

Title IX of the Education Acts of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination in the following areas:

Sex-Based Harassment/Sexual Harassment (including Sexual Violence)

- unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature
- sexual violence
- gender-based harassment

Recruitment, Admissions, and Counseling

- recruitment materials, admission forms, class or career selection materials, admission of students
- counseling services, brochures, materials

Financial Assistance

- procedures and practices for awarding financial assistance to students

Athletics

- requires nondiscriminatory participation based on student interests and abilities
- equal opportunities (equipment, supplies, training facilities, recruitment, support services, etc.)

Marital or Family Status, Pregnant or Parenting Students

- different treatment on the basis of sex based on parental, family, or marital status
- exclusion in educational programs, or activities based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy
- lactating students must be provided reasonable accommodations

Discipline

- imposing consequences based on sex, gender identity, failing to conform to stereotypical binary expectations, etc.

Schools, Classes, and Extracurricular Activities

- providing education programs or activities separately on the basis of sex

- requiring or refusing participation by students on the basis of sex
- NOTE: The following are exceptions:
 - contact sports in physical education
 - classes or portions of classes...that deal primarily with human sexuality
 - non-vocational classes and extracurricular activities within coeducational...school if certain criteria are met.

For more detailed information refer to the [Title IX Resource Guide](#) from the [Office for Civil Rights](#).

Employment

- employment, recruitment, hiring, promotion, compensation, grants of leave, benefits
- consideration or selection for employment
- based on pregnancy or marital status

Retaliation

- against anyone who has reported, investigated, filed a complaint under Title IX

Your Rights Under Title IX

Pursuant to Education Code 221.8m you have the right to:

1. fair and equitable treatment and you shall not be discriminated against based on your sex.
2. be provided with an equitable opportunity to participate in all academic extracurricular activities, including athletics.
3. receive equitable treatment and benefits in the provision of all of the following:
 - a. equipment and supplies
 - b. scheduling of games and practices
 - c. transportation and allowances
 - d. access to tutoring
 - e. coaching
 - f. publicity
4. have access to gender equity coordinator to answer questions regarding equity
5. contact the State Department of Education and the California Interscholastic Federation to access information on gender equity laws.
6. file a confidential discrimination complaint with the United States Office for Civil Rights or the State Department of Education if you believe you have been discriminated against or if you believe you have received unequal treatment on the basis of your sex.

7. pursue remedies if you have been discriminated against.
8. protected against retaliation if you file a discrimination complaint.

Notice of Student Nondiscrimination/Notice of Nondiscrimination

Newhall School District is committed to making the schools free from unlawful discrimination and providing equal opportunities for all individuals in education. The district prohibits discriminatory practices whose purpose or effect has a negative impact on the student's academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. The district promotes programs that ensure that discriminatory practices are eliminated in all district activities. Any student who engages in discrimination of another student or anyone from the district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Any employee who permits or engages in discrimination may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. A student or parent/guardian who believes that discrimination has occurred may contact the principal for immediate resolution at the site. A student or parent/guardian is not required to attempt resolution through the school site before contacting the District Title IX Coordinator.

Filing a Report or Informal Complaint of Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Based on Sex

The district believes discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying issues may be resolved at the school site. As such, students, parents, or guardians may report any act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying based on sex (in any area covered by Title IX, including sexual harassment) by a student, staff member or third party directly to the school site's principal for immediate resolution at the school site.

- Investigation of Reports or Informal Complaints: The responsible school official will conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the complaint which will include, but is not limited to, interviewing the accuser and the accused, asking each to provide names of witnesses, interviewing potential witnesses, and gathering relevant evidence. When sex-based discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying is reported, interim steps will be taken to stop harassment and protect the accuser from further harassment pending outcome of the investigation and/or complaint. A thorough investigation is required to protect the accuser, afford due process to the accused, and to ensure resolution of the issue(s). A student, or parent or guardian, is not required to attempt resolution through the school site before contacting the District Title IX Coordinator.

At any time during the process students, parents, or guardians, may contact the Title IX Coordinator to report or file an informal complaint directly with the district at:

Amanda Montemayor
Newhall School District
25375 Orchard Village Rd
Valencia, CA 91355
amontemayor@newhallsd.com
661 291-4000

Filing a Formal or Uniform Complaint

At any time during the site resolution process students, parents, or guardians may file a Uniform Complaint. Completing the Uniform Complaint Form is not required to file a complaint, however the complaint must be in writing and state that it is a formal complaint or a Uniform Complaint. Uniform Complaint Forms can also be obtained from the school and the district office.

