SECOND READING BY BOARD

po8913

Special Update - Nondiscrimination - July 2026 Technical Correction SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

8913 - **SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT**

The Board prohibits discrimination against any employee or applicant based upon their disability. As such, the Board will not engage in employment practices or adopt policies that discriminate on the basis of disability, or otherwise discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement or discharge of employees, employee compensation, job training, or other terms, conditions and privileges of employment. The Board further will not limit, segregate or classify applicants or employees in any way that adversely affects their opportunities or status because of disability. Additionally, the Board will not participate in any contractual or other relationships that have the effect of subjecting qualified individuals with disabilities who are applicants or employees to discrimination on the basis of disability.

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the School District's Compliance Officer(s) (see below) will be published on the District's website, posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges or is alleged to have been subjected to discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term “day” or “days” as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the District office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

Respondent is the individual who is alleged to have engaged in discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the Complainant files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

District community means students, District employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and support staff), and Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include but are not limited to guests and/or visitors on District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with or seeking to do business with the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

An individual with a disability means a person who has, has a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Major Life Activities

Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, sitting, reaching, interacting with others, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal and reproductive functions. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

Impairment That Substantially Limits a Major Life Activity

The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity must be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, equipment or appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics (including limbs and devices), hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment or supplies, use of assistive technology, reasonable accommodations or "auxiliary aids or services," learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications, psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

Qualified Individual with a Disability

A qualified individual with a disability means the individual satisfies the requisite skill, experience, education and other job-related requirements of the employment position the individual holds or desires and can perform the essential functions of the job in question, with or without reasonable accommodation.

Reasonable Accommodation

The Board will provide a reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual who has an actual disability or who has a record of a disability unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the Board's program and/or activities. A reasonable accommodation is not required for an individual who believes they are being regarded as having a disability. Employees requesting reasonable accommodation must cooperate with school officials in obtaining specific medical opinion that identifies the precise limitations resulting from the disability and potential reasonable accommodations that could overcome those limitations.

Facilities

No qualified person with a disability will be denied the benefits of, excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/American s with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities.

For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities.

District Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individual(s) to serve as the District's 504 CO(s)/ADA Coordinator(s) (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

Sarah Trimner
Director of Talent & Culture
715-359-4221, ext. 1225
6100 Alderson Street
Weston, WI 54476
strimner@dce.k12.wi.us

Kelley Strike
Assistant Superintendent of Operations
715-359-4221, ext. 1243
6100 Alderson Street
Weston, WI 54476
kstrike@dce.k12.wi.us

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually on the District's website.

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination/retaliation or denial of equal access. The COs also shall verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975 is provided to staff members and the general public. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based will be made available upon request from the CO.

The COs will oversee the investigation of any complaints of discrimination based on disability, which may be filed pursuant to the Board's adopted internal complaint procedure, and will attempt to resolve such complaints. Any complaint received regarding the District Administrator or a Board member shall be referred to the Board's legal counsel, who shall assume the role of the CO for such complaints, as appropriate. Additionally, if the complaint is regarding a CO, the complaint shall be reported to the District Administrator, who shall coordinate with the other appointed/designated CO, or, if appropriate appoint/designate another individual to serve as CO for the complaint regarding a CO.

The Board will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations of Section 504/ADA. (See Complaint Procedure below.)

Complaint Procedures

If a person believes that they have been discriminated against on the basis of their disability, the person may utilize the following complaint procedures as a means of reaching, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of the matter.

Internal complaints must be put in writing and must identify the specific circumstances or areas of dispute that have given rise to the complaint, and offer possible solutions to the dispute. The complaint must be filed with COs within the time limits specified below. The COs are available to assist individuals in filing a complaint.

Internal Complaint Procedure

The following internal complaint procedure is available to employees for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination based upon disability. Use of the internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies, including the filing of a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

A. An employee with a complaint based on alleged discrimination on the basis of disability may first discuss the problem with the CO.

B. If the informal discussion does not resolve the matter, or if the employee skips Step A, the individual may file a formal written complaint with the CO. The written complaint must contain the name and address of the individual or representative filing the complaint, be signed by the Complainant or someone authorized to sign for the Complainant, describe the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the CO of the nature and date of the alleged violation and propose a resolution. The complaint should be filed within thirty (30) days of the circumstances or event giving rise to the complaint.

