

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

### **Notices**

When a person<sup>10</sup> 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.

The written notification must include<sup>11</sup>:

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<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> Remember confidentiality laws when providing any information.

1. Name and contact information for all persons 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
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.

Additionally, notice must be provided to the person who initiated the complaint and, if applicable, the person's parents, when an investigation is initiated and when it is concluded. The notification at the conclusion of the investigation must include whether a violation of the policy was found to have occurred, to the extent allowable under state and federal student confidentiality laws.

**[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 activity<sup>12</sup>;
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**

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.

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<sup>12</sup> "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))



~~[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 AR. The district prominently will display the contact information for the Title IX coordinator on the district website and in each handbook.<sup>{13}</sup>

## 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.<sup>14</sup> The district shall treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing supportive measures<sup>15</sup> to the complainant and by following a grievance procedure<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup>

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.<sup>18</sup> 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);

<sup>13</sup> {Note the difference in requirements for Title IX and Oregon law. It makes sense to align these requirements.}

<sup>14</sup> (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.

<sup>15</sup> (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.<sup>15</sup> 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))

<sup>16</sup> 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).

<sup>17</sup> The Title IX coordinator may also discuss that the Title IX coordinator has the ability to file a formal complaint.

<sup>18</sup> 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))



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 Secretary<sup>19</sup>, or both.]

## No Retaliation

Neither the district or any person may retaliate<sup>20</sup> 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 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

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## 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).

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

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

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

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<sup>19</sup> Of the United States Department of Education.

<sup>20</sup> Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, intimidation, threats, coercion, and discrimination.

# OSBA Model Sample Administrative Regulation

I RECOMMEND  
THIS UPDATE

Code: GCBDA/GDBDA-AR(1)  
Revised/Reviewed:

## Family and Medical Leave \* (Version 1)

{This administrative regulation (AR) is intended for districts with 50 or more employees.. If the district has 25 or more and fewer than 50 employees, use version 2 (Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA)) of GCBDA/GDBDA-AR(1) - Family Leave \*.}

### Employee Eligibility

FMLA benefits are available to employees who have been employed by the district for at least 12 months, have worked at least 1,250 hours during the past 12-month period and work at a worksite that employs 50 district employees within 75 miles of the worksite.

An employee who has previously qualified for and has taken some portion of FMLA leave may request additional FMLA leave within the same leave year. ~~In such instances, the employee may not need to requalify as an eligible employee.~~

Generally, in order for an employee to be eligible for the benefits under OFLA, the employee must work an average of 25 hours or more per week during the 180 calendar days<sup>1</sup> immediately prior to the first day of the start of the requested leave.<sup>[2]</sup> In determining if an employee has been employed for the preceding 180 calendar days under OFLA, the district must consider days, paid or unpaid, an employee is maintained on payroll.

In determining average workweek, under FMLA and OFLA, the employer must count the actual hours worked using the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) guidelines.

An employee is eligible to take leave for any purposes of OFLA during a period of time covered by a public health emergency except:

1. An employee who has worked for the district for fewer than 30 days immediately before the date on which the family leave would commence; or
2. An employee who has worked for the district for an average of fewer than 25 hours per week in the 30 days immediately before the date on which the family leave would commence.

~~An employee of the district is eligible to take leave for purposes of OFLA if the employee:~~

~~3. Separates from employment with the district, irrespective of any reason:~~

~~a. Is eligible to take OFLA leave OFLA at the time the employee separates; and~~

<sup>1</sup> ~~Thirty days during a declared public health emergency.~~

<sup>2</sup> [The requirements of OFLA do not apply to any employer offering eligible employees a nondiscriminatory cafeteria plan, as defined by section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which provides as one of its options, employee leave at least as generous as the leave required by OFLA.]



~~b. — Is reemployed by the district within 180 days of separation from employment; or~~

4. — Is eligible to take OFLA leave:

~~a. — At the beginning of a temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less; and~~

~~b. — Returns to work at the end of the temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less.~~

An employee of the district who has separated and is reemployed within 180 days, or experiences a temporary cessation of schedule hours may be eligible for OFLA in accordance with ORS 659A.156.

Any OFLA leave taken by the employee within any one-year period continues to count against the length of time of OFLA leave the employee is entitled. The amount of time that an employee is deemed to have worked for the district prior to a break in service due to a separation from employment or a temporary cessation of scheduled hours shall be restored to the employee when the employee is reemployed by the district within 180 days of separation from employment or when the employee returns to work at the end of the temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less.