The Uniform Complaint may be mailed to or filed at:

Amanda Montemayor
Newhall School District
25375 Orchard Village Rd
Valencia, CA 91355

- Statute of Limitations - Uniform complaints alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying based on sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence) must be filed no later than six months from the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged sexual harassment. The six-month period may be extended for good cause, not to exceed an additional 90 days.
- Investigation of Uniform Complaints - The district will undertake an effective, thorough, and objective investigation of the allegations and provide a written report within 60 days of the date receipt of the Uniform Complaint. The report will include a summary of the facts, a decision on the complaint, reason for the decision and corrective actions (if applicable) that have or will be taken, including remedies for the victim. The complainant has the right to present witnesses and evidence.
- Action - If the district determines that its policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying based on sex have been violated, disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion (for students) or dismissal (for employees) will be taken. Remedial actions which are designed to end the harassment, prevent its recurrence and address its effects on the harassed student, will be provided to the victim. Remedial action(s) will also be required of the school site.
- Retaliation - The district prohibits retaliation against any participant in the complaint process including witnesses. A separate Uniform Complaint may be filed if retaliation occurs against any individual involved in the processing of discrimination, harassment, or bullying complaint. Each complaint shall be investigated promptly and in a way that respects the privacy of all parties

concerned. Follow up with the student will occur to ensure the harassment has stopped and that there is no retaliation.

A student or parent/guardian is not required to attempt resolution through the school site before contacting the District Title IX Coordinator and/or filing a formal Uniform Complaint.

Amanda Montemayor
Newhall School District
25375 Orchard Village Rd
Valencia, CA 91355
amontemayor@newhallsd.com
661 291-4000

Office for Civil Rights

[Main Page-Office for Civil Rights \(OCR\)](#)

[How to File a Discrimination Complaint with the OCR](#)

California Department of Education

[Office of Equal Opportunity](#)

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

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 student, while in an education program or activity in which a district school exercises substantial control over the context and respondent, was subjected to one or more of the following forms of sexual harassment: (34 CFR 106.30, 106.44)

1. A district employee conditioning the provision of a district aid, benefit, or service on the student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a student equal access to the District's education program or activity;
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 20 USC 1092 or 34 USC 12291.

All other sexual harassment complaints or allegations brought by or on behalf of students shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. The determination of whether the allegations meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX shall be made by the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Because the complainant has a right to pursue a complaint under BP/AR 1312.3 for any allegation that is dismissed or denied under the Title IX complaint procedure, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure that all requirements and timelines for BP/AR 1312.3 are concurrently met while implementing the Title IX procedure.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Reporting Allegations/Filing a Formal Complaint

A student who is the alleged victim of sexual harassment or the student's parent/guardian may submit a report of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator using the contact information listed in AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment or to any other available school employee, who shall forward the report to the

STUDENTS

AR 5145.71

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

Title IX Coordinator within one day of receiving the report.

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

Upon receiving such a report, the Title IX Coordinator shall inform the complainant of the right to file a formal complaint and the process for filing a formal complaint. (34 CFR 106.44)

A formal complaint, with the complainant's physical or digital signature, may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, by email, or by any other method authorized by the District. (34 CFR 106.30)

Even if the alleged victim chooses not to file a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall file a formal complaint in situations when a safety threat exists. In addition, the Title IX Coordinator may file a formal complaint in other situations as permitted under the Title IX regulations, including as part of the District's obligation to not be deliberately indifferent to known allegations of sexual harassment. In such cases, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide the alleged victim notices as required by the Title IX regulations at specific points in the complaint process.

