

**Press Plus Issue #116 August 2024 - Policy Committee Meeting 9/20/24**

**1. Action to be taken:**

       **CONSENT**

       **1st READING**

       **STAY IN COMMITTEE**

       **DELETE POLICY**

**2. Policy Committee to Determine:**

    **Adopt as Presented**

*(change "revised" & "reviewed" date)*

    **Adopt with Additional District Edits**

*(change "revised" & "reviewed" date)*

    **Not Adopt**

*(change "reviewed" date)*

## *Document Status: Draft Update - Rewritten*

### [Board of Education](#)

#### **2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure**

Discrimination on the basis of sex, including sex-based harassment, affects a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. [PRESSPlus1](#) Providing an educational and workplace environment free from discrimination on the basis of sex is an important District goal.

The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing regulations (34 C.F.R. Part 106), including against applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and third parties. [PRESSPlus2](#)

#### Title IX Sex Discrimination Prohibited

Sex discrimination as defined in Title IX (Title IX Sex Discrimination) is prohibited. A District employee, agent, or student violates this prohibition whenever that person engages in conduct on the basis of sex that causes another person to be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity operated by the District. Title IX Sex Discrimination includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity.

Sex-based harassment is a form of Title IX Sex Discrimination. Sex-based harassment occurs whenever a person engages in conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A District 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 conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or
2. 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; or
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 34 C.F.R. §106.2.

#### Definitions from 34 C.F.R. §106.2 [PRESSPlus3](#)

*Complainant* means: (1) a student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Title IX Sex Discrimination; or (2) a person other than a student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Title IX Sex Discrimination and who was participating or attempting to participate in the District's education program or activity at the time of the alleged Title IX Sex Discrimination. [PRESSPlus4](#)

*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 under Title IX.

*Respondent* means a person who is alleged to have violated the District's prohibition on Title IX Sex Discrimination.

*Retaliation* means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the District, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the District to provide aid, benefit, or service under the District's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or its regulations, or because the person has reported information, made a Complaint, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under the Title IX regulations.

### Making a Report

A person who wishes to make a report under this policy may make a report to the Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, [PRESSPlus5](#) a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking.

School employees who receive information about conduct that reasonably may constitute Sex Discrimination under this policy shall promptly forward the report or information to the Title IX Coordinator. An employee who fails to promptly make or forward a report or information may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy and keep current the name, office address, email address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator. [PRESSPlus6](#)

### **Title IX Coordinator:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

### Processing and Reviewing a Report or Complaint

Upon receipt of a report of conduct that reasonably may constitute Title IX Sex Discrimination, the Title IX Coordinator and/or designee shall offer and coordinate supportive measures, as appropriate, for a Complainant.

Further, the Title IX Coordinator will analyze the report to identify and determine whether there is another or an additional appropriate method(s) for processing and reviewing it. For any report received, the Title IX Coordinator shall review Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 5:10, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*; 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*; and 7:190, *Student Behavior*, to determine if the allegations in the report require further action under those policies.

Reports of alleged Title IX Sex Discrimination will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable,

subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational program or activity that is productive, respectful, and free of Title IX Sex Discrimination.

### Title IX Complaint Grievance Process

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures to ensure the prompt and equitable resolution of all Complaints according to a grievance process that fully complies with 34 C.F.R. §106.45. See the District's Title IX Complaint Grievance Process (Grievance Process) under administrative procedure 2:265-AP2, *Formal Title IX Complaint Grievance Process*.

When a Complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator will investigate it and make a determination regarding the outcome of the Complaint, or appoint a qualified person(s) to undertake the investigation and make a determination regarding the outcome of the Complaint.

### Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, at the conclusion of the Grievance Process, to have engaged in Title IX Sex Discrimination will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, at the conclusion of the Grievance Process, to have engaged in Title IX Sex Discrimination will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc. Any District student who is determined, at the conclusion of the Grievance Process, to have engaged in Title IX Sex Discrimination will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with student behavior policies. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding Title IX Sex Discrimination will likewise be subject to disciplinary action.

