

# Milton-Freewater School District 7

Code: AC-AR(2)  
Revised/Reviewed:  
Orig. Code(s): GBN/JBA-AR(2)

## Sex-Based Discrimination Under Title IX

{This administrative regulation (AR) is intended to provide guidance to district administrators when handling Title IX-related issues. These requirements here are in addition to requirements in other applicable complaint procedures.}

### Definitions

“Discrimination on the basis of sex” includes discrimination on the basis of sex-stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

“Complainant” means:

1. A student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX; or
2. A person other than a student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX and who was participating or attempting to participate in the district’s education program or activity at the time of the alleged discrimination.

“Complaint” means an oral or written request to the district that objectively can be understood as a request for the district to investigate and make a determination about alleged discrimination.

<sup>{1}</sup> [“Consent” means the knowing, voluntary and clear agreement by all parties to participate in the specific act.]

“Parental status” means the status of a person who, with respect to another person who is under the age of 18 or who is 18 or older but is incapable of self-care because of a physical or mental disability, is:

1. A biological parent;
2. An adoptive parent;
3. A foster parent;
4. A stepparent;
5. A legal custodian or guardian;
6. In loco parentis with response to such a person;
7. Actively seeking legal custody, guardianship, visitation, or adoption of such a person.

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<sup>1</sup> {This definition of consent is based on the definition of “without consent” in ORS 342.704, applying to sexual harassment. The district can choose to use a different definition.}

“Peer retaliation” means retaliation by a student against another student.

“Pregnancy or related conditions” means:

1. Pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation;
2. Medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation; or
3. Recovery from pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions.

“Sex-based harassment” is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including on bases described in 34 CFR § 106.10, that is:

1. **Quid pro quo harassment.** An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the district to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the district’s education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person’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 (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:
  - a. The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant’s ability to access the district’s education program or activity;
  - b. The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;
  - c. The parties’ age, roles within the district’s education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;
  - d. The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and
  - e. Other sex-based harassment in the district’s education program or activity; or
3. Specific offenses including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.<sup>2</sup>

“Supportive measures” means individualized measures offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without unreasonably burdening a complainant or respondent, not for punitive or disciplinary reasons, and without fee or charge to the complainant or respondent to:

1. Restore or preserve that party’s access to the district’s education program or activity, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or the district’s educational environment; or
2. Provide support during the district’s grievance procedures under 34 CFR § 106.45, and if applicable 34 CFR § 106.46, or during the informal resolution process under 34 CFR § 106.44(k).

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<sup>2</sup> See 34 CFR § 106.2, *Sex-based harassment (3) Specific offenses* for definitions.

## Notice of Nondiscrimination

The district will provide notice of nondiscrimination to students; parents, guardians, or other authorized legal representatives of elementary school and secondary school students; employees; applicants for admission and employment and all unions and professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district. This notice will be continuously available on the district website, be posted in multiple locations, be made available in the languages of the communities served by the district, and be disseminated annually to staff, students, and families in an accessible manner.<sup>3</sup> This includes, but is not limited to, each handbook, catalog, announcement, bulletin, and application form that the district makes available to persons entitled to the notice.<sup>{4}</sup>

[<sup>5</sup>]Sample notice:

The district does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, national origin, race, color, marital status, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

The district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including admission and employment.

Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

The following have been designated by the district:  
*[Include Title IX Coordinator(s), Civil Rights Coordinator(s), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Coordinator, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 Coordinator with name or title, work address, email address and phone number.]*

The district's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures can be located at [include link to location(s) on website or otherwise describe location(s)].

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to [include link to location(s) on website or otherwise describe location(s)].

The following may also be used in district publications:

The district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The notice of nondiscrimination is located at [insert website address].]

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<sup>3</sup> This reflects the requirements for the Title IX notice (34 CFR § 106.8(c)(1)) and Oregon law OAR 581-021-0045(4).

<sup>4</sup> {If necessary, due to the format or size of any publication, the district may instead include in those publications a statement that the district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity it operates, and individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator and provide the location of the notice on the district's website.}

<sup>5</sup> {Including this notice language in this administrative regulation does not meet the notice requirements. This language is provided as sample language that can be communicated in other ways to meet the notice requirements.}

## Training Requirements

The district will ensure the following individuals receive training related to their duties under Title IX promptly upon hiring or change of position which alters their duties under Title IX or this administrative regulation, and annually thereafter. The training must not rely on sex stereotypes.