The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, 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 106.45. (34 CFR 106.45)

Supportive Measures

Upon receipt of a report of Title IX sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures and shall consider the complainant's wishes with respect to the supportive measures implemented. Supportive measures shall be offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures shall be nondisciplinary, nonpunitive, and designed to restore or preserve

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment or to deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to, counseling, course-related adjustments, modifications of class schedules, mutual restrictions on contact, increased security, and monitoring of certain areas of the campus. (34 CFR 106.30, 106.44)

The District shall maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the District's ability to provide the supportive measures. (34 CFR 106.30)

Emergency Removal from School

A student shall not be disciplined for alleged sexual 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 immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations, and provides the student 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 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 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 shall dismiss a formal complaint if the alleged conduct would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in 34 CFR 106.30 even if proved. The Title IX Coordinator shall also dismiss any complaint in which the alleged conduct did not occur in the District's education program or activity or did not

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

occur against a person in the United States, and may dismiss a formal complaint if the complainant notifies the District in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the complaint or any allegations in the complaint, the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the District, or sufficient circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination with regard to the complaint. (34 CFR 106.45)

Upon dismissal, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly send written notice of the dismissal and the reasons for the dismissal simultaneously to the parties, and shall inform them of their right to appeal the dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegation in the complaint in accordance with the appeal procedures described in the section "Appeals" below. (34 CFR 106.45)

If a complaint is dismissed, the conduct may still be addressed pursuant to BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures as applicable.

Informal Resolution Process

When a formal complaint of sexual harassment is filed, the District may offer an informal resolution process, such as mediation, at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility. The District shall not require a party to participate in the informal resolution process or to waive the right to an investigation and adjudication of a formal complaint. (34 CFR 106.45)

The District may facilitate an informal resolution process provided that the District: (34 CFR 106.45)

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, and any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including that records will be maintained or could be shared;
2. Obtains the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process;

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

3. Does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

Written Notice

If a formal complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator 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. The allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment with sufficient details known at the time, including the identity of parties involved in the incident if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident if known. 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 the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the complaint process;
4. The opportunity for the parties to have an advisor of their choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and the ability to inspect and review evidence;
5. The prohibition against knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the complaint process.

The above notice shall also include the name of the investigator,

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

facilitator of an informal process, and decision-maker 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.

Investigation Procedures

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

1. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence;
2. Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence;
3. Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;
4. Not limit the choice or presence of an advisor for either the complainant or respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding, although the District may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties;
5. Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate;
6. Send in an electronic format or hard copy to both parties and their advisors, if any, the evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the complaint, and provide the parties at least 10

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

days to submit a written response for the investigator to consider prior to the completion of the investigative report;

7. Objectively evaluate all relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, and determine credibility in a manner that is not based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness;
8. Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least 10 days prior to the determination of responsibility, send to the parties and their advisors, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response.

Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. (34 CFR 106.45)

Privacy rights of all parties to the complaint shall be maintained in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

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.

Written Decision

The Superintendent shall designate an employee as the decision-maker to determine responsibility for the alleged conduct, who shall not be the Title IX Coordinator or a person involved in the investigation of the matter. (34 CFR 106.45)

After the investigative report has been sent to the parties but before reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker shall afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that the party wants asked of any party

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party

The decision-maker shall issue, and simultaneously provide to both parties, a written decision as to whether the respondent is responsible for the alleged conduct. (34 CFR 106.45)

The written decision shall be issued within 60 calendar days of the receipt of the complaint.

The timeline may be temporarily extended for good cause with written notice to the complainant and respondent of the extension and the reasons for the action. (34 CFR 106.45)

In making this determination, the decision-maker shall use the "preponderance of the evidence" standard for all formal complaints of sexual harassment. The same standard of evidence shall be used for formal complaints against students as for complaints against employees. (34 CFR 106.45)

The written decision shall include the following: (34 CFR 106.45)

1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in 34 CFR 106.30;
2. A description of the procedural steps taken from receipt of the formal complaint through the written decision, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held if the District includes hearings as part of the grievance process;
3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
4. Conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct or policies to the facts;
5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a decision regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the District imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's educational program

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

or activity will be provided by the District to the complainant;

6. The District's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

Appeals

Either party may appeal the District's decision or dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegation in the complaint, if the party believes that a procedural irregularity affected the outcome, new evidence is available that could affect the outcome, or a conflict of interest or bias by the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) affected the outcome. If an appeal is filed, the District shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

1. Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;
2. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is trained in accordance with 34 CFR 106.45 and is not the same decision-maker(s) who reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator;
3. Give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;
4. Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result;
5. Provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

An appeal must be filed in writing within 10 calendar days of receiving the notice of the decision or dismissal, stating the grounds for the appeal and including any relevant documentation in support of the appeal. Appeals submitted after this deadline are not timely and shall not be considered.