When an employee requests OFLA leave, or when the district acquires knowledge that an employee's leave may be for a purpose that constitutes OFLA leave, the district will notify the employee of the employee's eligibility to take OFLA leave within five business days, absent extenuating circumstances. Whether an employee is an "eligible employee" as defined in OAR 839-009-0210 is determined, a notice must be provided, at the commencement of the first instance of each purpose for leave listed in OAR 839-009-0240 during the OFLA leave year. If an employee is an "eligible employee" as defined in OAR 839-009-0210 for the purpose listed in OAR 839-009-0240, the employee's eligibility for that purpose does not change during the applicable 12-month period.

In addition:

1. An employee taking, in any order, some or all of 12 weeks of OFLA pregnancy disability leave and some or all of 12 weeks of OFLA leave for any other purpose, need not requalify each time the employee takes OFLA leave within the same leave year;
- ~~2. — An employee who has taken 2 weeks of OFLA child placement leave need not requalify for up to an additional 12 weeks of leave within the same leave year when used for the purposes of OFLA sick child leave;~~
- ~~3.~~<sup>2</sup> An employee unable to work because of a disabling compensable injury<sup>3</sup> need not requalify under OAR 839-009-0210 in order to use OFLA leave following a period the employee is off work due to the compensable injury.

~~In determining if an employee has been employed for the preceding 180 calendar days under OFLA, the district must consider days, paid or unpaid, an employee is maintained on payroll.~~

Leave under the Oregon Military Family Leave Act (OMFLA) applies to employees who work an average of at least 20 hours per week. There is no minimum number of days worked when determining employee eligibility for OMFLA.

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<sup>3</sup> As defined in ORS 656.005.

~~In determining average workweek, under FMLA and OFLA, the employer must count the actual hours worked using the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) guidelines.~~

## **Qualifying Reason**

Eligible employees may access FMLA leave entitlements for the following reasons:

1. Serious health condition of the employee or the employee's covered family member. "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care<sup>4</sup> or continuing treatment by a health care provider<sup>5</sup>.
2. Parental leave<sup>6</sup> (separate from eligible leave as a result of a child's serious health condition):
  - a. Bonding with and caring for the employee's newborn child (within 12 months following birth);
  - b. Bonding with and caring for a newly adopted child or newly placed child in foster care<sup>7</sup> under the age of 18 (within 12 months of placement);
  - c. Caring for a newly adopted child or newly placed child in foster care 18 years of age or older who is incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability (within 12 months of placement);
  - d. Time to effectuate the legal process required for placement of a child in foster care or the adoption of a child.
3. Military caregiver leave: leave for the care for a covered servicemember if the eligible employee is the spouse, child or next-of-kin ~~who is a covered~~ of the servicemember with a serious injury or illness;
4. Qualifying exigency leave: leave arising out of deployment to a foreign country of the employee's spouse, child or parent who is a military member on active duty or call to covered active duty status.

Eligible employees may access OFLA leave entitlements for the following reasons:

1. Pregnancy disability leave: leave taken by an employee for their own disability related to pregnancy, including pregnancy termination or childbirth, whether the disability occurs before, during or after the birth of the child or for prenatal care, including fertility or infertility treatment.
2. Sick child leave: leave taken to care for an employee's child who is suffering from an illness, injury, or condition that requires home care. ~~Under OFLA, sick child leave includes~~; or leave taken to care

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<sup>4</sup> "Inpatient care" means an overnight stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical facility, including any period of incapacity or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care. See 29 CFR § 825.114.

<sup>5</sup> "Continuing treatment" includes incapacity and treatment, pregnancy or prenatal care, chronic conditions, permanent or long-term conditions, conditions requiring multiple treatments, and absences attributable to incapacity. See 29 CFR § 815.115.

<sup>6</sup> Parental leave must be taken in one continuous block of time within 12 months of the triggering event.

