

OSBA Model Sample Policy

Code: GBN/JBA

Adopted:

Sexual Harassment

{Required policy. The requirement for this policy comes from ORS 342.700 and OAR 581-021-0038. Review Board policy AC - Nondiscrimination and Civil Rights for consideration of Title IX and sex-based discrimination.}

¹The district is committed to eliminating sexual harassment. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated in the district. All students, staff members and other persons are entitled to learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment. All staff members, students and third parties are subject to this policy. Any person may report sexual harassment.

The district processes complaints^{2} or reports of sexual harassment under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 342.700 et. al. and federal Title IX laws found in Title 34 C.F.R. Part 106. Individual complaints may require both of these procedures, and may involve additional complaint procedures.

General Procedures

When information, a report or complaint regarding sexual harassment is received by the district, the district will review such information, report or complaint to determine which law applies and will follow the appropriate procedures. When the alleged conduct could meet both of the definitions in ORS Chapter 342 and Title IX, both complaint procedures should be processed simultaneously (*see* GBN/JBA-AR(1) - Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure and GBN/JBA-AR(2) - Federal Law (Title IX) Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure). The district may also need to use other complaint procedures when the alleged conduct could meet the definitions for other complaint procedures

The district processes complaints or reports of sexual harassment using administrative regulation AC-AR(1) - Discrimination or Civil Rights Complaint Procedure. Additional requirements for processing complaints are included in this policy.³

Direct complaints related to employment may be filed with the U.S. Department of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries.

¹ Sexual harassment is generally considered a type of sex-based discrimination. Consequently, additional laws and complaint procedures may apply.

² {Some districts choose not to use the terms “complaint” and “complainant” because they feel the stigma associated with the terms discourage victims from reporting conduct. The terms used in this policy are consistent with those included in the law. If the district chooses to change these terms, new terms must be consistent and clear. Note, “complainant” is defined under federal law.}

³ Other complaint policies and administrative regulations that may apply include, but are not limited to: AC – Nondiscrimination and Civil Rights; ACB – Every Student Belongs; GBEA – Workplace Harassment, GBNA – Hazing, Harassment, Intimidation, Menacing, or Cyberbullying – Staff; GBNA/JHFF – Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students and Reporting Requirements; GBNA/JHFE – Suspected Abuse of a Child Reporting Requirements; and JFCF – [Hazing,] Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, [Menacing,] Cyberbullying, Teen Dating Violence or Domestic Violence - Students.

Direct complaints related to educational programs and services may be made to the Regional Civil Rights Director, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Region X, 915 2nd Ave., Room 3310, Seattle, WA 98174-1099.

Additional information regarding filing of a complaint or report may be obtained through the principal, Title IX Coordinator, civil rights coordinator, or superintendent.

All documentation related to sexual harassment complaints may become part of the student's education record or employee's personnel file, as appropriate. Additionally, a copy of all sexual harassment complaints or reports and documentation will be maintained as a confidential file and stored in the district office.

The superintendent shall report the name of any person holding a teaching license or registered with Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) or participating in a practicum under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 584, Division 17, when, after appropriate investigation, there is reasonable cause to believe the person may have committed an act of sexual harassment. Reports shall be made to TSPC within 30 days of such a finding. Reports of sexual contact with a student shall be given to a representative from law enforcement or Oregon Department of Human Services, as possible child abuse.

OREGON DEFINITION AND PROCEDURES

Oregon Definition

{⁴} Sexual harassment of students, staff members or third parties⁵ shall include:

1. A demand or request for sexual favors in exchange for benefits;
2. Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that is physical, verbal, or nonverbal and that:
 - a. Interferes with a student's educational activity or program;
 - b. Interferes with a school or district staff member's ability to perform their job; or
 - c. Creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment.
3. Assault when sexual contact occurs without consent⁶.

Sexual harassment does not include conduct that is necessary because of a job duty of a school or district staff member or because of a service required to be provided by a contractor, agent, or volunteer, if the

⁴ {The statutory definition (ORS 342.704) for sexual harassment includes separate definitions with slightly different language for students, staff members and third parties. The language used in this policy comes from OAR 581-021-0038(1). If the district would like to include the full statutory definition, it can do so.}

⁵ "Third party" means a person who is not a student or a school or district staff member and who is: 1) on or immediately adjacent to school grounds or district property; 2) at a school-sponsored activity or program; or 3) off school grounds or district property if a student or a school or district staff member acts toward the person in a manner that creates a hostile environment for the person while on school or district property, or at a school- or district-sponsored activity.