A written decision shall be provided to the parties within 20 calendar days from the receipt of the appeal.

STUDENTS

AR 5145.71

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

The District's decision may be appealed to the California Department of Education within 30 days of the written decision in accordance with BP/AR 1312.3.

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.

Remedies

When a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent, the District shall provide remedies to the complainant. Such remedies may include the same individualized services described above in the section "Supportive Measures," but need not be nondisciplinary or nonpunitive and need not avoid burdening the respondent. (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)

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)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

STUDENTS

AR 5145.71

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

Other actions that may be taken with a student who is determined to be responsible for sexual 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;
- (cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)
6. Denial of participation in extracurricular or cocurricular activities or other privileges as permitted by law.

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

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

- (cf. 4117.7/4317.7 - Employment Status Report)
(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Record-Keeping

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

1. A record of all reported cases and Title IX investigations of sexual harassment, any determinations of responsibility, any audio or audiovisual recording and transcript if applicable, any disciplinary sanctions imposed, any remedies provided to the complainant, and any appeal or informal resolution and

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

the results therefrom;

2. A record of any actions, including supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, including the District's basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, the measures taken that were designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity, and, if no supportive measures were provided to the complainant, the reasons that such a response was not unreasonable in light of the known circumstances;
3. All materials used to train the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), decision-maker(s), and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The District shall make such training materials publicly available on its website, or if the District does not maintain a website, available upon request by members of the public.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Websites)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex

48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion

48900.2 Additional grounds for suspension or expulsion; sexual harassment

48985 Notices, report, statements and records in primary language

CIVIL CODE

51.9 Liability for sexual harassment; business, service and professional relationships

1714.1 Liability of parents/guardians for willful misconduct of minor

GOVERNMENT CODE

12950.1 Sexual harassment training

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures

4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1092 Definition of sexual assault

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

1221 Application of laws
1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 34
12291 Definition of dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
1983 Civil action for deprivation of rights
2000d-2000d-7 Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964
2000e-2000e-17 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy
106.1-106.82 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs
COURT DECISIONS
Donovan v. Poway Unified School District, (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567
Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District, (2003, 9th Cir.) 324 F.3d 1130
Reese v. Jefferson School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 208 F.3d 736
Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, (1999) 526 U.S. 629
Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, (1998) 524 U.S. 274
Oona by Kate S. v. McCaffrey, (1998, 9th Cir.) 143 F.3d 473
Doe v. Petaluma City School District, (1995, 9th Cir.) 54 F.3d 1447

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

FEDERAL REGISTER

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, May 19, 2020, Vol. 85, No. 97, pages 30026-30579

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS
Q&A on Campus Sexual Misconduct, September 2017

Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students, May 2016

STUDENTS

AR 5145.71

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

Dear Colleague Letter: Title IX Coordinators, April 2015
Sexual Harassment: It's Not Academic, September 2008
Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by
School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties, January 2001
WEBSITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

Adopted by the Governing Board: January 26, 2021

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

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 student, while in an education program or activity in which a district school exercises substantial control over the context and respondent, was subjected to one or more of the following forms of sexual harassment: (34 CFR 106.30, 106.44)

1. A district employee conditioning the provision of a district aid, benefit, or service on the student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a student equal access to the District's education program or activity;
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 20 USC 1092 or 34 USC 12291.

All other sexual harassment complaints or allegations brought by or on behalf of students shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. The determination of whether the allegations meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX shall be made by the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Because the complainant has a right to pursue a complaint under BP/AR 1312.3 for any allegation that is dismissed or denied under the Title IX complaint procedure, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure that all requirements and timelines for BP/AR 1312.3 are concurrently met while implementing the Title IX procedure.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Reporting Allegations/Filing a Formal Complaint

A student who is the alleged victim of sexual harassment or the student's parent/guardian may submit a report of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator using the contact information listed in AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment or to any other available school employee, who shall forward the report to the

STUDENTS

E 5145.71

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

Title IX Coordinator within one day of receiving the report.