<sup>7</sup> {ORS 659A.159 uses the term "foster child." Districts can choose to use either "foster child" or "child in foster care" throughout this administrative regulation.}



for an employee's child whose school or child care provider has been closed<sup>8</sup> in conjunction with a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official.<sup>9</sup>

3. Bereavement leave: leave taken to deal with the death of a covered family member and includes leave taken to attend the funeral or alternative to a funeral of the family member, to make arrangements necessitated by the death of the family member, or to grieve the death of the family member.<sup>10</sup> [When such leave is used for a family member who is related by affinity, the district requires an attestation form signed and submitted by the employee.]
4. ~~[Child placement leave: leave taken under OFLA before January 1, 2025, to effectuate the legal process required for placement of a foster child or the adoption of a child.]~~
5. ~~[Leave previously protected by OFLA<sup>11</sup>: 1) leave to which an eligible employee was entitled under ORS 659A.150—ORS 659A.186 on June 30, 2024; and 2) leave to which an eligible employee would not be entitled under ORS 659A.150—ORS 659A.186 on July 1, 2024 and may now be entitled leave under Paid Family Medical Leave (ORS 657B).]~~

Eligible employees may also access OMFLA ~~under OFLA~~ for the purpose of spending time with a spouse or domestic partner who is in the military and has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, or who has been deployed during a period of military conflict.

## Definitions

1. Family member:
  - a. For the purposes of FMLA, “family member” means:
    - (1) Spouse<sup>12</sup>;
    - (2) Parent<sup>13</sup>; or

<sup>8</sup> “Closure” (OAR 839-009-0210(5)) for the purpose of sick child leave during a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official means a closure that is ongoing, intermittent, or recurring and restricts physical access to the child's school or child care provider as defined in OAR 839-009-0210(4).

<sup>9</sup> The district may request verification of the need for sick child leave under OFLA due to a closure during a statewide public health emergency. Verification may include:

1. The name of the child being cared for;
2. The name of the school or child care provider that has closed or become unavailable;
3. A statement from the employee that no other family member of the child is willing and able to care for the child; and
4. With the care of a child older than 14, a statement that special circumstances exist requiring the employee to provide care to the child during daylight hours.

<sup>10</sup> Bereavement leave under OFLA must be completed within 60 days of the date the employee received notice of the death. The notice of the death of a family member may be by any means and from any source.

<sup>11</sup> OAR 839-009-0215. OFLA: Leave Previously Protected by OFLA.

<sup>12</sup> “Spouse” means individuals in a marriage, including “common law” marriage and same-sex marriage.

<sup>13</sup> “Parent” means a biological, adoptive, step or foster parent, or any other individual who stood “in loco parentis” to the employee when the employee was a child as defined herein. This does not include parents “in law.”

- (3) Child<sup>14</sup>; ~~or~~
- ~~(4) Persons who are “in loco parentis.”~~

b. For the purposes of OFLA, “family member” means an eligible employee’s:

- (1) Spouse or domestic partner;
- (2) Child or the child’s spouse or domestic partner;
- (3) Parent or the parent’s spouse or domestic partner;
- (4) Sibling or stepsibling, or the sibling’s or stepsibling’s spouse or domestic partner;
- (5) Grandparent or the grandparent’s spouse or domestic partner;
- (6) Grandchild or the grandchild’s spouse or domestic partner; or
- (7) Any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with an eligible employee is the equivalent of a family relationship.<sup>15</sup>

## 2. Child:

- a. For the purposes of FMLA, “child” means the eligible employee’s biological or adopted child, a child the employee is fostering, a stepchild, a legal ward or a child of a person standing “in loco parentis”, who is either under the age of 18, or who is 18 years of age or older and who is incapable of self-care because of a physical or mental disability.
- b. For the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave and Qualifying Exigency Leave under FMLA, “child” means the employee’s child on covered active duty regardless of that child’s age.
- c. For the purposes of OFLA, “child” means the eligible employee’s biological or adopted child, a child the employee is fostering, a stepchild, the child of the employee’s spouse or domestic partner, or a child with whom the employee is or was in a relationship of “in loco parentis.”
- d. For the purposes of ~~child placement leave and sick child leave~~ only under OFLA, the child must be under the age of 18 or ~~an adult dependent child~~ substantially limited by a physical or mental impairment as described in ORS 659A.104.

## 3. In loco parentis:

- a. For the purposes of FMLA, “in loco parentis” means persons with day-to-day responsibility to care for or financially support a child, or, in the case of an employee, who had such responsibility for the employee when the employee was a child. A biological or legal relationship is not necessary.

<sup>14</sup> “Child” means a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age 18, or age 18 or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence.