C. The CO will conduct an independent investigation of the matter. This complaint procedure contemplates informal, but thorough investigations, affording all interested persons and their representatives, if any, an opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence relevant to the complaint. The CO will provide the Complainant with a written disposition of the complaint as soon as practicable relative to the ability to complete a thorough investigation but within sixty (60) days. If no decision is rendered within sixty (60) business days, or the decision is unsatisfactory in the opinion of the Complainant, the employee may file, in writing, an appeal with the District Administrator. The CO shall maintain the District's files and records relating to the complaint.

D. The District Administrator will, within ten (10) days of receiving the written appeal, conduct a meeting with all parties involved in an attempt to resolve the complaint.

   The District Administrator will render their decision within ten (10) days of the meeting.

E. The employee may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings.

F. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the filing of a court case. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

If it is determined that the Complainant was subjected to discrimination, the CO must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

Directives During Investigation

The CO may recommend to the District Administrator placing any employee involved in an investigation under this Policy on administrative leave pending resolution of the matter. If the District Administrator is the Respondent, the CO shall make such a recommendation to the Board. For example, administrative leave may be appropriate in situations in which protecting the safety of any individual or the integrity of the investigation necessitates such action.

The CO shall determine whether any witnesses in the course of an investigation may be required to answer questions that could also involve criminal investigation or sanctions, including the existence of a co-occurring law enforcement investigation are still required to answer questions concerning the District investigation, but are entitled to do so without waiving their Constitutional right against self-incrimination that applies during a criminal investigation. Such investigations still require that an employee answer questions truthfully and honestly and refusal to answer may result in discipline up to and including termination. As appropriate, employees should be advised of this right, through what is often referred to as a "Garrity Warning". The Garrity Warning informs the employee that the employee is required to respond to questions posed during the investigation and that answers to questions relating to the employee's conduct may be used by the District for determining appropriate discipline, but will not be provided to law enforcement officials in the course of their independent criminal investigation, unless otherwise required by law. ~~( ) (See Form 8913 F1 - Garrity Warning)~~

Every employee interviewed in the course of an investigation is required to provide truthful responses to all questions. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

OCR Complaint

At any time, if an employee believes that they have been subjected to discrimination based upon their disability in violation of Section 504 or the ADA, the individual may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"). The OCR can be reached at:

Office for Civil Rights, Denver Office
U.S. Department of Education
Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310
Denver, CO 80204-3582
Telephone: (303) 844-5695

FAX: (303) 844-4303
E-mail: OCR.Denver@ed.gov
Web: https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ocr

~~U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights Citigroup Center~~
~~500 W. Madison Street Suite 1475~~
~~Chicago, IL 60661~~
~~(312) 730-1560~~
~~FAX: (312) 730-1576~~
~~TDD: (877) 521-2172~~
~~E-mail: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov~~

Privacy/Confidentiality

The District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the District's legal obligations to investigate, take appropriate action, and conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

Remedial Action and Monitoring

If warranted, appropriate remedial action shall be determined and implemented on behalf of the Complainant, including but not limited to counseling services, reinstatement of leave taken due to the discrimination or other appropriate action.

The Board may appoint an individual, who may be a District employee, to follow up with the Complainant to ensure no further discrimination or retaliation has occurred and to take action to address any reported occurrences promptly.

Sanctions and Disciplinary Action

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct.

While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the

suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and any relevant codes of conduct.

When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the age and maturity level of any student involved. In those cases where discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies.

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior disciplinary action has been taken against the Respondent, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging discrimination/retaliation, or participates as a witness in an investigation, is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made by Section 504 or the ADA, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated, or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of discriminatory practices. The District Administrator shall provide appropriate information to all members of the District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training and information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination, in general, will be age and content-appropriate.

Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

The CO is responsible for overseeing the retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but are not limited to:

A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;

B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;

C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities related to the investigation and/or the District's response to the alleged violation of this policy;

D. written witness statements;

E. narratives, notes from, and audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;

F. e-mails, texts, and social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);

G. notes and summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is otherwise memorialized in other documents;

H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;

I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;

J. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and the Respondent, including no contact orders issued to both

parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;

K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;

L. copies of the Board policy and procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Codes of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);

M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;

N. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy including, but not limited to notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conduct an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy.

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal (e.g., FERPA, ADA) and/or State law, such as student records and confidential medical records.

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310 - Public Records, Policy 8315 - Information Management, Policy 8320 - Personnel Records, and Policy 8330 - Student Records for not less than three (3) years and longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

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Revised 6/15/22
Revised 6/19/23
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T.C. 6/27/24
Revised 7/17/24

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Legal
29 U.S.C. 794, Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended
29 C.F.R. Part 1630
34 C.F.R. Part 104