

# **Extension of Timelines**

Any timelines specified in this administrative regulation may be extended by the district for good cause, with written notice to the parties. The written notice shall specify the reasons for the extension. (34 CFR 106.45)

# Remedies

When there is a determination that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, has occurred, the Title IX Coordinator shall coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to the complainant and other persons the district identifies as having had equal access to the district's education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment; coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent as described in "Disciplinary Actions" below, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions; and take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

# **Disciplinary Actions**

The district shall not impose any disciplinary sanctions or other actions against a respondent, other than supportive measures as described above in the section "Supportive Measures," until the complaint procedure has been completed and a determination of responsibility has been made. (34 CFR 106.44, 106.45)

When an employee is found to have committed sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, or retaliation, the district shall take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with applicable law and collective bargaining agreement.

The district shall not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the grievance procedures for making a false statement or for engaging in consensual sexual conduct based solely on the district's determination of whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred. (34 CFR 106.45)

# **Record-Keeping**

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain, for at least a period of seven years: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. For each complaint of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, records documenting any informal resolution process or formal investigation procedures
- For each notification the Title IX Coordinator or designee receives of information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, records documenting the actions taken to fulfill the district's obligations as specified in 34 CFR 106.44, including supportive measures offered and implemented
- 3. All materials used to train district employees; the Title IX Coordinator and designee(s); investigator(s), decisionmaker(s), and other person(s) who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process

The district shall make such training materials available upon request by members of the public.

For complaints containing allegations of childhood sexual assault, the Superintendent or designee shall also indefinitely maintain the following: (Code of Civil Procedure340.1):

- 1. A record of the allegation(s)
- 2. A record of the investigation procedures followed
- 3. A record of the written determination
- 4. A record of the corrective action implemented, if any
- 5. A record of any appeals and the outcome of the same
- 6. All training materials addressing the prohibition and investigation of childhood sexual assault

# Board Policy Manual Point Arena Schools

# Exhibit 4219.12-E(1): Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

# NOTICE OF TITLE IX NONDISCRIMINATION

The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Section 106.8 requires the district to issue the following notification to employees, job applicants, and employee organizations:

The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in any education program or activity that it operates. The prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sex is required by federal law (20 USC 1681-1688; 34 CFR Part 106) and extends to employment. The district also prohibits retaliation against any employee for filing a complaint or exercising any right granted under Title IX.

The district is required, as specified in Title IX, to take prompt and equitable action to address any potential Title IX violations that are brought to its attention. Any inquiries about the application of Title IX, this notice, and who is protected by Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The district has designated and authorized the following employee(s) as the district's Title IX Coordinator, to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sex-based harassment:

Superintendent (707) 882-2803 45 Lake Street, PO Box 87 Point Arena, CA 95468

Any individual may report sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator or any other school employee at any time, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon receiving an allegation of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly notify the parties, in writing, of the applicable district complaint procedure.

To view an electronic copy of the district's policies and administrative regulations on sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, including the grievance process that complies with 34 CFR 106.45, please see Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment, and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures on the district's website at www.pointarenaschools.org.

To inspect or obtain a copy of the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policies and administrative regulations, please contact: The District Office, 707-882-2803, 45 Lake Street, Point Arena, CA 95468.

Materials used to train employees; the Title IX Coordinator; investigator(s), decisionmaker(s), and other person(s) who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; and any person(s) who facilitates an informal resolution process, are available at the district office upon request.

# Board Policy Manual Point Arena Schools

# Regulation 4319.12: Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures

Status: DRAFT

#### Original Adopted Date: 07/01/2020 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The complaint procedures described in this administrative regulation shall be used to address any complaint governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 alleging that a district employee, while in an education program or activity, was subjected to conduct on or after August 1, 2024, including, but not limited to, conduct that is under the authority of the district, that constitutes sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. For conduct that occurred prior to this date, the district should utilize its policies in place at the time the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred, so long as they are in accordance with the applicable statutes and regulations.

Sex discrimination and sex-based harassment include, but are not limited to, sex-based conduct as specified in Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment.

## **Basic Requirements**

When implementing Title IX grievance procedures, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Treat complainants and respondents equitably
- 2. Ensure that the Title IX Coordinator or designee, investigator, or decisionmaker not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent

The investigator and the decisionmaker may be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

- 3. Presume that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, until a determination is made at the conclusion of the grievance procedures
- 4. Establish reasonably prompt timeframes for the major stages of the grievance procedures, such as evaluation of whether to dismiss or investigate a complaint, investigation, decision, and appeals if any
- 5. Establish a process that allows for the reasonable extension of timeframes on a case-by-case basis for good cause with notice to the parties that includes the reason for the delay

Additionally, the district shall not disclose personally identifiable information obtained while implementing Title IX complaint procedures unless the district has obtained prior written consent from a person with the legal right to consent to the disclosure; the information is disclosed to a parent/guardian or other authorized legal representative with the legal right to receive disclosures on behalf of the person whose personally identifiable information is at issue; to take action to address conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, in the district's education program or activity; as required by federal law, regulations, or as a condition to a federal award; as required by state or local law; or to the extent such disclosures are not otherwise in conflict with Title IX. (34 CFR 106.44)

If the respondent is a student with a disability, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consult with one or more members, as appropriate, of the student's individualized education program or 504 team, to determine how to comply with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

## Filing a Complaint

Upon receiving information of an allegation of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall notify the individual(s) specified in law of the Title IX grievance procedures, and of the informal resolution process, if available and appropriate.

A complaint is an oral or written request that can objectively be understood by the Title IX Coordinator or designee

as a request for the district to investigate and make a determination about alleged sex discrimination, including sexbased harassment. (34 CFR 106.2)

Complaints of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment may only be brought by an employee, or former employee, who was participating or attempting to participate in the district's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex-based harassment, or the Title IX Coordinator or designee. (34 CFR 106.45)

If the alleged victim chooses not to bring a complaint, or withdraws any or all of the allegations in a complaint, and in the absence or termination of an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consider whether to initiate a complaint. To do so, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall first consider the following factors: (34 CFR 106.44)

- 1. The victim's request not to proceed with initiation of a complaint
- 2. The victim's reasonable safety concerns regarding initiation of a complaint
- 3. The risk that additional acts of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, would occur if a complaint is not initiated
- 4. The severity of the alleged sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, including whether the discrimination, if established, would require the removal of a respondent from campus or imposition of another disciplinary sanction to end the discrimination and prevent its recurrence
- 5. The age and relationship of the parties, including whether the respondent is an employee of the district
- 6. The scope of the alleged sex discrimination, including information suggesting a pattern; ongoing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment; or sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, alleged to have impacted multiple individuals
- 7. The availability of evidence to assist a decisionmaker in determining whether sex discrimination, including sexbased harassment, occurred
- 8. Whether the district could end the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and prevent its recurrence without initiating the Title IX grievance procedures

If, after considering these factors, the Title IX Coordinator determines that the alleged conduct presents an imminent and serious threat to the health and safety of the complainant or another person, or that the conduct as alleged prevents the district from ensuring equal access to a district program or activity on the basis of sex, the Title IX Coordinator may initiate a complaint.

If the Title IX Coordinator initiates a complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide the alleged victim notice of the complaint as well as other notices as required by the Title IX regulations at specific points in the complaint process. The Title IX Coordinator shall also address reasonable concerns about the victim's safety or the safety of others, including providing supportive measures as described in "Supportive Measures" below, and taking other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district. (34 CFR 106.44)

The Title IX Coordinator or designee, investigator, decisionmaker, other person who is responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures, or a facilitator of an informal resolution process shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. Such persons shall receive training in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8. (34 CFR 106.44)

In order to ensure that employees are not barred from reporting information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator shall monitor the district for barriers to reporting and take steps reasonably calculated to address such barriers. (34 CFR 106.44, 106.45)

### **Supportive Measures**

Upon receipt of a report of Title IX sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall offer and coordinate supportive measures. Supportive measures may vary depending on what the district determines to be reasonably available and shall not unreasonably burden either the complainant or respondent. Supportive measures shall be provided without charging a fee to the complainant or respondent and be designed to protect the safety of the complainant, respondent, and the district's educational environment, and to provide support during any grievance procedures implemented as specified in 34 CFR 106.45 or informal resolution process as specified in 34 CFR 106.44. The district shall not impose such measures for punitive or disciplinary reasons. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to, counseling; extensions of deadlines and other course- or work-related adjustment; changes in class, work, housing, or extracurricular or any other activity regardless of whether there is a comparable alternative; campus escort services; modifications of class or work schedules; mutual restrictions on contact; changes in class or work locations; leaves of absence; increased security; monitoring of certain areas of the campus; and, training and education programs related to sex-based harassment. (34 CFR 106.2, 106.44)

Unless there is an allegation of sex-based harassment or retaliation, the district may provide supportive measures without altering the alleged discriminatory conduct. (34 CFR 106.44)

Upon the conclusion of any grievance procedures implemented as specified in 34 CFR 106.45 or informal resolution process as specified in 34 CFR 106.44, the district may continue with the supportive measures, or modify or terminate such measures, as appropriate. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall provide a complainant or respondent for whom supportive measures have been implemented with a timely opportunity to seek, from an impartial employee with authority to modify or reverse the supportive measures, modification or reversal of the district's decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate such measures, and to seek additional modification or termination of the supportive measures if circumstances materially change. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall not disclose information about supportive measures to any person other than the person to whom they apply, including informing one party of supportive measures provided to another party, unless the disclosure is necessary to providing the supportive measures, or restoring or preserving a party's access to the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.44)

## **Emergency Removal**

If a district employee is the respondent, the employee may be placed on administrative leave during the pendency of the formal complaint process. (34 CFR 106.44)