⁶ "Without consent" means an act performed: (a) without the knowing, voluntary and clear agreement by all parties to participate in the specific act; or (b) when a person who is a party to the act is incapacitated by drugs or alcohol; unconscious; or pressured through physical force, coercion or explicit or implied threats to participate in the act.

conduct is not the product of sexual intent or a person finding another person, or another person's actions, offensive because of that other person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but not be limited to, ^{7}physical touching or graffiti of a sexual nature; displaying or distributing of sexually explicit drawings; pictures and written materials; sexual gestures or obscene jokes; touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual behaviors in front of others; or spreading rumors about or rating other students or others as to appearance, sexual activity or performance].

Oregon Procedures

Reports and complaints of sexual harassment should be made to the following individual(s):

^{8}[Name], [position] at [phone] or [email]

[This individual is] responsible for accepting and managing complaints of sexual harassment. Persons wishing to make a report should contact them using use the above contact information. The person[s] designated will coordinate the report with the procedures in administrative regulation AC-AR(1) – Discrimination or Civil Rights Complaint Procedure. ^{9}This person is also designated as the Title IX coordinator.] See GBN/JBA-AR(1) - Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure.

Response

Any staff member who becomes aware of behavior that may violate this policy shall [immediately] report to a district official. The district official (with coordination involving the reporting staff member when appropriate) will take any action necessary to ensure the:

1. Student is protected and to promote a nonhostile learning environment;
2. Staff member is protected and to promote a nonhostile work environment; or
3. Third party who is subjected to the behavior is protected and to promote a nonhostile environment.

This includes providing resources for support measures to the student, staff member or third party who was subjected to the behavior and taking any actions necessary to remove potential future impact on the student, staff member or third party, but are not retaliatory against the student, staff member or third party being harassed or the person who reported to the district official.

Any student or staff member who feels they are a victim of sexual harassment are encouraged to [immediately] report their concerns to district officials, this includes officials such as the principal,

⁷ {OAR 581-021-0038 requires that the policy include a “examples of harassing behaviors covered by policy”. The bracketed list in this policy reflects OSBA’s recommendations. The district has discretion in what is included in this list. If listing behaviors not reflected in OSBA recommendations, please have the list reviewed by the district’s legal counsel.}

⁸ {The district must designate person(s) to receive reports or complaints regarding sexual harassment. More than one staff member may be designated to receive reports or complaints of sexual harassment.}

⁹ {This must be communicated elsewhere, but it is a good reason to specify it here as well.}

compliance officer or superintendent. Students may also report concerns to a teacher, counselor, or school nurse, who will promptly notify the appropriate district official.

Investigation

All reports and complaints about behavior that may violate this policy shall be investigated. The district may use, but is not limited to, the following means for investigating incidents of possible harassment:

1. [Interviews with those involved;
2. Interviews with witnesses;
3. Review of video surveillance;
4. Review of written communications, including electronic communications;
5. Review of any physical evidence; and
6. Use of third-party investigator.]

The district will use [a reasonable person] standard when determining whether a hostile environment exists. [{}¹⁰A hostile environment exists if a reasonable person with similar characteristics and under similar circumstances would consider the conduct to be so severe as to create a hostile environment.]

The district may take, but is not limited to, the following procedures and remedial action to address and stop sexual harassment and prevent reoccurrence:

1. [Discipline of staff and students engaging in sexual harassment;
2. Removal of third parties engaged in sexual harassment;
3. Additional supervision in activities;
4. Additional controls for district electronic systems;
5. Trainings and education for staff and students; and
6. Increased notifications regarding district procedures and resources.]