1. All employees must be trained on:
  - a. The district's obligation to address sex discrimination in its education program or activity;
  - b. The scope of conduct that constitutes sex discrimination under Title IX and regulation, including the definition of sex-based harassment; and
  - c. All applicable notification and information requirements.
2. All investigators, decisionmakers, and other persons<sup>6</sup> who are responsible for implementing the district's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures must be trained on the following topics to the extent related to their responsibilities:
  - a. The district's obligations under 34 CFR § 106.44 (District's response to sex discrimination);
  - b. The district's grievance procedures;
  - c. How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias; and
  - d. The meaning and application of the term 'relevant' in relation to questions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible regardless of relevance under law.
3. All facilitators<sup>7</sup> of an informal resolution process must be trained on the rules and practices associated with the district's informal resolution process and on how to serve impartially, including by avoiding conflicts of interest and bias;
4. The Title IX Coordinator and any designees must be trained on their specific legal responsibilities<sup>8</sup>, the district's recordkeeping system related requirements, and any other training necessary to coordinate the district's compliance with Title IX.

The district will make all training materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public.

## Title IX Coordinator Duties

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the district's compliance with its obligations under Title IX.

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<sup>6</sup> This requirement is in addition to the requirements in 1. above for all employees. This requirement may include board members.

<sup>7</sup> This requirement is in addition to the requirements in 1. above for all employees.

<sup>8</sup> See 34 CFR §§ 106.40(b)(3) and 106.44(f) and (g).

When notified of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, the Title IX Coordinator must take the following actions to promptly and effectively end any sex discrimination in its education program or activity, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects:

1. Treat the complainant and respondent equitably;
2. Offer and coordinate supporting measures for complainant and respondent, as appropriate;
3. Notify the complainant or, if the complainant is unknown, the individual who reported the conduct of the grievance procedures (including informal resolutions process as appropriate);
4. If a complaint is made, notify the respondent of the grievance procedures (including informal resolutions process as appropriate);
5. In response to a complaint, initiate the grievance procedures;
6. In the absence of a complaint or the withdrawal of any or all of the allegation in the complaint, and in the absence or termination of an informal resolution process, determine whether to initiate a complaint of sex discrimination<sup>9</sup>. If, after considering these and other relevant factors, the Title IX Coordinator determines that the conduct as alleged presents an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of the complainant or other person, or that the conduct as alleged prevents the district from ensuring equal access on the basis of sex to its education program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator may initiate a complaint;
7. If initiating a complaint, notify the complainant prior to doing so and appropriately address reasonable concerns about the complainant's safety or the safety of others, including by providing supportive measures; and
8. Regardless of whether a complaint is initiated, take other appropriate prompt and effective steps, in addition to steps necessary to effectuate the remedies provided to an individual complainant, if any, to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity.

#### **Additional Requirements under Title IX**

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<sup>9</sup> To make this fact-specific determination, the Title IX Coordinator must consider, at a minimum, the following factors:

1. The complainant's request not to proceed with initiation of a complaint;
2. The complainant's reasonable safety concerns regarding initiation of a complaint;
3. The risk that additional acts of sex discrimination would occur if a complaint were not initiated;
4. The severity of the alleged sex discrimination, 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, or sex discrimination alleged to have impacted multiple individuals;
7. The availability of evidence to assist a decisionmaker in determining whether sex discrimination occurred; and
8. Whether the district could end the alleged sex discrimination and prevent its recurrence without initiating its grievance procedure.

If the district has knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination in its education program or activity, the district must respond promptly and effectively. Each district employee<sup>10</sup> must notify the Title IX Coordinator when the employee has information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX.<sup>11</sup>

The district will treat complainants and respondents equitably.<sup>12</sup>

The district requires that any Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decisionmaker not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. A decisionmaker may be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or investigator.<sup>13</sup>

The district presumes that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sex discrimination until a determination is made at the conclusion of its grievance procedures.<sup>14</sup>

The district will follow timelines in AC-AR(1) – Discrimination or Civil Rights Complaint Procedure. Timelines may be amended in accordance with that procedure.<sup>15</sup>

The district will take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of the parties and witnesses during its grievance procedures. These steps will not restrict the ability of the parties to obtain and present evidence, including by speaking to witnesses; consult with their family members, confidential resources, or advisors; or otherwise prepare for or participate in the grievance procedures. The parties cannot engage in retaliation, including against witnesses.