<sup>15</sup> “Affinity” means a relationship for which there is a significant personal bond that, when examined under the totality of the circumstances, is like a family relationship. This bond may be demonstrated by, but is not limited to the following factors, with no single factor being determinative:

- 1. Shared personal financial responsibility, including shared leases, common ownership of real or personal property, joint liability for bills or beneficiary designations;
- 2. Emergency contact designation of the employee by the other individual in the relationship or the emergency contact designation of the other individual in the relationship by the employee;
- 3. The expectation to provide care because of the relationship or the prior provision of care;
- 4. Cohabitation and its duration and purpose;
- 5. Geographic proximity; and
- 6. Any other factor that demonstrates the existence of a family-like relationship.



- b. For the purposes of OFLA, “in loco parentis” means person in the place of ~~the~~ a parent, having financial or day-to-day responsibility for the care of a child. A legal or biological relationship is not required.

4. Next of kin:

For the purposes of FMLA , “next of kin” means the nearest blood relative other than the covered servicemember’s spouse, parent or child in the following order of priority (unless otherwise designated in writing by the servicemember):

- a. Blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered servicemember by court decree or statutory provisions;
- b. Siblings;
- c. Grandparents;
- d. Siblings of parents and their spouses; and
- e. First cousins.

5. Covered servicemembers:

~~For the purposes of FMLA, “covered servicemember” means a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness; or a covered veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.~~

For the purposes of FMLA, “covered servicemember” means:

- a. A current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who:
  - (1) Is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy;
  - (2) Is otherwise in outpatient status; or
  - (3) Is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness; or
- b. A covered veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.

6. Covered veteran:

For the purposes of FMLA, “covered veteran” means an individual who was:

- a. A member of the Armed Forces (including a member of the National Guard or Reserves);
- b. Discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable; and
- c. Discharged within the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran.

7. Public health emergency:

For OFLA a “public health emergency” means;

- a. A public health emergency declared under ORS 433.441.

- b. An emergency declared under ORS 401.165 if related to a public health emergency as defined in ORS 433.442.

## Leave Period

For the purposes of calculating an employee's leave period for FMLA, the district will use ~~[the calendar year] [any fixed 12-month "leave year"] [the 12-month period measured forward from the date the employee's leave begins]~~ [a "rolling" 12-month period measured backward from the date the employee uses any FMLA leave].

For the purposes of calculating an employee's leave period for OFLA, the district will use a period of 52 consecutive weeks beginning on the Sunday immediately preceding the date on which family leave commences.

~~The methods for calculating the leave period for FMLA or OFLA leave entitlement shall be used for all employees.~~

The leave period for the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA shall be dependent on the start of any such leave regardless of the district's designated leave period described above.

## Leave Duration

For the purposes of FMLA, an eligible employee is generally entitled to a total of 12 weeks of qualified leave during the district's designated leave period (12-month period)<sup>16</sup>. Spouses who work for the district and are eligible for FMLA leave may be limited to a combined total of 12 weeks of FMLA leave during the district's designated leave period when the purpose of the leave is for:

1. Birth of a child or to care for a child after birth;
2. Placement of an adopted child or child in foster care, the care for an adopted child or child in foster care after placement; or
3. Care of the employee's parent with a serious medical condition.

Except in specific and unique instances, all qualified leave under FMLA counts toward an employee's leave entitlement within the designated leave period.

For the purposes of OFLA, an eligible employee is generally entitled to a total of up to 12 weeks of OFLA leave, for sick child leave and bereavement leave, during the designated leave period. An eligible employee is entitled to a total of two weeks of bereavement leave upon the death of each family member of the employee within a leave year, except that the eligible employee may not take more than four weeks of bereavement leave within a leave year.

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<sup>16</sup> An eligible employee taking Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA is entitled to up to 26 weeks of leave in the 12-month period beginning with the first day of such leave and regardless of any FMLA leave taken previously during the district's leave period. However, once the 12-month period begins for the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA, any subsequent FMLA qualified leave, regardless of reason for such leave, will count toward the employee's 26-week entitlement under Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA.



An employee may also be entitled to take a total of 12 weeks of OFLA pregnancy disability leave within the same leave year.

Under OFLA, the employee may use all or part of the 12 weeks of sick child or bereavement leave and all or part of the 12 weeks of pregnancy disability leave in any order.