If the respondent is a student, the district may, on an emergency basis, remove the student from the district's education program or activity, provided that the district conducts an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that removal is justified due to an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of a complainant or any student, employee, or other individual arising from the allegations, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. This authority to remove a student does not modify a student's rights under the IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (34 CFR 106.44)

# **Dismissal of Complaint**

The Title IX Coordinator or designee may dismiss a complaint if: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. The district is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so
- 2. The respondent is not participating in the district's education program or activity and is not employed by the district
- 3. The district determines that the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX

Before dismissing the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

4. The complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all of the allegations in the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint, and the Title IX Coordinator determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX, even if proven

The Title IX Coordinator shall determine whether to dismiss or investigate any complaint of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, within \_\_\_\_\_days, unless such timeline is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

Upon dismissal, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly notify the complainant of the dismissal and the reasons for the dismissal. Additionally, if the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide such notification to the respondent, which shall occur simultaneously to both parties if the notification is in writing. The Title IX Coordinator shall also inform the complainant, and the respondent if the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, of their right to appeal. Dismissals may be appealed on the following bases: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. A procedural irregularity that would change the outcome
- 2. New evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the dismissal was made
- 3. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decisionmaker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome

If the dismissal is appealed, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Notify the parties of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent
- 2. Implement appeal procedures equally for the parties
- 3. Ensure that the decisionmaker for the appeal did not take part in an investigation of the allegations or dismissal of the complaint
- 4. Ensure that the decisionmaker for the appeal has been trained consistent with the Title IX regulations
- 5. Provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome
- 6. Notify the parties of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result

If a complaint is dismissed, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall offer supportive measures as described above in "Supportive Measures" to the complainant. Additionally, the respondent shall be offered supportive measures if the complaint was dismissed because the complainant voluntarily withdrew any or all of the allegations in the complaint and the district determined that without the withdrawn allegations the conduct, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX, or if the complaint was dismissed because the district determined, after taking reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations of the complaint, that the alleged conduct would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, even if proven. The Title IX Coordinator shall also take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

If a complaint is dismissed, the conduct may still be addressed pursuant to Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment as applicable.

## **Informal Resolution Process**

At any time prior to determining whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred under the complaint procedures specified in 34 CFR 106.45, the district may offer, if it is determined to be appropriate upon receiving information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or when a complaint of sex discrimination is made, an informal resolution process, such as mediation, to the complainant and respondent. However, the district shall not offer an informal resolution process if the complaint alleges that an employee engaged in sex-based harassment of an elementary or secondary school student or that such process would conflict with federal, state, or local law. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall not require or pressure a party to participate in the informal resolution process, or to waive the right to an investigation and determination of a complaint as a condition of employment or continuing employment, or exercise of any other right. The district may decline to offer an informal resolution process including, but not limited to, when the district determines that the alleged conduct would present a future risk of harm to others. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district may facilitate an informal resolution process provided that the district, prior to initiating such process: (34 CFR 106.44)

- 1. Provides the parties with written notice disclosing the allegations; the requirements of the informal resolution process; the right to withdraw from the informal process and resume the formal complaint process; the inability to initiate or resume complaint procedures arising from the same allegations once the informal resolution process is concluded; the potential terms that may be requested or offered in an informal resolution agreement, including that the agreement would only be binding on the parties; and the information that the district will maintain and whether and how the district could disclose such information for use in Title IX grievance procedures if such procedures are initiated or resumed
- 2. Obtains the parties' voluntary consent to the informal resolution process

The Title IX Coordinator or designee shall ensure that the facilitator of the informal resolution process is not the same person as the investigator or decisionmaker of any ongoing or newly initiated complaint process specified in 34 CFR 106.45, does not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent, and receives training in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8. (34 CFR 106.44)

If the district facilitates an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall, to the extent necessary, take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district' education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

# **Notice of Allegations**

If the district initiates a formal Title IX investigation, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall provide the known parties with written notice of the following: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. The district's complaint process, including any informal resolution process
- 2. Sufficient information, available at the time, to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including, to the extent available, the identity of parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct allegedly constituting sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incidentSuch notice shall be provided with sufficient time for the parties to prepare a response before any initial interview.

If, during the course of the investigation, new Title IX allegations arise about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the initial notice, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties.

- 3. A statement that retaliation is prohibited
- 4. A statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of such evidence, as specified

The above notice may also include the name of the investigator, facilitator of an informal process, and decisionmaker

and shall inform the parties that, if at any time a party has concerns regarding conflict of interest or bias regarding any of these persons, the party should immediately notify the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

# **Consolidation of Complaints**

The district may consolidate complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, against more than one respondent; by more than one complainant against one or more respondents; or by one party against another party, when the allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, arise out of the same facts or circumstances. (34 CFR 106.45)

## **Investigation Procedures**

The district shall provide for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints. (34 CFR 106.45)

During the investigation process, the district's designated investigator shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible
- 2. Review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine which evidence is relevant and which evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance
- 3. Provide each party with an equal opportunity to access evidence that is relevant, and not otherwise impermissible, to the allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, by:
  - a. Providing an equal opportunity to access either the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of such evidence

If an accurate description is provided, the district shall, upon request of any party, provide the parties with an equal opportunity to access the relevant and permissible evidence.

- b. Providing a reasonable opportunity to respond to the evidence or to the accurate description of the evidence
- c. Taking reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the grievance procedures
- 4. Take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of parties and witnesses which do not restrict the ability of the parties to obtain and present evidence, including, by speaking to witnesses; consulting with family members, confidential resources, or advisors; or otherwise preparing for or participating in the grievance procedures
- 5. Objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, including that credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as complainant, respondent, or witness
- 6. Exclude as impermissible the following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence:
  - a. Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by state or federal law or evidence that is provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege
  - b. A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless the district obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures

Evidence that relates to the complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless evidence about the complainant's prior sexual conduct is offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct or is evidence about specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to the alleged sex-based

#### harassment.

The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent to the alleged sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

The district shall ensure that the decisionmaker is able to question parties and witnesses adequately to assess a party's or witness's credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations of sex-based harassment. (34 CFR 106.45)

If the complaint is against an employee, rights conferred under an applicable collective bargaining agreement shall be applied to the extent they do not conflict with the Title IX requirements.

The investigator shall complete the investigation within \_\_\_\_ days after the Title IX Coordinator determines to proceed with an investigation, unless such timeline is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

# Written Decision

The Superintendent shall designate an employee as the decisionmaker to determine responsibility for the alleged conduct, who may be the Title IX Coordinator or designee or the investigator so long as there is no conflict of interest or bias. (34 CFR 106.45)

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Use the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof to determine whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, has occurred
- 2. Notify the parties in writing of the determination of whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred

The notification shall include the rationale for such determination and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal, if applicable.

The written decision shall be issued within \_\_\_\_\_days after the investigation is completed, unless such time is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

## Appeal of the Decision

Either party may appeal the district's decision of a complaint or any allegation in the complaint. (34 CFR 106.45)

When conducting an appeal, the district shall follow the appeal process as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

Either party has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights within 180 days of the date of the most recently alleged misconduct.

The complainant shall be advised of any civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders that may be available under state or federal antidiscrimination laws, if applicable.

# **Extension of Timelines**

Any timelines specified in this administrative regulation may be extended by the district for good cause, with written notice to the parties. The written notice shall specify the reasons for the extension. (34 CFR 106.45)

# Remedies

When there is a determination that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, has occurred, the Title IX Coordinator shall coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to the complainant and other persons the district identifies as having had equal access to the district's education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment; coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent as described in "Disciplinary Actions" below, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions; and take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

# **Disciplinary Actions**

The district shall not impose any disciplinary sanctions or other actions against a respondent, other than supportive measures as described above in the section "Supportive Measures," until the complaint procedure has been completed and a determination of responsibility has been made. (34 CFR 106.44, 106.45)

When an employee is found to have committed sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, or retaliation, the district shall take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with applicable law and collective bargaining agreement.

The district shall not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the grievance procedures for making a false statement or for engaging in consensual sexual conduct based solely on the district's determination of whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred. (34 CFR 106.45)

# **Record-Keeping**

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain, for at least a period of seven years: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. For each complaint of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, records documenting any informal resolution process or formal investigation procedures
- For each notification the Title IX Coordinator or designee receives of information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, records documenting the actions taken to fulfill the district's obligations as specified in 34 CFR 106.44, including supportive measures offered and implemented
- 3. All materials used to train district employees; the Title IX Coordinator and designee(s); investigator(s), decisionmaker(s), and other person(s) who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process

The district shall make such training materials available upon request by members of the public.

For complaints containing allegations of childhood sexual assault, the Superintendent or designee shall also indefinitely maintain the following: (Code of Civil Procedure340.1):

- 1. A record of the allegation(s)
- 2. A record of the investigation procedures followed
- 3. A record of the written determination
- 4. A record of the corrective action implemented, if any
- 5. A record of any appeals and the outcome of the same
- 6. All training materials addressing the prohibition and investigation of childhood sexual assault

# Board Policy Manual Point Arena Schools

# Exhibit 4319.12-E(1): Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

# NOTICE OF TITLE IX NONDISCRIMINATION

The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Section 106.8 requires the district to issue the following notification to employees, job applicants, and employee organizations:

The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in any education program or activity that it operates. The prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sex is required by federal law (20 USC 1681-1688; 34 CFR Part 106) and extends to employment. The district also prohibits retaliation against any employee for filing a complaint or exercising any right granted under Title IX.

The district is required, as specified in Title IX, to take prompt and equitable action to address any potential Title IX violations that are brought to its attention. Any inquiries about the application of Title IX, this notice, and who is protected by Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The district has designated and authorized the following employee(s) as the district's Title IX Coordinator, to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sex-based harassment:

Superintendent (707) 882-2803 45 Lake Street, PO Box 87 Point Arena, CA 95468

Any individual may report sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator or any other school employee at any time, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon receiving an allegation of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly notify the parties, in writing, of the applicable district complaint procedure.