This policy does not increase or diminish the ability of the District or the parties to exercise any other rights under existing law.

### Retaliation Prohibited

The District prohibits any form of retaliation, including peer retaliation, in its education program or activity. Any person should report claims of retaliation using this Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*.

A student, employee, or other person authorized by the District to provide aid, benefit, or service under the District's education program or activity who retaliates against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in any manner under this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

### LEGAL REF.:

20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

Davis v. Monroe County Bd. of Educ., 526 U.S. 629 (1999).

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent Sch. Dist., 524 U.S. 274 (1998).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:200 (Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal), 5:240

(Suspension), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspension), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.) requires this subject matter to be covered by policy and controls this policy's content.

The U.S. Dept. of Education released final regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), effective 8-1-24. Compared to the previous Title IX regulations, the new 2024 Title IX regulations:

- Expand the breadth of Title IX grievance procedures to require that they be used to address all Title IX sex discrimination complaints, not just complaints of sexual harassment.
- Clarify that the scope of Title IX sex discrimination includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity.
- Allow districts the flexibility to use a single investigator/decisionmaker template, so that the same individual who investigates a Title IX complaint may also make a decision regarding the complaint.

See Issue 116 Update Memo and the footnote information in Rewritten PRESS sample policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com), for more information. **Issue 116, August 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. A district must prominently display its Title IX notice of nondiscrimination on its website and in each handbook, catalog, announcement, bulletin, and application form made available to students, applicants for employment, parents/guardians, employees, and collective bargaining units. 34 C.F.R. §106.8(c)(2)(i). The notice must state that nondiscrimination extends to any program or activity operated by the district, including employment; that inquiries about the application of Title IX and its regulations may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, to the U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both; the name or title, office address, email address, and telephone number of the district's Title IX Coordinator; how to locate the district's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures; how to report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX; and how to make a complaint of sex discrimination. 34 C.F.R. §106.8(c)(1)(i). See the Notice of Nondiscrimination subhead of sample administrative procedure 2:265-AP1, *Title IX Response*, for a sample notice of nondiscrimination and nondiscrimination statement meeting the minimum requirements of Title IX regulations. The sample administrative procedure is available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com). **Issue 116, August 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. If the district uses sample exhibit 2:265-E, *Title IX Glossary of Terms*, or a similar document, the definitions of these terms within it should match the definitions used in this policy. Sample exhibit 2:265-E is available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com). **Issue 116, August 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. The 2024 Title IX regulations shift the focus of the analysis from "whether the participation or attempted participation occurred at the time the complaint was filed" (as required under the 2020 Title IX regulations) to "the time of the alleged sex discrimination." 89 Fed. Reg. 33483. **Issue 116, August 2024**

PRESSPlus 5. If the title(s) Assistant Building Principal and/or Dean of Students do not apply, enter Edit Mode, strike the non-applicable title(s), and save the policy as **Adopted with Additional District Edits**.  
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PRESSPlus 6. Title IX regulations require districts to designate and authorize at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX and to refer to that employee as the *Title IX Coordinator*. 34 C.F.R. §106.8(a). If a district has more than one Title IX Coordinator, it must designate one of its Title IX Coordinators to retain ultimate oversight to ensure the district's consistent compliance with its responsibilities under Title IX and its implementing regulations. 34 C.F.R. §106.8(a)(1). The Title IX Coordinator with ultimate oversight should be listed in this policy.

Consistent with how Nondiscrimination Coordinators and Complaint Managers are listed in PRESS sample policies, this policy requires the Title IX Coordinator's name, office address, email address, and telephone number to be listed. It is important for updated names and contact information to be inserted into this policy and regularly monitored.

A district's Nondiscrimination Coordinator often also serves as its Title IX Coordinator. See policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

**IASB will insert the Title IX Coordinator listed in the board's adopted policy 2:260 into policy 2:265.** Ensure that the name and contact information listed in policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, is correct. **Issue 116, August 2024**