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

Upon receiving such a report, the Title IX Coordinator shall inform the complainant of the right to file a formal complaint and the process for filing a formal complaint. (34 CFR 106.44)

A formal complaint, with the complainant's physical or digital signature, may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, by email, or by any other method authorized by the District. (34 CFR 106.30)

Even if the alleged victim chooses not to file a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall file a formal complaint in situations when a safety threat exists. In addition, the Title IX Coordinator may file a formal complaint in other situations as permitted under the Title IX regulations, including as part of the District's obligation to not be deliberately indifferent to known allegations of sexual harassment. In such cases, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide the alleged victim notices as required by the Title IX regulations at specific points in the complaint process.

The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, 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 106.45. (34 CFR 106.45)

Supportive Measures

Upon receipt of a report of Title IX sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures and shall consider the complainant's wishes with respect to the supportive measures implemented. Supportive measures shall be offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures shall be nondisciplinary, nonpunitive, and designed to restore or preserve

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment or to deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to, counseling, course-related adjustments, modifications of class schedules, mutual restrictions on contact, increased security, and monitoring of certain areas of the campus. (34 CFR 106.30, 106.44)

The District shall maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the District's ability to provide the supportive measures. (34 CFR 106.30)

Emergency Removal from School

A student shall not be disciplined for alleged sexual 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 immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations, and provides the student 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 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 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 shall dismiss a formal complaint if the alleged conduct would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in 34 CFR 106.30 even if proved. The Title IX Coordinator shall also dismiss any complaint in which the alleged conduct did not occur in the District's education program or activity or did not

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

occur against a person in the United States, and may dismiss a formal complaint if the complainant notifies the District in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the complaint or any allegations in the complaint, the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the District, or sufficient circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination with regard to the complaint. (34 CFR 106.45)

Upon dismissal, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly send written notice of the dismissal and the reasons for the dismissal simultaneously to the parties, and shall inform them of their right to appeal the dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegation in the complaint in accordance with the appeal procedures described in the section "Appeals" below. (34 CFR 106.45)

If a complaint is dismissed, the conduct may still be addressed pursuant to BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures as applicable.

Informal Resolution Process

When a formal complaint of sexual harassment is filed, the District may offer an informal resolution process, such as mediation, at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility. The District shall not require a party to participate in the informal resolution process or to waive the right to an investigation and adjudication of a formal complaint. (34 CFR 106.45)

The District may facilitate an informal resolution process provided that the District: (34 CFR 106.45)

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, and any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including that records will be maintained or could be shared;
2. Obtains the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process;

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

3. Does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

Written Notice

If a formal complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator 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. The allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment with sufficient details known at the time, including the identity of parties involved in the incident if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident if known. 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 the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the complaint process;
4. The opportunity for the parties to have an advisor of their choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and the ability to inspect and review evidence;
5. The prohibition against knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the complaint process.

The above notice shall also include the name of the investigator,

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

facilitator of an informal process, and decision-maker 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.

Investigation Procedures

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

1. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence;
2. Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence;
3. Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;
4. Not limit the choice or presence of an advisor for either the complainant or respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding, although the District may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties;
5. Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate;
6. Send in an electronic format or hard copy to both parties and their advisors, if any, the evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the complaint, and provide the parties at least 10

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

days to submit a written response for the investigator to consider prior to the completion of the investigative report;

7. Objectively evaluate all relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, and determine credibility in a manner that is not based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness;
8. Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least 10 days prior to the determination of responsibility, send to the parties and their advisors, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response.

Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. (34 CFR 106.45)

Privacy rights of all parties to the complaint shall be maintained in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

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.

Written Decision

The Superintendent shall designate an employee as the decision-maker to determine responsibility for the alleged conduct, who shall not be the Title IX Coordinator or a person involved in the investigation of the matter. (34 CFR 106.45)

After the investigative report has been sent to the parties but before reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker shall afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that the party wants asked of any party

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party

The decision-maker shall issue, and simultaneously provide to both parties, a written decision as to whether the respondent is responsible for the alleged conduct. (34 CFR 106.45)

The written decision shall be issued within 60 calendar days of the receipt of the complaint.