To view an electronic copy of the district's policies and administrative regulations on sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, including the grievance process that complies with 34 CFR 106.45, please see Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment, and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures on the district's website at www.pointarenaschools.org

To inspect or obtain a copy of the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policies and administrative regulations, please contact: Point Arena Schools District Office, (707) 882-2803, 45 Lake Street, Point Arena, CA 95468.

Materials used to train employees; the Title IX Coordinator; investigator(s), decisionmaker(s), and other person(s) who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; and any person(s) who facilitates an informal resolution process, are available at the district office upon request.

# Policy 5145.3: Nondiscrimination/Harassment

# Original Adopted Date: 10/01/2014 | Last Revised Date: 12/13/2023

This policy shall apply to all acts constituting unlawful discrimination or harassment related to school activity or to school attendance occurring within a district school, to acts which occur off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored activities but which may have an impact or create a hostile environment at school, and to all acts of the Governing Board and the Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the district.

The Board desires to provide a welcoming, safe, and supportive school environment that allows all students equal access to and opportunities in the district's academic, extracurricular, and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, of any student by anyone, based on the student's actual or perceived race; color; ancestry; nationality; national origin; immigration status; ethnic group identification; ethnicity; age; religion; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery; parental, marital, and family status; physical or mental disability; medical condition; sex; sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; or genetic information; or, association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct based on any of the categories listed above. Unlawful discrimination also occurs when prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

Unlawful discrimination also includes disparate treatment of students based on one of the categories above with respect to the provision of opportunities to participate in school programs or activities or the provision or receipt of educational benefits or services.

Because unlawful discrimination could occur when disciplining students, including suspension and expulsion, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff enforce discipline rules fairly, consistently and in a non-discriminatory manner, as specified in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144 - Discipline, Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process, and Administrative Regulation 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities).

The Board also prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who reports or participates in the reporting of unlawful discrimination, files or participates in the filing of a complaint, or investigates, participates, or refuses to participate in the investigation of a complaint or report alleging unlawful discrimination. Retaliation complaints shall be investigated and resolved in the same manner as a discrimination complaint.

The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate students' access to the educational program by publicizing the district's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures to students, parents/guardians, and employees. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall post the district's policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying and other required information on the district's website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students, in accordance with law and the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 234.1, 234.6; 34 CFR 106.8)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training and/or information on the scope and use of the policy and complaint procedures and take other measures designed to increase the school community's understanding of the requirements of law related to discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the implementation of the district's nondiscrimination policies and practices and, as necessary, shall take action to remove any identified barrier to student access to or participation in the district's educational program. The Superintendent or designee shall report the findings and recommendations to the Board after each review.

Regardless of whether a complainant complies with the writing, timeline, and/or other formal filing requirements, all complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, shall be investigated and prompt action taken to stop the discrimination, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students.

Status: DRAFT

Students who engage in unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, in violation of law, Board policy, or administrative regulation shall be subject to appropriate consequence or discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion when the behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code 48900.4. Any employee who permits or engages in prohibited discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

When a student has been suspended, or other means of correction have been implemented against the student for an incident of racist bullying, harassment, or intimidation, the principal or designee shall engage both the victim and perpetrator in a restorative justice practice suitable to the needs of the students. The principal or designee shall also require the perpetrator to engage in a culturally sensitive program that promotes racial justice and equity and combats racism and ignorance and shall regularly check on the victim to ensure that the victim is not in danger of suffering from any long-lasting mental health issues. (Education Code 48900.5)

When appropriate based on the severity or pervasiveness of the bullying, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of victims and perpetrators and may contact law enforcement.

Allegations of unlawful discrimination in district programs and activities shall be brought, investigated, and resolved in accordance with Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, when required by law. However, complaints alleging sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

# **Record-Keeping**

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive prohibited behavior in district schools.

#### **Regulation 5145.3: Nondiscrimination/Harassment**

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/01/2016 | Last Revised Date: 04/06/2022

The district designates the individual(s) identified below as the Compliance Officer(s). The employee(s) is responsible for coordinating the district's efforts to comply with applicable state and federal civil rights laws and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies. The individual(s) shall also serve as the Compliance Officer(s) specified in Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures as the responsible employee to handle complaints alleging unlawful discrimination of a student, and the Title IX Coordinator specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.7 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment as the responsible employee to handle complaints alleging unlawful sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, as permitted by law. The Compliance Officer(s) may be contacted at: (Education Code 234.1; 5 CCR 4621)

Superintendent (707) 882-2803 45 Lake Street, PO Box 87 Point Arena, CA 95468

## **Measures to Prevent Discrimination**

To prevent unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, and bullying, of students at district schools or in school activities and to ensure equal access of all students to the educational program, the Superintendent or designee shall implement the following measures:

- 1. Publicize the district's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures, including the Compliance Officer's contact information, to students, parents/guardians, employees, volunteers, and the general public by posting them in prominent locations and providing easy access to them through district-supported communications
- 2. Post the district's policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination, harassment, student sex-based harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying, including a section on social media bullying that includes all of the references described in Education Code 234.6 as possible forums for social media, in a prominent location on the district's website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students (Education Code 234.1, 234.6)
- 3. Post the definition of sex discrimination and harassment as described in Education Code 230, including the rights set forth in Education Code 221.8, in a prominent location on the district's website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students (Education Code 234.6)
- 4. Post in a prominent location on the district website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students information regarding Title IX prohibitions against discrimination based on a student's sex; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery; and parental, marital, and family status, including the following: (Education Code 221.6, 221.61, 234.6)
  - a. The name and contact information of the district's Title IX Coordinator, including the phone number and email address
  - b. The rights of students and the public and the responsibilities of the district under Title IX, including a list of rights as specified in Education Code 221.8 and web links to information about those rights and responsibilities located on the websites of the Office for Equal Opportunity and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
  - c. A description of how to file a complaint of noncompliance under Title IX, which shall include:
    - i. An explanation of the statute of limitations within which a complaint must be filed after an alleged incident of discrimination has occurred and how a complaint may be filed beyond the statute of limitations
    - ii. An explanation of how the complaint will be investigated and how the complainant may further

pursue the complaint, including web links to this information on OCR's website

- iii. A web link to the OCR complaints form and the contact information for the office, including the phone number and email address for the office
- d. A link to the Title IX information included on the California Department of Education's (CDE) website
- 5. By April 1, 2025, post CDE's standardized incident form to track racial discrimination, harassment, or hazing that occurs at high school sporting games or events, including information on how to submit a completed incident form to the district (Education Code 33353)
- 6. Post in a prominent location on the district's website and include in each handbook, catalog, announcement, bulletin, and application form for students, parents/guardians or other authorized legal representative, and employees, the Title IX notice of nondiscrimination which includes the following: (34 CFR 106.8)
  - a. The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that it operates
  - b. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator and/or OCR
  - c. The name or title, office and email address, and telephone number of the district's Title IX Coordinator
  - d. How to locate the district's nondiscrimination policy and the district's grievance procedures for Title IX complaints
  - e. How to report conduct that may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX
  - f. How to make a complaint of Title IX sex discrimination

If necessary due to the format or size of any publication specified above, the district may include only the statement that the district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, that individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator, and the location of the complete notice on the district's website.

The district shall not distribute a publication stating that the district treats students, employees or applicants differently on the basis of sex, unless such treatment is permitted by Title IX.

7. Post a link to statewide CDE-compiled resources, including community-based organizations, that provide support to youth who have been subjected to school-based discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying and to their families (Education Code 234.5)

Such resources shall be posted in a prominent location on the district's website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. (Education Code 234.6)

- 8. Provide to students a handbook that contains age-appropriate information that clearly describes the district's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filing a complaint, and resources available to students who feel that they have been the victim of any such behavior
- 9. Annually notify all students and parents/guardians of the district's nondiscrimination policy, including its responsibility to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory school environment for all students

The notice shall inform students and parents/guardians that they may request to meet with the Compliance Officer to determine how best to accommodate or resolve concerns that may arise from the district's implementation of its nondiscrimination policies. The notice shall also inform all students and parents/guardians that, to the extent possible, the district will address any individual student's interests and concerns in private.

10. Ensure that students and parents/guardians, including those with limited English proficiency, are notified of how to access the relevant information provided in the district's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures, notices, and forms in a language they can understand

If 15 percent or more of students enrolled in a particular district school speak a single primary language other than English, the district's policy, regulation, forms, and notices concerning nondiscrimination shall be translated into that language in accordance with Education Code 234.1 and 48985. In all other instances, the district shall ensure meaningful access to all relevant information for parents/guardians with limited English proficiency.

11. Provide to students, employees, volunteers, and parents/guardians age-appropriate training and/or information regarding the district's nondiscrimination policy; what constitutes prohibited discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying; how and to whom a report of an incident should be made; and how to guard against segregating or stereotyping students when providing instruction, guidance, supervision, or other services to them

Such training and information shall include details of guidelines the district may use to provide a discrimination-free environment for all district students.

- 12. Provide to certificated employees serving students in grades 7-12 information on existing school and community resources related to the support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) students, or related to the support of students who may face bias or bullying on the basis of any of the actual or perceived characteristics in Penal Code 422.55, including immigration status; Education Code 220; and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics (Education Code 234.1)
- 13. For the 2025-2026 school year through the 2029-2030 school year, provide annually to certificated employees serving students in grades 7-12 at least one hour of training to support LGBTQ+ cultural competency in accordance with Education Code 218.3
- 14. At the beginning of each school year, inform school employees that any employee who witnesses any act of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, against a student is required to intervene if it is safe to do so (Education Code 234.1)
- 15. At the beginning of each school year, inform each principal or designee of the district's responsibility to provide appropriate assistance or resources to protect students from threatened or potentially discriminatory behavior and ensure their privacy rights

## **Process for Initiating and Responding to Complaints**

Students who feel that they have been subjected to unlawful discrimination described above or in district policy are strongly encouraged to immediately contact the Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator, principal, or any other staff member. In addition, students who observe any such incident are strongly encouraged to report the incident to the Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator, or principal, regardless of whether the alleged victim files a complaint.