When a student or staff member is harassed by a third party, the district will consider the following:

1. [Removing that third party's ability to contract or volunteer with the district, or be present on district property;

¹⁰ {OSBA strongly recommends that the Board receive input from district administration prior to adopting a standard here. Of note, Title IX's definition of sexual harassment includes "unwelcome conduct determined *by a reasonable person* to be..." 34 CFR 106.30(a), emphasis added. It is important to consider the different definitions under Oregon law and Title IX when determining which standards will apply for the Oregon process.}

2. If the third party works for an entity that contracts with the district, communicating with the third party's employer;
3. If the third party is a student of another district or school, communicate information related to the incident to the other district or school;
4. Limiting attendance at district events; and
5. Providing for additional supervision, including law enforcement, if necessary, at district events.]

No Retaliation

Retaliation against persons who initiate complaint or otherwise report sexual harassment or who participate in an investigation or other related activities is prohibited. The initiation of a complaint, reporting of behavior, or participation in an investigation, in good faith about behavior that may violate this policy may not adversely affect the:

1. Educational assignments or educational environment of a student or other person initiating the complaint, reporting the behavior, or participating in the investigation; or
2. Any terms or conditions of employment or of work or educational environment of a school or district staff member or other person initiating the complaint, reporting the behavior, or participating in the investigation.

Students who initiate a complaint or otherwise report harassment covered by the policy or who participate in an investigation may not be disciplined for violations of the district's drug and alcohol policies that occurred in connection with the reported prohibited conduct and that were discovered because of the report or investigation, unless the student gave another person alcohol or drugs without the person's knowledge and with the intent of causing the person to become incapacitated and vulnerable to the prohibited conduct.

Notice

When a person¹¹ who may have been affected by this policy files a complaint or otherwise reports behavior that may violate the policy, the district shall provide written notification to the following:

1. Each reporting person;
2. If appropriate, any impacted person who is not a reporting person;
3. Each reported person; and
4. Where applicable, a parent or legal guardian of a reporting person, impacted person, or reported person.

¹¹ Student, staff member, or third party, or if applicable, the student or third party's parent. If the person is a minor, the district should consider when to contact the person's parent.

The written notification must include¹²:

1. Name and contact information for all person designated by the district to receive complaints;
2. The rights of the person that the notification is going to;
3. Information about the internal complaint processes available through the school or district that the [student, student's parents, staff member, person or person's parent] [person] who filed the complaint may pursue, including the person designated for the school or district for receiving complaints and any timelines;
4. Notice that civil and criminal remedies that are not provided by the school or district may be available to the person through the legal system and that those remedies may be subject to statutes of limitation;
5. Information about services available to the student or staff member through the school or district, including any counseling services, nursing services or peer advising;
6. Information about the privacy rights of the person and legally recognized exceptions to those rights for internal complaint processes and services available through the school or district;
7. Information about, and contact information for, services and resources that are available to the person, including but not limited to:
 - a. For the reporting person, state and community-based resources for persons who have experienced sexual harassment; or
 - b. For the reported persons, information about and contact information for state and community-based mental health services.
8. Notice that students who report about possible prohibited conduct and students who participate in an investigation under this policy may not be disciplined for violations of the district's drug and alcohol policies that occurred in connection with the reported prohibited conduct and that were discovered as a result of a prohibited conduct report or investigation unless the student gave another person alcohol or drugs without the person's knowledge and with the intent of causing the person to become incapacitated and vulnerable to the prohibited conduct; and
9. Prohibition of retaliation.

Notification, to the extent allowable under state and federal student confidentiality laws, must be provided when the investigation is initiated and concluded. The notification at the conclusion must include whether a violation of the policy was found to have occurred.

The notice must:

1. Be written in plain language that is easy to understand;
2. Use print that is of a color, size and font that allows the notification to be easily read; and

¹² Remember confidentiality laws when providing any information.

3. Be made available to students, students' parents, staff members and member of the public at each office, at the district office and on the website of the school or district.

[Oregon Department of Education (ODE) Support

The ODE will provide technical assistance and training upon request.]

FEDERAL DEFINITION AND PROCEDURES

Federal Definition

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the district conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the district on an individual'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 person equal access to the district's education program or activity¹³;
3. "Sexual assault": an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
4. "Dating violence": violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship;
5. "Domestic violence": felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction; or
6. "Stalking": engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person fear for the person's own safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

This definition only applies to sex discrimination occurring against a person who is a subject of this policy in the United States. A district's treatment of a complainant or a respondent in response to a formal complaint of sexual harassment may constitute discrimination on the basis of sex under Title IX.