The timeline may be temporarily extended for good cause with written notice to the complainant and respondent of the extension and the reasons for the action. (34 CFR 106.45)

In making this determination, the decision-maker shall use the "preponderance of the evidence" standard for all formal complaints of sexual harassment. The same standard of evidence shall be used for formal complaints against students as for complaints against employees. (34 CFR 106.45)

The written decision shall include the following: (34 CFR 106.45)

1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in 34 CFR 106.30;
2. A description of the procedural steps taken from receipt of the formal complaint through the written decision, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held if the District includes hearings as part of the grievance process;
3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
4. Conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct or policies to the facts;
5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a decision regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the District imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's educational program

STUDENTS

E 5145.71

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

or activity will be provided by the District to the complainant;

6. The District's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

Appeals

Either party may appeal the District's decision or dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegation in the complaint, if the party believes that a procedural irregularity affected the outcome, new evidence is available that could affect the outcome, or a conflict of interest or bias by the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) affected the outcome. If an appeal is filed, the District shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

1. Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;
2. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is trained in accordance with 34 CFR 106.45 and is not the same decision-maker(s) who reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator;
3. Give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;
4. Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result;
5. Provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

An appeal must be filed in writing within 10 calendar days of receiving the notice of the decision or dismissal, stating the grounds for the appeal and including any relevant documentation in support of the appeal. Appeals submitted after this deadline are not timely and shall not be considered.

A written decision shall be provided to the parties within 20 calendar days from the receipt of the appeal.

STUDENTS

E 5145.71

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

The District's decision may be appealed to the California Department of Education within 30 days of the written decision in accordance with BP/AR 1312.3.

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.

Remedies

When a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent, the District shall provide remedies to the complainant. Such remedies may include the same individualized services described above in the section "Supportive Measures," but need not be nondisciplinary or nonpunitive and need not avoid burdening the respondent. (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)

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)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

STUDENTS

E 5145.71

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

Other actions that may be taken with a student who is determined to be responsible for sexual 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;
- (cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)
6. Denial of participation in extracurricular or cocurricular activities or other privileges as permitted by law.

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

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

- (cf. 4117.7/4317.7 - Employment Status Report)
(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Record-Keeping

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

1. A record of all reported cases and Title IX investigations of sexual harassment, any determinations of responsibility, any audio or audiovisual recording and transcript if applicable, any disciplinary sanctions imposed, any remedies provided to the complainant, and any appeal or informal resolution and

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

the results therefrom;

2. A record of any actions, including supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, including the District's basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, the measures taken that were designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity, and, if no supportive measures were provided to the complainant, the reasons that such a response was not unreasonable in light of the known circumstances;
3. All materials used to train the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), decision-maker(s), and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The District shall make such training materials publicly available on its website, or if the District does not maintain a website, available upon request by members of the public.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Websites)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex

48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion

48900.2 Additional grounds for suspension or expulsion; sexual harassment

48985 Notices, report, statements and records in primary language

CIVIL CODE

51.9 Liability for sexual harassment; business, service and professional relationships

1714.1 Liability of parents/guardians for willful misconduct of minor

GOVERNMENT CODE

12950.1 Sexual harassment training

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures

4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1092 Definition of sexual assault

STUDENTS

E 5145.71

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

1221 Application of laws
1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 34
12291 Definition of dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
1983 Civil action for deprivation of rights
2000d-2000d-7 Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964
2000e-2000e-17 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy
106.1-106.82 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs
COURT DECISIONS
Donovan v. Poway Unified School District, (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567
Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District, (2003, 9th Cir.) 324 F.3d 1130
Reese v. Jefferson School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 208 F.3d 736
Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, (1999) 526 U.S. 629
Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, (1998) 524 U.S. 274
Oona by Kate S. v. McCaffrey, (1998, 9th Cir.) 143 F.3d 473
Doe v. Petaluma City School District, (1995, 9th Cir.) 54 F.3d 1447

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014
Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

FEDERAL REGISTER

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, May 19, 2020, Vol. 85, No. 97, pages 30026-30579

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS
Q&A on Campus Sexual Misconduct, September 2017

Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students, May 2016



STUDENTS

E 5145.71

Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

Dear Colleague Letter: Title IX Coordinators, April 2015
Sexual Harassment: It's Not Academic, September 2008
Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by
School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties, January 2001

WEBSITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

Adopted by the Governing Board: January 26, 2021