Any school employee who observes an incident of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, or to whom such an incident is reported shall report the incident to the Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator, or principal within one workday, regardless of whether the alleged victim files a complaint.

Any school employee who witnesses an incident of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, shall immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so. (Education Code 234.1)

When a report of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, is made to or received by the principal, Compliance Officer, or Title IX Coordinator, the principal, Compliance officer, or Title IX Coordinator shall notify the student or parent/guardian of the right to file a formal complaint in accordance with Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures or, for complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the right to initiate the Title IX grievance procedures as specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures. Once notified verbally or in writing, the Compliance Officer or Title IX Coordinator shall begin the investigation and shall implement immediate measures necessary to stop the discrimination and ensure that all students have access to the educational program and a safe school environment. Any interim measures adopted to address unlawful discrimination shall, to the extent possible, not disadvantage the complaination or a student who is the victim of the

alleged unlawful discrimination.

Any report or complaint alleging unlawful discrimination by the principal, Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator, or any other person to whom a report would ordinarily be made or complaint filed shall instead be made to or filed with the Superintendent or designee who shall determine how the complaint will be investigated.

#### Policy 5145.7: Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2012 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining a welcoming, safe, and supportive school environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. The Board prohibits at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities, sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, as defined in the accompanying administrative regulation, targeted at any student, based on the student's actual or perceived sex; sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery; and, parental, marital, and family status.

Additionally, the Board prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who complains or testifies about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, reports such conduct, or otherwise participates or refuses to participate in the complaint process established for the purpose of this policy. (Education Code 220.1; 34 CFR 106.71)

The district strongly encourages students who feel that they are being or have experienced sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or off-campus when the conduct has a continuing effect on campus, to immediately contact their teacher, the principal, the district's Title IX Coordinator, or any other available school employee.

Any employee who receives a report or observes an incident of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, by or against a student in a district education program or activity shall report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator within one workday.

Once notified, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure the complaint or allegation is addressed through Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the complainant and, if the district has begun grievance procedures or offered an informal resolution process to the respondent, offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the respondent as deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district staff are trained regarding the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policy, and that all employees receive training related to their duties under Title IX as specified in Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment. (34 CFR 106.8)

### Instruction/Information

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

- 1. What acts and behavior constitute sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, including the fact that sex discrimination and sex-based harassment could occur between people of the same sex and could involve sexual violence
- 2. A clear message that students do not have to endure sex discrimination or sex-based harassment under any circumstance
- 3. Encouragement to report observed incidents of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment even when the alleged victim of the discrimination or harassment has not complained
- 4. A clear message that student safety is the district's primary concern, and that any separate rule violation involving an alleged victim or any other person reporting a sex discrimination or sex-based harassment incident

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will be addressed separately and will not affect the manner in which the sex discrimination or sex-based harassment complaint will be received, investigated, or resolved

- 5. A clear message that, regardless of a complainant's noncompliance with the writing, timeline, or other formal filing requirements, every sex discrimination and sex-based harassment allegation that involves a student, whether as the complainant, respondent, or victim of the discrimination or harassment, shall be investigated and action shall be taken to respond to harassment, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students
- 6. Information about the district's procedures for investigating complaints and the person(s) to whom a report of sex discrimination and/or sex-based harassment should be made
- 7. Information about the rights of students and parents/guardians to file a civil or criminal complaint, as applicable, including the right to file a civil or criminal complaint while the district investigation of a sex discrimination or sex-based harassment complaint continues
- 8. A clear message that, when needed, the district will implement supportive measures to ensure a safe school environment for a student who is the complainant or victim of sex discrimination or sex-based harassment and/or other students during an investigation

#### **Disciplinary Actions**

Upon completion of an investigation of sex discrimination and/or sex-based harassment, any student found to have engaged in sex discrimination, and/or sex-based harassment or sexual violence, in violation of this policy, shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4-12, 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.

Upon investigation of sex discrimination and/or sex-based harassment, any employee found to have engaged in sex discrimination against, and/or sex-based harassment or sexual violence toward, any student, shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with law and the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

#### **Record-Keeping**

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records in accordance with law, including in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8 as specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures, and district policies and regulations, of all reported cases of sex-based harassment to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in district schools.

**Regulation 5145.7: Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment** 

Original Adopted Date: 10/01/2014 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its programs or activities and complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations. Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, is prohibited in district education programs and activities.

#### Definitions

Sex discrimination includes treating a student differently with respect to the provision of opportunities to participate in school programs or activities or the provision or receipt of educational benefits or services based on the student's sex, sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions and recovery; parental, family, or marital status; or the student's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct and occurs when prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

*Sex-based harassment* is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, or other bases specified above. Conduct will constitute sex-based harassment when it takes the form of: (34 CFR 106.2, 106.11)

- 1. Quid pro quo harassment: A district employee, agent, or other individual authorized by the district to provide an aid, benefit, or service in the district's education program or activity conditioning the provision of district aid, benefit, or service on a student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct
- 2. Hostile environment harassment: Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the district's education program or activity

Any prohibited conduct that occurs off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored programs or activities will be regarded as sex-based harassment in violation of district policy if it has a continuing effect on a student's ability to participate in or benefit from district educational programs or activities.

3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 34 CFR 106.2

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the educational setting, under any of the following conditions: (Education Code 212.5; 5 CCR 4916)

- 1. Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's academic status or progress
- 2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by a student is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting the student
- 3. 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
- 4. 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

## **Examples of Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment**

Examples of types of conduct which are prohibited in the district and which may constitute sex- based harassment,

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under state and/or federal law, in accordance with the definitions above, include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Unwelcome leering, sexual flirtations, or propositions
- 2. Unwelcome sex-based slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, or sexually degrading descriptions
- 3. Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body or overly personal conversation
- 4. Sex-based jokes, derogatory posters, notes, stories, cartoons, drawings, pictures, obscene gestures, or computer-generated images of a sexual nature
- 5. Spreading sex-based rumors
- 6. Teasing or sexual remarks about students enrolled in a predominantly single-sex class
- 7. Massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking, or brushing the body
- 8. Touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way
- 9. Impeding or blocking movements or any physical interference with school activities when directed at an individual on the basis of sex
- 10. Displaying sexually suggestive objects
- 11. Sexual assault, sexual battery, or sexual coercion
- 12. Electronic communications containing comments, words, or images described above

#### Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer

The district designates the following individual(s) as the responsible employee(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX. The individual(s) shall also serve as the Compliance Officer(s) specified in Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures and Administrative Regulation 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment as the responsible employee(s) to handle student complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, as permitted by law. The Title IX Coordinator(s) may be contacted at:

Superintendent (707) 882-2803 45 Lake Street, PO Box 87 Point Arena, CA 95468

#### Notifications

To prevent unlawful sex discrimination and sex-based harassment in district programs and activities, the Superintendent or designee shall provide notifications and implement measures to prevent discrimination and harassment as specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment.

In addition to the measures to prevent discrimination specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.3 -Nondiscrimination/Harassment, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a copy of the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policy and regulation:

- 1. Is displayed in a prominent location in the main administrative building or other area where notices of district rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted (Education Code 231.5)
- 2. Is summarized on a poster, which shall be prominently and conspicuously displayed in each bathroom and locker room at each school

The poster may be displayed in public areas that are accessible to and frequented by students, including, but not limited to, classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and cafeterias. The poster shall display the rules and procedures for reporting a charge of sexual harassment; the name, phone number, and email address of an appropriate school employee to contact to report sexual harassment; the rights of the reporting student, the

complainant, and the respondent; and the responsibilities of the school. (Education Code 231.6)

- 3. Is provided as part of any orientation program conducted for new and continuing students at the time the student is enrolled or at the beginning of each quarter, semester, or summer session (Education Code 231.5)
- 4. Appears in any school or district publication that sets forth the school's or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct (Education Code 231.5)

#### **Reports and Complaints**

A student or a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) who believes that the student has been subjected to sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in a district program or activity or who has witnessed sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, is strongly encouraged to report the incident to the district's Title IX Coordinator, a teacher, the principal, or any other available school employee. Within one workday of receiving such a report, the principal or other school employee shall forward the report to the district's Title IX Coordinator. Any school employee who observes sex discrimination or sex-based harassment shall, within one workday, report the observation to the Title IX Coordinator as specified in the accompanying board policy. The report shall be made regardless of whether the alleged victim files a formal complaint or requests confidentiality.

When a report or complaint of sex discrimination or sex-based harassment involves off-campus conduct, the Title IX Coordinator shall assess whether the conduct may create or contribute to the creation of a hostile school environment. If the Title IX Coordinator determines that a hostile environment may be created, the complaint shall be investigated and resolved in the same manner as if the prohibited conduct occurred at school.

#### **Complaint Procedures**

All complaints and allegations of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

#### Issues Unique to Intersex, Nonbinary, Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students

*Gender identity of a student* means the student's gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior as determined from the student's internal sense, regardless of whether that gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the student's physiology or assigned sex at birth.

*Gender expression* means a student's gender-related appearance and behavior, whether stereotypically associated with the student's assigned sex at birth. (Education Code 210.7)

*Gender transition* refers to the process in which a student changes from living and identifying as the sex assigned to the student at birth to living and identifying as the sex that corresponds to the student's gender identity.