If a complainant or respondent is a student with a disability, the Title IX Coordinator must consult with one or more members of the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or the group of persons responsible for the student’s placement decision as required by law.<sup>16</sup>

Records related to complaints, notifications and trainings will be kept in accordance with 34 CFR § 106.8(f).<sup>17</sup>

The Title IX Coordinator must monitor the district’s education program or activity for barriers to reporting information about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX and take steps reasonably calculated to address such barriers.

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<sup>10</sup> Does not apply to confidential employees, as defined in 34 CFR § 106.2.

<sup>11</sup> This requirement does not apply to an employee who has personally be subject to conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX.

<sup>12</sup> 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(1).

<sup>13</sup> 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(2).

<sup>14</sup> 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(3).

<sup>15</sup> 34 CFR § 106.45(b)(4).

<sup>16</sup> 34 CFR § 106.8(e).

<sup>17</sup> Records documenting the information resolution process, the grievance procedures, any resulting outcome, records documenting the actions the district took to meet obligations under this regulation and training materials must be kept for a minimum of seven years.

## Complaint and Grievance Procedures<sup>18</sup>

The district has adopted complaint procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints made by students, employees, or other individuals who are participating or attempting to participate in its education program or activity, or by the Title IX Coordinator, alleging any action that would be prohibited by Title IX or the Title IX regulations. These procedures can be found in AC-AR(1) - Discrimination or Civil Rights Complaint Procedure.

The following persons have a right to make a complaint about sex discrimination, including complaints of sex-based harassment, requesting that the district investigate and make a determination about alleged discrimination under Title IX:

1. A “complainant,” includes:
  - a. A student or employee of the district who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX; or
  - b. A person other than a student or employee of the district who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX at a time when that individual was participating or attempting to participate in the district’s education program or activity;
2. A parent, guardian, or other authorized legal representative with the legal right to act on behalf of a complainant; or
3. The district’s Title IX Coordinator.

A person is entitled to make a complaint of sex-based harassment under Title IX only if they themselves are alleged to have been subjected to the sex-based harassment, if they have a legal right to act on behalf of such person, or if the Title IX Coordinator initiates a complaint consistent with requirements of 34 CFR § 106.44(f)(1)(v).

With respect to complaints of sex discrimination other than sex-based harassment, in addition to the people listed above, the following persons have a right to make a complaint:

1. Any student or employee of the district; or
2. Any person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the district’s educational program or activity at the time of the alleged sex discrimination.

Individuals may be able to file complaints under different laws and procedures.

The district may consolidate complaints of sex discrimination against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against another party, when the allegations of sex discrimination arise out of the same facts or circumstances. When more than one complainant or more than one respondent is involved, references below to a party, complainant, or respondent include the plural, as applicable.

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<sup>18</sup> See 34 CFR §§ 106.8(b)(2) and 106.45.

## Notice of Allegations

Upon initiation of the district's Title IX grievance procedures, the district will notify the parties in writing of the following:

1. The district's Title IX grievance procedures and any informal resolution process;
2. Sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct alleged to constitute sex discrimination, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s);
3. Retaliation is prohibited; and
4. The parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of this evidence. If the district provides a description of the evidence the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence upon the request of any party.

If, in the course of an investigation, the district decides to investigate additional allegations of sex discrimination by the respondent toward the complainant that are not included in the notice provided or that are included in a complaint that is consolidated, the district will notify the parties of the additional allegations.

## Investigation

Using established investigative procedures, the district will provide for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints.

The burden is on the district—not on the parties—to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether sex discrimination occurred.

The district will provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that are relevant and not otherwise impermissible.

The district will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance.