~~[In addition to the 24 weeks of possible OFLA leave identified above, an eligible employee is entitled to a total of two weeks of child placement leave within an OFLA leave year until January 1, 2025. The adoption or foster placement of multiple children at one time entitles the employee to take only one two-week period of child placement leave.]~~

Unlike FMLA, OFLA does not combine the leave entitlement when two or more family members work for the district. Under OFLA, family members who work for the district may be restricted from taking concurrent OFLA qualified leave.<sup>17</sup>

For the purposes of OMFLA, an eligible employee is entitled to 14 days of leave per call or order to active duty or notification of a leave from deployment. When an employee also meets the eligibility requirements of OFLA, the duration of the OMFLA leave counts toward that employee's leave entitlement during the designated leave period.

Qualified leave under FMLA and OFLA for an eligible employee will run concurrently during the designated leave period if for the same qualifying reason. Qualified leave under FMLA will run concurrently with other qualified leave covered under Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) and/or available sick leave under ORS 653.601 - 653.661 for eligible employees. Qualified leave under OFLA may also run concurrently with leave taken under the sick time leave law in ORS 653.601 - 653.661 if for the same qualifying reason, but not concurrent with PFMLI.

For the purpose of tracking the number of leave hours an eligible employee is entitled and/or has used during each week of the employee's leave, leave entitlement is calculated by multiplying the number of hours the eligible employee normally works per week by 12<sup>18</sup>. If an employee's schedule varies from week-to-week, a weekly average of the hours worked over the 12 months worked prior to the beginning of the leave period shall be used for calculating the employee's normal workweek<sup>19</sup>. If an employee takes intermittent or reduced work schedule leave, only the actual number of hours of leave taken may be counted toward the 12 weeks of leave to which the employee is entitled.

Holidays which occur within the week taken as FMLA may be counted against FMLA entitlement.<sup>20</sup> However, for leave taken in increments of less than one week, holidays in which employees generally are not expected to report do not count against the employees FMLA leave entitlement.

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<sup>17</sup> Exceptions to the ability to require family members to take OFLA qualified leave at different times are when one employee needs to care for a child for a purpose described in ORS 659A.159 (1)(a) while another employee is taking pregnancy disability leave or, one or more of the employees is taking bereavement leave.

<sup>18</sup> For example, an employee normally employed to work 30 hours per week is entitled to 12 times 30 hours, or a total of 360 hours of leave.

<sup>19</sup> For example, an employee working an average of 25 hours per week is entitled to 12 times 25 hours, or a total of 300 hours of leave.

<sup>20</sup> See 29 CFR § 825.200(h).

Under OFLA, days in which the district is not in operation, are not counted toward intermittent or reduced work schedule OFLA leave.

### **Intermittent Leave**

[With the exception of parental leave under FMLA which must be taken in one continuous block of time, a] [A]n eligible employee is permitted under FMLA or OFLA to take intermittent leave for any qualifying reason.

Intermittent leave is taken in separate periods of time (i.e., hours, days, weeks, etc.), rather than in one continuous period of time, and/or requiring an altered or reduced work schedule. For OFLA this includes but is not limited to sick child leave taken requiring an altered or reduced work schedule because the intermittent or recurring closure of a child's school or child care provider due to a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official.

When an exempt employee is eligible for both OFLA and FMLA leave, and the employee takes intermittent leave in blocks of less than one day, if done in accordance with 29 CFR § 825.206, the district may reduce the employee's salary for the part-day absence without the loss of the employee's exempt status in accordance with OAR 839-020-0004(32).

When an exempt employee is eligible for OFLA leave ~~is but not covered by~~ FMLA leave, and the employee takes intermittent leave in blocks of less than one day, the district will jeopardize the employee's exempt status if the district reduces the employee's salary for the part-day absence.

An employee's FMLA and/or OFLA intermittent leave time is determined by calculating the difference between the employee's normal work schedule and the number of hours the employee actually works during the leave period. The result of such calculation is credited against the eligible employee's leave entitlement.

### **Alternate Work Assignment**

Under FMLA, the district may transfer an employee taking intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment to an alternate position for which the employee is qualified and which better accommodates an employee's recovery from a serious health condition, a serious health condition of a spouse, parent, ~~son, or daughter~~ child, or a serious injury of illness of a covered servicemember. However, the district may not transfer the employee to an alternative position in order to discourage the employee from taking leave or otherwise work a hardship on the employee.