Gender-nonconforming student means a student whose gender expression differs from stereotypical expectations.

*Intersex student* means a student with natural bodily variations in anatomy, hormones, chromosomes, and other traits that differ from expectations generally associated with female and male bodies.

*Nonbinary student* means a student whose gender identity falls outside of the traditional conception of strictly either female or male, regardless of whether the student identifies as transgender, was born with intersex traits, uses gender-neutral pronouns, or uses agender, genderqueer, pangender, gender nonconforming, gender variant, or such other more specific term to describe their gender.

*Transgender student* means a student whose gender identity is different from the gender assigned at birth.

The district prohibits acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility that are based on sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, or that have the purpose or effect of producing a negative impact on the student's academic performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment, regardless of whether the acts are sexual in nature. Examples of the types of conduct that are prohibited in the district and which may constitute sex-based hostile environment harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Refusing to address a student by a name and the pronouns consistent with the student's gender identity

- 2. Disciplining or disparaging a student or excluding the student from participating in activities, for behavior or appearance that is consistent with the student's gender identity or that does not conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity, as applicable
- 3. Blocking a student's entry to the restroom that corresponds to the student's gender identity
- 4. Taunting a student because the student participates in an athletic activity more typically favored by a student of the other sex
- 5. Revealing a student's gender identity to individuals who do not have a legitimate need for the information, without the student's consent
- 6. Using gender-specific slurs
- 7. Assaulting a student because of the student's gender, sex characteristic, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression

To ensure that intersex, nonbinary, transgender, and gender-nonconforming students are afforded the same rights, benefits, and protections provided to all students by law and Board policy, the district shall address each situation on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Right to privacy: A student's intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming status is the student's private information

The district shall develop strategies to prevent unauthorized disclosure of students' private information. Such strategies may include, but are not limited to, collecting or maintaining information about student gender only when relevant to the educational program or activity, protecting or revealing a student's gender identity as necessary to protect the health or safety of the student, and keeping a student's unofficial record separate from the official record.

The district shall only disclose the information to others with the student's prior written consent, except when the disclosure is otherwise required by law or when the district has compelling evidence that disclosure is necessary to preserve the student's physical or mental well-being. (Education Code 220.3, 220.5; 34 CFR 99.31, 99.36)

The district shall only allow disclosure of a student's personally identifiable information to employees in accordance with law. Any district employee to whom a student's intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming status is disclosed shall keep the student's information confidential. When disclosure of a student's gender identity is made to a district employee by a student, the employee shall seek the student's permission to notify the Compliance Officer. If the student refuses to give permission, the employee shall keep the student's information confidential, unless the employee is required to disclose or report the student's information pursuant to this administrative regulation, and shall inform the student that honoring the student's request may limit the district's ability to meet the student's needs related to the student's status as an intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming student. If the student permits the employee to notify the Compliance Officer, the employee shall do so within three school days.

As appropriate given the student's need for support, the Compliance Officer may discuss with the student any need to disclose the student's intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconformity status or gender identity or gender expression to the student's parents/guardians and/or others, including other students, teacher(s), or other adults on campus. The district shall offer support services, such as counseling, to students who wish to inform their parents/guardians of their status and request assistance in doing so.

- 2. Determining a Student's Gender Identity: The Compliance Officer shall accept the student's assertion of gender identity and begin to treat the student consistent with that gender identity unless district personnel present a credible and supportable basis for believing that the student's assertion is for an improper purpose
- 3. Addressing a Student's Transition Needs: The Compliance Officer shall arrange a meeting with the student and, if appropriate, the student's parents/guardians to identify and develop strategies for ensuring that the student's access to educational programs and activities is maintained

The meeting shall discuss the intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming student's rights and

how those rights may affect and be affected by the rights of other students and shall address specific subjects related to the student's access to facilities and to academic or educational support programs, services, or activities, including, but not limited to, sports and other competitive endeavors. In addition, the Compliance Officer shall identify specific school site employee(s) to whom the student may report any problem related to the student's status as an intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming individual, so that prompt action can be taken to address it. Alternatively, if appropriate and desired by the student, the school may form a support team for the student that will meet periodically to assess whether the arrangements for the student are meeting the student's educational needs and providing equal access to programs and activities, educate appropriate staff about the student's transition, and serve as a resource to the student to better protect the student from gender-based discrimination.

4. Accessibility to Sex-Segregated Facilities, Programs, and Activities: When the district maintains sex-segregated facilities, such as restrooms and locker rooms, or offers sex-segregated programs and activities, such as physical education classes, intermural sports, and interscholastic athletic programs, students shall be permitted to access facilities and participate in programs and activities consistent with their gender identity

To address any student's privacy concerns in using sex-segregated facilities, the district shall offer available options such as a gender-neutral or single-use restroom or changing area, a bathroom stall with a door, an area in the locker room separated by a curtain or screen, or use of the locker room before or after the other students. However, the district shall not require a student to utilize these options because the student is intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming. In addition, a student shall be permitted to participate in accordance with the student's gender identity in other circumstances where students are separated by gender, such as for class discussions, yearbook pictures, and field trips. A student's right to participate in a sex-segregated activity in accordance with the student's gender identity shall not render invalid or inapplicable any other eligibility rule established for participation in the activity.

Beginning July 1, 2026, each school shall provide and maintain at least one all-gender restroom for student use that meets the requirements of Education Code 35292.5.

5. Student Records: Upon each student's enrollment, the district is required to maintain a mandatory permanent student record (official record) that includes the student's gender and legal name

A student's legal name as entered on the mandatory student record required pursuant to 5 CCR 432 shall only be changed with proper documentation. A student's gender as entered on the student's official record required pursuant to 5 CCR 432 shall only be changed with written authorization of a parent/guardian having legal custody of the student. (Education Code 49061)

However, when proper documentation or authorization, as applicable, is not submitted with a request to change a student's legal name or gender, any change to the student's record shall be limited to the student's unofficial records such as attendance sheets, report cards, and school identification.

6. Names and Pronouns: If a student so chooses, district personnel shall be required to address the student by a name and the pronoun(s) consistent with the student's gender identity, without the necessity of a court order or a change to the student's official district record

However, inadvertent slips or honest mistakes by district personnel in the use of the student's name and/or consistent pronouns will, in general, not constitute a violation of this administrative regulation or the accompanying board policy.

7. Uniforms/Dress Code: A student has the right to dress in a manner consistent with the student's gender identity, subject to any dress code adopted on a school site

# Board Policy Manual Point Arena Schools

# Regulation 5145.71: Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures

Status: DRAFT

#### Original Adopted Date: 07/01/2020 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The complaint procedures described in this administrative regulation shall be used to address any complaint governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 alleging that a district student, while in an education program or activity, was subjected to conduct on or after August 1, 2024, including, but not limited to, conduct that is under the authority of the district, that constitutes sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment. For conduct that occurred prior to this date, the district should utilize its policies in place at the time the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred, so long as they are in accordance with the applicable statutes and regulations.

Sex discrimination and sex-based harassment include, but are not limited to, sex-based conduct as specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.7 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment.

#### **Basic Requirements**

When implementing Title IX grievance procedures, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Treat complainants and respondents equitably
- 2. Ensure that the Title IX Coordinator or designee, investigator, or decisionmaker not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent

The investigator and the decisionmaker may be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

- 3. Presume that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, until a determination is made at the conclusion of the grievance procedures
- 4. Establish reasonably prompt timeframes for the major stages of the grievance procedures, such as evaluation of whether to dismiss or investigate a complaint, investigation, decision, and appeals if any
- 5. Establish a process that allows for the reasonable extension of timeframes on a case-by-case basis for good cause with notice to the parties that includes the reason for the delay

Additionally, the district shall not disclose personally identifiable information obtained while implementing Title IX complaint procedures unless the district has obtained prior written consent from a person with the legal right to consent to the disclosure; the information is disclosed to a parent/guardian or other authorized legal representative with the legal right to receive disclosures on behalf of the person whose personally identifiable information is at issue; to take action to address conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, in the district's education program or activity; as required by federal law, regulations, or as a condition to a federal award; as required by state or local law; or to the extent such disclosures are not otherwise in conflict with Title IX. (34 CFR 106.44)

If either party is a student with a disability, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consult with one or more members, as appropriate, of the student's individualized education program or 504 team, to determine how to comply with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

#### Filing a Complaint

Upon receiving information from an allegation of sex discrimination, include sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall notify the individual(s) specified in law of the Title IX grievance procedures, and of the informal resolution process, if available and appropriate.

A complaint is an oral or written request that can objectively be understood by the Title IX Coordinator or designee

as a request for the district to investigate and make a determination about alleged sex discrimination, including sexbased harassment. (34 CFR 106.21)

Complaints of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment may only be brought by a student, or former student, who was participating or attempting to participate in the district's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex-based harassment, a parent/guardian or other authorized legal representative with the legal right to act on behalf of the student, or the Title IX Coordinator or designee. (34 CFR 106.45)

If the alleged victim chooses not to bring a complaint, or withdraws any or all of the allegations in a complaint, and in the absence or termination of an information resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall consider whether to initiate a complaint. To do so, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall first consider the following factors: (34 CFR 106.44)

- 1. The victim's request not to proceed with initiation of a complaint
- 2. The victim's reasonable safety concerns regarding initiation of a complaint
- 3. The risk that additional acts of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, would occur if a complaint is not initiated
- 4. The severity of the alleged sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, including whether the discrimination, if established, would require the removal of a respondent from campus or imposition of another disciplinary sanction to end the discrimination and prevent its recurrence
- 5. The age and relationship of the parties, including whether the respondent is an employee of the district
- 6. The scope of the alleged sex discrimination, including information suggesting a pattern; ongoing sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment; or sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, alleged to have impacted multiple individuals
- 7. The availability of evidence to assist a decisionmaker in determining whether sex discrimination, including sexbased harassment, occurred
- 8. Whether the district could end the alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and prevent its recurrence without initiating the Title IX grievance procedures

If, after considering these factors, the Title IX Coordinator determines that the alleged conduct presents an imminent and serious threat to the health and safety of the complainant or another person, or that the conduct as alleged prevents the district from ensuring equal access to a district program or activity on the basis of sex, the Title IX Coordinator may initiate a complaint.