The district will objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible—including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

The district will provide each party with an equal opportunity to access the evidence that is relevant to the allegations of sex discrimination and not otherwise impermissible, in the following manner:

1. The district will provide an equal opportunity to access either the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, or an accurate description of this evidence. If the district provides a description of the evidence, the district will provide the parties with an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence upon request of the party;



2. The district will provide a reasonable opportunity to respond to the evidence or the accurate description of the evidence; and
3. The district will take reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the grievance procedures. Disclosures of such information and evidence for purposes of administrative proceedings or litigation related to the complaint of sex discrimination are authorized.

### **Questioning the Parties and Witnesses**

The district will provide a process that enables the decisionmaker to question parties and witnesses to adequately 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 discrimination.

The following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence, are impermissible (i.e., will not be accessed or considered, except by the district to determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies; will not be disclosed; and will not otherwise be used), regardless of whether they are relevant:

1. Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by Federal or State law or evidence provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality;
2. 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 consent or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures; and
3. 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.

### **Determination whether Sex Discrimination Occurred**

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the district will:

1. Use the [{}<sup>19</sup>preponderance of the evidence] standard of proof to determine whether sex discrimination occurred. The standard of proof requires the decisionmaker to evaluate relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence for its persuasiveness. If the decisionmaker is not persuaded under the applicable standard by the evidence that sex discrimination occurred, whatever the quantity of the evidence is, the decisionmaker will not determine that sex discrimination occurred;

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<sup>19</sup> {If the district uses the clear and convincing evidence standard in all comparable proceedings, the district can choose to use the clear and convincing evidence standard.}

2. Notify the parties in writing of the determination whether sex discrimination occurred under Title IX including the rationale for such determination, and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal, if applicable;
3. Not impose discipline on a respondent for sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX unless there is a determination at the conclusion of the grievance procedures that the respondent engaged in prohibited sex discrimination;
4. If there is a determination that sex discrimination occurred, the Title IX Coordinator will, as appropriate:
  - a. Coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to a complainant and other people the district identifies as having had equal access to the district's education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination;
  - b. Coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions; and
  - c. Take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity.
5. Comply with the grievance procedures before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions against a respondent; and
6. 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 determination whether sex discrimination occurred.

### **Dismissal of Complaints**

The district may dismiss a complaint of sex discrimination if:

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 complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all of the allegations in the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint, and the district determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX even if proven; or
4. The district determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX. Before dismissing the complaint, the district will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

Upon dismissal, the district will promptly notify the complaint of the basis for the dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then the district will also notify the respondent of the dismissal and the basis for the dismissal promptly following notification to the complainant, or simultaneously if notification is in writing.

The district will notify the complainant that a dismissal may be appealed and will provide the complainant with an opportunity to appeal the dismissal of a complaint. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then the district will also notify the respondent that the dismissal may be appealed. Dismissals may be appealed on the following bases:

1. 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; and
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 will:

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; and
6. Notify the parties of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.

When a complaint is dismissed, the district will, at a minimum:

1. Offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate;<sup>20</sup>
2. If the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measure to the respondent as appropriate; and
3. Take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, through the Title IX Coordinator to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the district's education program or activity.<sup>21</sup>

### **Appeal of Determinations**

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<sup>20</sup> See 34 CFR § 106.44(g).

<sup>21</sup> See 34 CFR § 106.44(f).

Appeals may be filed in accordance with AC-AR(1) - Discrimination or Civil Rights Complaint Procedure.

### **Informal Resolutions**

In lieu of resolving a complaint through the district’s Title IX grievance procedures, the parties may instead elect to participate in an informal resolution process. The district does not offer informal resolution to resolve a complaint that includes allegations that an employee engaged in sex-based harassment of a student, or when such a process would conflict with Federal, State, or local laws.<sup>22</sup>

### **Supportive Measures**

The district will offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate for the complainant and/or respondent to restore or preserve that person’s access to the district’s education program or activity or provide support during the district’s Title IX grievance procedures or during the informal resolution process. For complaints of sex-based harassment, these supportive measures may include [DESCRIBE RANGE THAT COMPLIES WITH 34 CFR § 106.44(g) HERE].

### **Disciplinary Sanctions and Remedies**

Following a determination that sex-based harassment occurred, the district may impose disciplinary sanctions, which may include [LIST OR DESCRIBE RANGE]. The district may also provide remedies, which may include [LIST OR DESCRIBE RANGE].

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<sup>22</sup> See 34 CFR § 106.44(k)