Under FMLA, when an employee who is taking leave intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule and has been transferred to an alternative position no longer needs to continue on leave and is able to return to full-time work, the employee will be placed in the same or equivalent job as the job they left when the leave commenced. An employee may not be required to take more leave than necessary to address the circumstance that precipitated the need for leave.

Under OFLA, the district may transfer an employee on intermittent OFLA leave or reduced work schedule into an alternate position with the same or different duties to accommodate leave, provided:

1. The employee accepts the position voluntarily and without coercion;



2. The transfer is temporary, lasts no longer than necessary to accommodate the leave and has equivalent pay and benefits;
3. The transfer is compliant with any applicable collective bargaining agreement, as well as with state and federal law;
4. The transfer to an alternate position is used only when there is no other reasonable option available that would allow the employee to use intermittent leave or reduced work schedule; and
5. The transfer is not used to discourage the employee from taking leave or to create a hardship for the employee.

Under OFLA, an employee transferred to an alternate position for the purpose of a reduced work schedule must be returned to the employee's former position when the employee notifies the employer that the employee is ready to return to the former position at the end of the alternate duty leave.

The district may transfer an eligible employee to an alternate position that accommodates OFLA pregnancy disability leave provided:

1. The employee accepts the transfer position voluntarily and without coercion;
2. The transfer is temporary, lasts no longer than necessary and has equivalent pay and benefits;
3. The transfer is compliant with any applicable collective bargaining agreements, as well as with state and federal law;
4. The transfer is not used to discourage the employee from taking OFLA leave or to create a hardship for the employee.

Under OFLA, if an eligible employee is transferred to an alternative position and as a result the employee works fewer hours than the employee worked in the original position, the employee's OFLA leave time is determined by calculating the difference between the number of hours the employee worked in the original position and the number of hours the employee actually works in the alternative position.

An employee is not on OFLA leave if the employee has been transferred – as provided for in OAR 839-009-0245 (5) – to an alternate position for the purpose of alternate work duties that the employee is able to perform within the limitations of the employee's pregnancy disability, but not requiring a reduced workweek. An employee working in an alternate position retains the right to return to the employee's original position at any time during the employee's OFLA leave. This does not impair the right of an employee to a reasonable accommodation or the application of any other state or federal law.

### **Special Rules for School Employees**

For the purposes of FMLA, "instructional employee" means those whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group or an individual setting. Athletic coaches, driving instructors and special education assistants, such as signers<sup>21</sup> interpreters<sup>21</sup> for the hearing impaired, are included in this definition. This definition does not include teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal

<sup>21</sup> ~~29 CFR 825.600(e) uses "signers."~~

job actual teaching or instructing, auxiliary personnel such as counselors, psychologists, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers or bus drivers.

FMLA leave that is taken for a period that ends with the school year and begins with the next semester is considered consecutive rather than intermittent. The period during the summer vacation when the employee would not have been required to report for duty is not counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. In any such situation, the eligible instructional employee will receive any benefits during the break period that employees would normally receive if they had been working at the end of the school year.

#### 1. Foreseeable Intermittent Leave Exceeding 20 Percent of Working Days

When the qualified leave is foreseeable, will encompass more than 20 percent of the eligible instructional employee's regular work schedule during the leave period, and the purpose of such leave is to care for a family member with a serious medical condition, for a covered servicemember or for the employee's own serious medical condition, the district may require the eligible instructional employee to choose either to:

- a. Take leave for a period or periods of a particular duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or
- b. Temporarily transfer to an available alternate position for which the employee is qualified, which has equivalent pay and benefits, and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.

If an instructional employee does not give required notice of foreseeable FMLA leave to be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule, the district may require the employee to take leave of a particular duration, or to transfer temporarily to an alternative position. Alternatively, the district may require the employee to delay the taking of leave until the notice provision is met.

#### 2. Limitation on Leave Near the End of the Term<sup>22</sup>

When an eligible instructional employee requests leave near the end of the term, the district may require the following:

- a. When the qualified leave begins more than five weeks before the end of the term, the district may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the term if:
  - (1) The leave will last at least three weeks; and
  - (2) The employee would return to work during the three-week period before the end of the term.
- b. When the qualified leave begins during a five-week period before the end of the term and the purpose of such leave is parental leave, for the serious health condition of a family member or to care for a covered servicemember, the eligible instructional employee may be required by the district to remain on leave until the end of the term if:

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<sup>22</sup> "Academic term" means the school semester, which typically ends near the end of the calendar year and the end of spring each school year. In no case may a school have more than two academic terms or semesters each year for purposes of FMLA. 29 CFR § 825.602(b)



- (1) The leave will last more than two weeks; and
  - (2) The employee would return to work during the two-week period before the end of the term.
- c. When the qualified leave begins within three weeks of the end of the term and the purpose of such leave is parental leave, for the serious health condition of a family member or to care for a covered servicemember, the eligible instructional employee may be required to remain on leave until the end of the term if the length of the leave will last more than five working days.