If the Title IX Coordinator initiates a complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide the alleged victim notice of the complaint, as well as other notices as required by the Title IX regulations at specific points in the complaint process. The Title IX Coordinator shall also address reasonable concerns about the victim's safety or the safety of others, including providing supportive measures as described in "Supportive Measures" below, and taking other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district. (34 CFR 106.44)

The Title IX Coordinator or designee, investigator, decisionmaker, other person who is responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures, or a facilitator of an informal resolution process shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. Such persons shall receive training in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8. (34 CFR 106.44)

The Title IX Coordinator shall monitor the district for barriers to reporting information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX, and take steps reasonably calculated to address such barriers. (34 CFR 106.44, 106.45)

#### **Supportive Measures**

Upon receipt of a report of Title IX sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall offer and coordinate supportive measures. Supportive measures may vary depending on what the district determines to be reasonably available and shall not unreasonably burden either the complainant or respondent. Supportive measures shall be provided without charging a fee to the complainant or respondent and be designed to protect the safety of the complainant, respondent, and the district's educational environment, and to provide support during any grievance procedures implemented as specified in 34 CFR 106.45 or informal resolution process as specified in 34 CFR 106.44. The district shall not impose such measures for punitive or disciplinary reasons. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to, counseling; extensions of deadlines and other course-related adjustments; changes in class, work, housing, or extracurricular or any other activity regardless of whether there is a comparable alternative; campus escort services; modifications of class schedules; mutual restrictions on contact; changes in class locations; increased security; monitoring of certain areas of the campus; and, training and education programs related to sex-based harassment. (34 CFR 106.2, 106.44)

Unless there is an allegation of sex-based harassment or retaliation, the district may provide supportive measures without altering the alleged discriminatory conduct. (34 CFR 106.44) Upon the conclusion of any grievance procedures implemented as specified in 34 CFR 106.45 or informal resolution process as specified in 34 CFR 106.44, the district may continue with the supportive measures, or modify or terminate such measures, as appropriate. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall provide a complainant or respondent for whom supportive measures have been implemented with a timely opportunity to seek, from an impartial employee with authority to modify or reverse the supportive measures, modification or reversal of the district's decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate such measures, and to seek additional modification or termination of the supportive measures if circumstances materially change. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall not disclose information about supportive measures to any person other than the person to whom they apply, including informing one party of supportive measures provided to another party, unless the disclosure is necessary to providing the supportive measures, or restoring or preserving a party's access to the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.44)

#### **Emergency Removal from School**

A student shall not be disciplined for alleged sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX until the investigation has been completed. However, on an emergency basis, the district may remove a student from the district's education program or activity, provided that the district conducts an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that removal is justified due to an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of a complainant or any student, employee, or other individual arising from the allegations, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. This authority to remove a student does not modify a student's rights under the IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (34 CFR 106.44)

If a district employee is the respondent, the employee may be placed on administrative leave during the pendency of the formal complaint process. (34 CFR 106.44)

#### **Dismissal of Complaint**

The Title IX Coordinator or designee may dismiss a complaint if: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. The district is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so
- 2. The respondent is not participating in the district's education program or activity and is not employed by the district
- 3. The district determines that the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX

Before dismissing the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

4. The complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all of the allegations in the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint, and the Title IX Coordinator determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX, even if proven

The Title IX Coordinator shall determine whether to dismiss or investigate any complaint of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, within \_\_\_\_\_ days, unless such timeline is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

Upon dismissal, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly notify the complainant of the dismissal and the reasons for the dismissal. Additionally, if the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide such notification to the respondent, which shall occur simultaneously to both parties if the notification is in writing. The Title IX Coordinator shall also inform the complainant, and the respondent if the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, of their right to appeal. Dismissals may be appealed on the following bases: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. A procedural irregularity that would change the outcome
- 2. New evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when dismissal was made
- 3. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decisionmaker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome

If the dismissal is appealed, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Notify the parties of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent
- 2. Implement appeal procedures equally for the parties
- 3. Ensure that the decisionmaker for the appeal did not take part in an investigation of the allegations or dismissal of the complaint
- 4. Ensure that the decisionmaker for the appeal has been trained consistent with the Title IX regulations
- 5. Provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome
- 6. Notify the parties of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result

If a complaint is dismissed, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall offer supportive measures as described above in "Supportive Measures" to the complainant. Additionally, the respondent shall be offered supportive measures if the complaint was dismissed because the complainant voluntarily withdrew any or all of the allegations in the complaint and the district determined that without the withdrawn allegations the conduct, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, under Title IX, or if the complaint was dismissed because the district determined, after taking reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations of the complaint, that the alleged conduct would not constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, even if proven. The Title IX Coordinator shall also take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

If a complaint is dismissed, the conduct may still be addressed pursuant to Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures as applicable.

#### **Informal Resolution Process**

At any time prior to determining whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred under the complaint procedures specified in 34 CFR 106.45, the district may offer, if it is determined to be appropriate upon receiving information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Tite IX or when a complaint of sex discrimination is made, an informal resolution process, such as mediation, to the complainant and respondent. However, the district shall not offer an informal resolution process if the complaint alleges that an employee engaged in sex-based harassment of an elementary or secondary school student or that such process would conflict with federal, state, or local law. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district shall not require or pressure a party to participate in the informal resolution process, or to waive the right to an investigation and determination of a complaint as a condition of participation in the district's education program or activity, or exercise of any other right. The district may decline to offer an informal resolution process including, but not limited to, when the district determines that the alleged conduct would present a future risk of harm to others. (34 CFR 106.44)

The district may facilitate an informal resolution process provided that the district, prior to initiating such process: (34 CFR 106.44)

- 1. Provides the parties with written notice disclosing the allegations; the requirements of the informal resolution process; the right to withdraw from the informal process and resume the formal complaint process; the inability to initiate or resume complaint procedures arising from the same allegations once the informal resolution process is concluded; the potential terms that may be requested or offered in an informal resolution agreement, including that the agreement would only be binding on the parties; and the information that the district will maintain and whether and how the district could disclose such information for use in Title IX grievance procedures if such procedures are initiated or resumed
- 2. Obtains the parties' voluntary consent to the informal resolution process
- 3. Does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student

The Title IX Coordinator or designee shall ensure that the facilitator of the informal resolution process is not the same person as the investigator or decisionmaker of any ongoing or newly initiated complaint process specified in 34 CFR 106.45, does not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent, and receives training in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8. (34 CFR 106.44) If the district facilitates an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall, to the extent necessary, take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district' education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

#### **Notice of Allegations**

If the district initiates a formal Title IX investigation, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall provide the known parties with written notice of the following: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. The district's complaint process, including any informal resolution process
- 2. Sufficient information, available at the time, to allow parties to respond to the allegations, including, to the extent available, the identity of parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct allegedly constituting sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident

Such notice shall be provided with sufficient time for the parties to prepare a response before any initial interview.

If, during the course of the investigation, new Title IX allegations arise about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the initial notice, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties.

- 3. A statement that retaliation is prohibited
- 4. A statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of such evidence, as specified

The above notice may also include the name of the investigator, facilitator of an informal process, and decisionmaker and shall inform the parties that, if at any time a party has concerns regarding conflict of interest or bias regarding any of these persons, the party should immediately notify the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

#### **Consolidation of Complaints**

The district may consolidate complaints of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, against more than one respondent; by more than one complainant against one or more respondents; or by one party against another party, when the allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, arise out of the same facts or circumstances. (34 CFR 106.45)

#### **Investigation Procedures**

The district shall provide for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints. (34 CFR 106.45)

During the investigation process, the district's designated investigator shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. 1. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible
- 2. 2. Review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine which evidence is relevant and which evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance
- 3. 3. Provide each party with an equal opportunity to access evidence that is relevant, and not otherwise impermissible, to the allegations of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, by:
  - a. Providing an equal opportunity to access either the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of such evidence

If an accurate description is provided, the district shall, upon request of any party, provide the parties with an equal opportunity to access the relevant and permissible evidence.

- b. Providing a reasonable opportunity to respond to the evidence or to the accurate description of the evidence
- c. Taking reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the grievance procedures
- 4. Take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of parties and witnesses which do not restrict the ability of the parties to obtain and present evidence, including, by speaking to witnesses; consulting with family members, confidential resources, or advisors; or otherwise preparing for or participating in the grievance procedures
- 5. Objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, including that credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as complainant, respondent, or witness
- 6. Exclude as impermissible the following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence:
  - a. Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by state or federal law or evidence that is provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege
  - b. A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless the district obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures
  - c. Evidence that relates to the complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless evidence about the complainant's prior sexual conduct is offered to prove that someone other than the

respondent committed the alleged conduct or is evidence about specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to the alleged sex-based harassment

The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent to the alleged sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

The district shall ensure that the decisionmaker is able to question parties and witnesses adequately to assess a party's or witness's credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations of sex-based harassment. (34 CFR 106.45)

If the complaint is against an employee, rights conferred under an applicable collective bargaining agreement shall be applied to the extent they do not conflict with the Title IX requirements.