Federal Procedures

¹³ "Education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the recipient exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs." (Title 34 C.F.R. § 106.44(a))

The district will adopt and publish grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of the student and employee complaints alleging any action that would be prohibited by this policy. *See* GBN/JBA-AR(2) - Federal Law (Title IX) Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure.

Reporting

Any person may report sexual harassment. This report may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, or by any other means that results in the Title IX coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. The report can be made at any time.

[Person or position] is designated as the Title IX coordinator [and can be contacted at [insert phone number]]. The Title IX coordinator will coordinate the district's efforts to comply with its responsibilities related to this policy. The district prominently will display the contact information for the Title IX coordinator on the district website and in each handbook.^{14}

Response

The district will promptly respond to information, allegations or reports of sexual harassment when there is actual knowledge of such harassment, even if a formal complaint has not been filed.¹⁵ The district shall treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing supportive measures¹⁶ to the complainant and by following a grievance procedure¹⁷ prior to imposing any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent. The Title IX coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

The Title IX coordinator must promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes, with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.¹⁸

¹⁴ {Note the difference in requirements for Title IX and Oregon law. It makes sense to align these requirements.}

¹⁵ (Title 34 C.F.R. § 106.44(a)) Response cannot be deliberately indifferent. A recipient is deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

¹⁶ (Title 34 C.F.R. § 106.44(a)) Supportive measures means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or 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 are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient'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 deter sexual harassment. The district must maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the recipient to provide supportive measures. (Title 34 C.F.R. § 99.30(a))

¹⁷ This grievance procedure must meet the requirements of Title 34 C.F.R. § 106.45 (included in accompanying administrative regulation, *see* GBN/JBA-AR(2) - Federal Law (Title IX) Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure).

¹⁸ The Title IX coordinator may also discuss that the Title IX coordinator has the ability to file a formal complaint.

If after an individualized safety and risk analysis, it is determined that there is an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any person, an emergency removal of the respondent can take place.¹⁹ The district must provide the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. A non-student employee may also be placed on non-disciplinary administrative leave pending the grievance process.

Notice

The district shall provide notice to all applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district of the following:

1. The name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the Title IX coordinator(s);
2. That the district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX. This includes admissions and employment; and
3. The grievance procedure and process, how to file a formal complaint of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, and how the district will respond.

[Inquiries about the application to Title IX and its requirements may be referred to the Title IX coordinator or the Assistant Secretary²⁰, or both.]

No Retaliation

Neither the district or any person may retaliate²¹ against an individual for reporting, testifying, providing evidence, being a complainant, otherwise participating or refusing to participate in any investigation or process in accordance with this procedure. The district must keep confidential the identity of parties and participating persons, except as disclosure is allowed under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), as required by law, or to carry out the proceedings herein. Complaints of retaliation may be filed using these procedures.

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding does not constitute retaliation.

Publication

This policy shall be made available to students, parents of students and staff members. This policy [and contact information for the Title IX coordinator] shall be prominently published in the [school] [district] student handbook and on the [school] [district] website. This policy shall also be made available at each school office and at the district office. The district shall post this policy on a sign in all grade 6 through 12

¹⁹ The district may still have obligations under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). (Title 34 C.F.R. § 106.44(c))

²⁰ Of the United States Department of Education.

²¹ Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, intimidation, threats, coercion, and discrimination.

schools, on a sign that is at least 8.5 inches by 11 inches in size. A copy of the policy will be made available to any [student, parent of a student, school or district staff member, or third party] [person] upon request.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 243.706](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 342.700](#)
[ORS 342.704](#)
[ORS 342.708](#)

[ORS 342.850](#)
[ORS 342.865](#)
[ORS 659.850](#)
[ORS 659A.006](#)
[ORS 659A.029](#)

[ORS 659A.030](#)
[OAR 581-021-0038](#)
[OAR 584-020-0040](#)
[OAR 584-020-0041](#)

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (2018).

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e (2018).

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683 (2018); Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (2020~~2024~~).

Bartsch v. Elkton School District, FDA-13-011 (March 27, 2014).