The investigator shall complete the investigation within \_\_\_\_ days after the Title IX Coordinator determines to proceed with an investigation, unless such timeline is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

#### Written Decision

The Superintendent shall designate an employee as the decisionmaker to determine responsibility for the alleged conduct, who may be the Title IX Coordinator or designee or the investigator so long as there is no conflict of interest or bias. (34 CFR 106.45)

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. Use the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof to determine whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, has occurred
- 2. Notify the parties in writing of the determination of whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred

The notification shall include the rationale for such determination and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal, if applicable.

The written decision shall be issued within \_\_\_\_\_ days after the investigation is completed, unless such time is extended in accordance with this administrative regulation.

#### Appeal of the Decision

Either party may appeal the district's decision of a complaint or any allegation in the complaint. (34 CFR 106.45)

When conducting an appeal, the district shall permit a final appeal to the Governing Board using a process that is in accordance with law and otherwise consistent with the appeal process as specified in Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Either party has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights within 180 days of the date of the most recently alleged misconduct.

The complainant shall be advised of any civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders that may be available under state or federal antidiscrimination laws, if applicable.

#### **Extension of Timelines**

Any timelines specified in this administrative regulation may be extended by the district for good cause, with written notice to the parties. The written notice shall specify the reasons for the extension. (34 CFR 106.45)

#### Remedies

When there is a determination that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, has occurred, the Title IX Coordinator shall coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to the complainant and other persons the district identifies as having had equal access to the district's education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment; coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent described in "Disciplinary Actions" below, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary actions; and take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.45)

#### **Corrective/Disciplinary Actions**

The district shall not impose any disciplinary sanctions or other actions against a respondent, other than supportive measures as described above in the section "Supportive Measures," until the complaint procedure has been completed and a determination of responsibility has been made. (34 CFR 106.44, 106.45)

For students in grades 4-12, discipline for sexual harassment may include suspension and/or expulsion. After the completion of the complaint procedure, if it is determined that a student at any grade level has committed sexual assault or sexual battery at school or at a school activity off school grounds, the principal or Superintendent shall immediately suspend the student and shall recommend expulsion. (Education Code 48900.2, 48915)

Other actions that may be taken with a student who is determined to be responsible for sex discrimination and/or sex-based harassment include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Transfer from a class or school as permitted by law
- 2. Parent/guardian conference
- 3. Education of the student regarding the impact of the conduct on others
- 4. Positive behavior support
- 5. Referral of the student to a student success team
- 6. Denial of participation in extracurricular or cocurricular activities or other privileges as permitted by law

When an employee is found to have committed sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, or retaliation, the district shall take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with applicable law and collective bargaining agreement.

The district shall not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the grievance procedures for making a false statement or for engaging in consensual sexual conduct based solely on the district's determination of whether sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, occurred. (34 CFR 106.45)

#### **Record-Keeping**

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain, for at least a period of seven years: (34 CFR 106.45)

- 1. For each complaint of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, records documenting any informal resolution process or formal investigation procedures
- 2. For each notification the Title IX Coordinator or designee receives of information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, records documenting the actions taken to fulfill the district's obligations as specified in 34 CFR 106.44, including supportive measures offered and implemented
- 3. All materials used to train district employees; the Title IX Coordinator and designee(s); investigator(s),

decisionmaker(s), and other person(s) who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process

The district shall make such training materials available upon request by members of the public.

For complaints containing allegations of childhood sexual assault, the Superintendent or designee shall also indefinitely maintain the following: (Code of Civil Procedure340.1):

- 1. A record of the allegation(s)
- 2. A record of the investigation procedures followed
- 3. A record of the written determination
- 4. A record of the corrective action implemented, if any
- 5. A record of any appeals and the outcome of the same
- 6. All training materials addressing the prohibition and investigation of childhood sexual assault

# Board Policy Manual Point Arena Schools

# Exhibit 5145.71-E(1): Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures

Status: DRAFT

#### Original Adopted Date: Pending | Last Reviewed Date: 08/07/2024

#### NOTICE OF TITLE IX

The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Section 106.8 requires the district to issue the following notification to students at all grade levels, and their parents/guardians or other authorized legal representative:

The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in any education program or activity that it operates. The prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sex is required by federal law (20 USC 1681-1688; 34 CFR Part 106) and extends to employment. The district also prohibits retaliation against any student for filing a complaint or exercising any right granted under Title IX.

The district is required, as specified in Title IX, to take prompt and equitable action to address any potential Title IX violations that are brought to its attention. Any inquiries about the application of Title IX, this notice, and who is protected by Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The district has designated and authorized the following employee(s) as the district's Title IX Coordinator to address concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sex-based harassment:

Superintendent (707) 882-2803 45 Lake Street, PO Box 87 Point Arena, CA 95468

Any individual may report sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator or any other school employee at any time, including during non-business hours, by mail, phone, or email. During district business hours, reports may also be made in person. Upon receiving an allegation of sex harassment, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly notify the parties, in writing, of the applicable district complaint procedure.

To view an electronic copy of the district's policies and administrative regulations on sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, including the grievance process that complies with 34 CFR 106.45, please see Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5145.7 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment and Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures on the district's website at www.pointarenaschools.org

To inspect or obtain a copy of the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policies and administrative regulations, please contact: The Point Arena Schools District Office, (707) 882-2803, 45 Lake Street, Point Arena, CA 95468.

Materials used to train employees; the Title IX Coordinator; investigator(s), decisionmaker(s), and other person(s) who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures; and any person(s) who facilitates an informal resolution process, are available at the district office upon request.

# Policy 5146: Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students

## Original Adopted Date: 12/01/2013 | Last Revised Date: 06/23/2021

The Governing Board recognizes that responsibilities pertaining to marriage, pregnancy, or parenting, including related obligations, medical conditions, or recovery, may disrupt a student's education and increase the chance of a student dropping out of school. The Board desires to minimize interruption to such students' educational progress by supporting married, pregnant, and parenting students in their continued education, assisting them to attain strong academic and parenting skills, and promoting the healthy development of their child(ren).

The district shall not exclude or deny any student from any educational program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, solely on the basis of the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions or recovery. In addition, the district shall not adopt any rule concerning a student's actual, potential, or past parental, family, or marital status that discriminates against and/or treats a student differently on the basis of sex. (Education Code 221.51, 230; 5 CCR 4950; 34 CFR 106.40)

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year of the rights and options available to pregnant and parenting students under the law. In addition, pregnant and parenting students shall be notified of the rights and options available under the law through annual school year welcome packets and through independent study packets. (Education Code 222.5, 48980)

Any employee who is informed by a student, or a person who has a legal right to act on behalf of a student, of a student's pregnancy or related conditions shall provide that person with the Title IX Coordinator's contact information and inform the person that the Title IX Coordinator can coordinate specific acts to prevent sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, and ensure the student's equal access to the district's education program or activity. (34 CFR 106.8)

When notified of a student's pregnancy or related conditions, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide the student, and if applicable the person who has a legal right to act on behalf of the student and who notified the Title IX Coordinator of the student's pregnancy or related conditions, with the district's notice of nondiscrimination, as specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment and Exhibit (1) 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures. The Title IX Coordinator shall also coordinate actions specified in 34 CFR 106.40 to prevent discrimination against, and ensure equal access to, the student, including the following: (34 CFR 106.44)

1. Notifying the student that the district is required to not discriminate in its education program or activity against any student based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy or related conditions

However, a student's voluntary participation in a separate portion of the district's education program or activity does not constitute prohibited discrimination if the district ensures that the separate portion is comparable to that offered to students who are not pregnant and do not have related conditions.

- 2. To the extent consistent with 34 CFR 106.40(b)(3), ensuring that pregnancy or related conditions are treated in the same manner and under the same policies as any other temporary medical condition with respect to any medical or hospital benefit, service, plan, or policy the district administers, operates, offers, or participates in with respect to students admitted to the district's education program or activity
- 3. Informing the student that the district may not require the student who is pregnant or has related conditions to provide certification from a healthcare provider or any other person verifying that the student is physically able to participate in the district's class, program, or extracurricular activity unless the certified level of physical ability of health is necessary for participation in the class, program, or extracurricular activity; the district requires such certification of all participating students; and, the information obtained is not used as a basis for Title IX discrimination

Status: DRAFT

For school-related purposes, a student under the age of 18 years who enters into a valid marriage shall have all the rights and privileges of students who are 18 years of age or older, even if the marriage has been dissolved. (Family Code 7002)

#### **Education and Support Services for Pregnant and Parenting Students**

Pregnant and parenting students shall retain the right to participate in the regular education program or an alternative education program. The classroom setting shall be the preferred instructional strategy unless an alternative is necessary to meet the needs of the student and/or the student's child.

Any alternative education program, activity, or course that is offered separately to pregnant or parenting students, including any class or extracurricular activity, shall be equal to that offered to other district students. A student's participation in such programs shall be voluntary. (Education Code 221.51; 5 CCR 4950)

The Superintendent or designee shall not require a student, based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions or recovery, to obtain certification from a physician or nurse practitioner indicating that the student is physically and emotionally able to continue participation in the district's education program or activity, including an extracurricular activity, unless the certified level of physical ability is necessary for participation and such certification is required of all students. (Education Code 221.51; 5 CCR 4950; 34 CFR 106.40)

To the extent feasible, the district shall provide educational and related support services, either directly or in collaboration with community agencies and organizations, to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students and their children. Such services may include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Child care and development services for the children of parenting students on or near school site(s) during the school day and during school-sponsored activities
- 2. Parenting education and life skills instruction
- 3. Special school nutrition supplements for pregnant and lactating students pursuant to Education Code 49553, 42 USC 1786, and 7 CFR 246.1-246.28
- 4. Health care services, including prenatal care
- 5. Tobacco, alcohol, and/or drug prevention and intervention services
- 6. Academic and personal counseling
- 7. Supplemental instruction to assist students in achieving grade-level academic standards and progressing toward graduation

As appropriate, teachers, administrators, and/or other personnel who work with pregnant and parenting students shall receive related professional development.

#### Absences

Pregnant or parenting students may be excused for absences for medical appointments and other purposes specified in BP/AR 5113 - Absences and Excuses.

A student shall be excused for absences to care for a sick child for whom the student is the custodial parent. A note from a physician shall not be required for such an absence. (Education Code 48205)

#### **Parental Leave**

A student who is pregnant or parenting, or has a related condition, shall be entitled to parental leave in order to protect the health of the student and/or the infant, and to allow the student to care for and bond with the infant. The period of the leave shall be the greater of eight weeks, or the length of time deemed medically necessary by the student's healthcare provider, or, if the district has a leave policy for which the student qualifies, the amount of time provided for in such policy. Such leave may be taken before the birth of the student's infant if there is a medical necessity and after childbirth during the school year in which the birth takes place, inclusive of any mandatory summer instruction. (Education Code 46015; 34 CFR 106.40)

The student, if age 18 years or older, or the student's parent/guardian shall notify the school of the student's intent to take parental leave. (Education Code 46015)

No student shall be required to take all or part of the parental leave. (Education Code 46015; 34 CFR 106.40)

When a student takes parental leave, the attendance supervisor shall ensure that absences from the regular school program are excused until the student is able to return to the regular school program or an alternative education program. A student who is pregnant or parenting, or has related conditions, shall not be required to complete academic work or other school requirements during the period of the parental leave. (Education Code 46015)

Following the leave, a student who is pregnant or parenting, or has related conditions, may elect to return to the school and the course of study in which the student was enrolled before taking parental leave or to an alternative education option provided by the district. (Education Code 46015; 34 CFR 106.40)

Upon return to school, a pregnant or parenting student shall have opportunities to make up work missed during the leave, including, but not limited to, makeup work plans and reenrollment in courses. (Education Code 46015)

When necessary to complete high school graduation requirements, the student may remain enrolled in school for a fifth year of instruction, unless the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete district graduation requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school. (Education Code 46015)

#### Accommodations

When necessary, the district shall provide reasonable accommodations to enable a student who is pregnant or parenting, or with related conditions, to access the educational program. The district shall consult with the student when identifying potential modifications. Any modification accepted by the student shall be implemented. Any proposed modification that would fundamentally alter the nature of the district's education program or activity shall not be implemented. (34 CFR 106.40)

Reasonable modifications may include, but are not limited to: (34 CFR 106.40)

- 1. Breaks during class to express breast milk, breastfeed, or attend to health needs associated with pregnancy or related conditions, including eating, drinking, or using the restroom
- 2. Intermittent absences to attend medical appointments
- 3. Access to online or homebound education
- 4. Changes in schedule or course sequence
- 5. Extensions of time for coursework and rescheduling of tests and examinations
- 6. Allowing a student to sit or stand, or carry or keep water nearby
- 7. Counseling
- 8. Changes in physical space or supplies, such as access to a larger desk or a footrest
- 9. Elevator access
- 10. Any other change to policies, practices, or procedures

A student who is pregnant or who has a related condition shall have access to any services available to other students with temporary medical conditions. (34 CFR 106.40)

The school shall provide reasonable accommodations to any lactating student to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding. A student shall not incur an academic penalty for using any of these reasonable accommodations, and shall be provided the opportunity to make up any work missed due to such use. Reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to: (Education Code 222; 34 CFR 106.40)

- 1. Access to a private and secure room, other than a restroom, that is clean, shielded from view, and free from intrusion by others to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child
- 2. Permission to bring onto a school campus a breast pump and any other equipment used to express breast milk
- 3. Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used to express breast milk
- 4. Access to a place to store expressed breast milk safely
- 5. A reasonable amount of time to accommodate the student's need to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child

#### Complaints

Any complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of a student's current, potential, or past pregnancy, family, or marital status, district noncompliance with the requirements of Education Code 46015 or 34 CFR 106.40, or district noncompliance with the requirement to provide reasonable accommodations for lactating students, shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the Title IX grievance procedures as specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures. (Education Code 222, 46015; 5 CCR 4600- 4670; 34 CFR 106.44, 106.45)

#### **Program Evaluation**

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding the effectiveness of district strategies to support current, potential, and past married, pregnant, and parenting students, which may include data on student participation in district programs and services, academic achievement, school attendance, graduation rate, and/or student feedback on district programs and services.



E(1) 1330

# FACILITY USE – APPLICATION & PERMIT

- - Estimated Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_\_
  - Description of Activity:

(Please attach a description of any needs, i.e.: Bleachers down, tables, chairs, etc.) \*additional maintenance fee may apply

- 1. Nature of type of intended use:
- 2. Applicant has received or will receive for the activities herein listed contributions, cash collections, registration fees, admission fees, tuition, donations, or other receipts estimated in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. If no receipts anticipated for these activities check here. ( )
- 3. Receipts set forth in item 2 above will be used for:

#### **INSURANCE REQUIRED OF APPLICANT (For non-School Related Activities):**

- 1. <u>Commercial General Liability</u> on an <u>occurrence form</u> with a minimum limit of **\$1,000,000 each occurrence**/**\$2,000,000** general **aggregate** from an insurer with a financial rating of A7 or better. Liability deductible not to exceed **\$2,500**.
- 2. <u>Additional Insured Provision</u>: The Point Arena Schools, it's elected or appointed officials, employees, agents and volunteers shall be named as additional insured under the general liability policy, by endorsement to the Certificate. A separate endorsement attached to the Certificate of Insurance evidencing the additional insured coverage is required.
- 3. <u>Primary Insurance</u>: Applicant's insurance shall be primary insurance with respect to the Point Arena Schools; it's elected or appointed officials, employees, agents and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the Point Arena Schools, it's elected or appointed officials, employees, agents and volunteers shall be excess and shall not contribute with it.
- 1. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I will be personally responsible on behalf of the applicant for any damages sustained by the school building, furniture, equipment, or grounds occurring through the occupancy or use of said building and or grounds by the applicant, normal wear and tear expected.
- 2. I hereby certify that I have received and read the rules, regulations, conditions, terms and that I and the applicant which I represent, will abide by them and will conform to all applicable provisions of the Constitution and laws of California and to all other rules and regulations of the Board of Education and it's authorized agents which may be communicated to the applicant and to the best of my knowledge the school property for use of which this application is hereby made will not be used for the commission of any crime or any act which is prohibited by law.
- 3. It is agreed that in the event this permit is canceled by the applicant no refund will be made and that changes in date or extension of time shall be made only as specified by the rules governing use of school facilities.
- 4. In executing this declaration I certify that I have been duly authorized by the herein set forth applicant to act in its behalf in making application for use of said facilities.

Signature of Applicant/Representative _	Date
Approved by:	Date



# **RULES, REGULATIONS, CONDITIONS AND TERMS**

I agree to abide and enforce all of the following rules. I also accept responsibility for equipment and/or facilities, and I will ensure adequate supervision for participants and spectators. I will assume all costs to replace and/or repair damages that may result from my use of the facilities. I also understand that the district has the option to revoke this request at any time that the Site Administrator or designee deems that the activity subjects the district to unwarranted liability.

- 1. Drugs, alcohol and tobacco are not allowed on school property
- 2. Liability insurance is required, and I will forward a copy to the District Office prior to use of facility.
- 3. Motorized vehicles are not allowed (outside of the parking lot areas).
- 4. Horses and dogs are not allowed on school property.

# FACILITY USE FEE SCHEDULE

<u>No Fees</u> - No fees will be charged to school-related organizations whose activities are directly related to or for the benefit of district schools.

**<u>Direct Cost</u>** - Organizations requesting the use of school facilities under the Civic Center Act shall be charged at least direct costs.

- There will be a \$100 cleaning/security deposit, refundable after inspection of the used facility.
- In the event that a staff member is required to open and close classrooms or facilities there will be a 2 hour minimum charge of \$30/hour when staff member is regularly on duty; or \$50/hour for weekends and when staff member is not regularly on duty.
- The District reserves the right to require and charge for custodial services at an hourly rate of \$30/hour.
- Additional custodial/kitchen use fees may apply, if necessary, for setup and/or cleanup.
- The use of any district furniture or equipment must be pre-arranged through the facility use agreement in advance. Fee, if any, determined by Site Administrator.
- Unless the organization has a licensed food handler, a staff member familiar with the use of all kitchen appliances is necessary to be in attendance for events that utilize the kitchen, and direct costs will be charged for this staff member.

**<u>Fair Rental Value</u>** - Fair Rental value will be charged to organizations using school facilities or grounds for entertainment or meetings where admission is charged or contributions solicited and net receipts are not to be expended for charitable purposes or for the welfare of the district's students.

Facility	fee up to 4 hours	fee per day
Athletic Fields/Outdoor Events	\$50	\$100
Classroom	\$45	\$70
Gymnasium – PAHS	\$125	\$200
Auditorium – PAHS	\$85	\$175
Kitchen Use – PAHS or AUES	\$85	\$150
Multi-Use Room – AUES	\$75	\$125
Parking Lots	\$25	\$50

Organizations will additionally be charged direct costs as listed above.

#### HOLD HARMLESS & INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT:

THE UNDERSIGNED AGREES TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE POINT ARENA SCHOOLS, IT'S ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND VOLUNTEERS, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, FROM AND AGAINST ALL COSTS, LOSSES, CLAIMS, ACTIONS, AND JUDGMENTS ARISING FROM PERSONAL INJURIES, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR OTHERWISE, REGARDLESS OF CAUSE, THAT MAY ARISE IN ANYWAY FROM OR BE ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED BY THE UNDERSIGNED'S USE OR OCCUPANCY OF DISTRICT FACILITIES, FURNITURE OR EQUIPMENT. THE UNDERSIGNED FURTHER AGREES TO PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE FOR LIABILITY COVERAGES.