If the district requires an eligible instructional employee to remain on leave until the end of the term as described above, additional leave required by the district until the end of the school term shall not count against the eligible instructional employee's leave entitlement.

For the purposes of OFLA leave, if an employee<sup>23</sup> begins a period of bereavement leave during the three-week period before the end of the term and the duration of the leave is greater than five working days, the district may require the employee continue on family leave until the end of the term.

### **Paid/Unpaid Leave**

FMLA and OFLA do not require the district to pay an eligible employee who is on a qualified leave. Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) leave taken via Paid Leave Oregon or an equivalent plan will run concurrently with FMLA and leave available under ORS 653.601 - 653.661 when taken for the same purpose. An employee may elect to use any available accrued paid leave including personal, sick or vacation leave during the leave period <sup>{<sup>24</sup>}</sup> to the extent that the total combined amount of accrued paid leave and benefits received from PFMLI does not exceed an amount equal to the employee's full wage replacement during the period of leave. ~~[The total combined amount received by using accrued leave and PFMLI may exceed the employee's full wage replacement during the period of leave.]~~ The district will notify the eligible employee when the requested leave has been designated as FMLA or OFLA leave and ask the employee about the use of available accrued paid leave.

Eligible employees taking OMFLA leave are entitled to use available accrued paid time off during the OMFLA leave period.

### **Benefits and Insurance**

When an eligible employee returns to work following a FMLA-, OFLA- or OMFLA-qualified leave, the employee must be reinstated to the same position the employee held when the leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment.

During an OFLA qualified leave an eligible employee does not accrue seniority or other benefits that would have accrued while the employee was working, unless the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, other agreement or other district policy provide otherwise.<sup>25</sup> The eligible employee is also subject to layoff to the same extent similarly situated employees not taking OFLA leave are subject unless

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<sup>23</sup> Applies only to an employee who is employed principally in an instructional capacity by the district.

<sup>24</sup> {Select one of the two bracketed options based on district practice, i.e., keep the ending to this sentence OR delete this ending and keep the following bracketed sentence. See ORS 657B.030(2) for additional guidance.}

<sup>25</sup> See also ORS 342.934(4)(d) in reduction force situations.

the terms of an applicable collective bargaining agreement, other agreement or the district's policies provide otherwise.

For the purposes of FMLA and OFLA, the district will continue to pay the employer portion of the eligible employee's group health insurance contribution (if applicable) during the qualified leave period. The eligible employee is required to pay the employee portion of any such group health insurance contribution as a condition of continued coverage.

For the purposes of FMLA qualified leave, the district's obligation to maintain the employee's group health insurance coverage will cease if the employee's contribution is remitted more than 30 calendar days late. The district will provide written notice that the premium payment is more than 30 calendar days late. Such notice will be provided within 15 calendar days before coverage is to cease.

For the purposes of OMFLA, the eligible employee is entitled to a continuation of benefits.

### **Fitness-for-Duty Verification**

For purposes of FMLA, prior to the reinstatement of an employee following a leave which was the result of the employee's own serious health condition, the district may require the employee to obtain and present a Fitness-for-Duty Certification. If the district is going to require a Fitness-for-Duty Certification upon return to work, the district must notify the employee of such requirement when the leave is designated as FMLA leave and that failure to provide the certification may result in a delay or denial of reinstatement. Any costs associated with obtaining the certification shall be borne by the employee.

### **Application**

For purposes of FMLA, an eligible employee requesting FMLA leave shall provide at least 30 days' notice prior to the leave date if the leave is foreseeable. The notice shall be written and include the anticipated start date, duration and reasons for the requested leave. When appropriate, the eligible employee must make a reasonable effort to schedule treatment, including intermittent leave and reduced leave, so as not to unduly disrupt the operation of the district. ~~An eligible employee able to give advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave must follow the district's known, reasonable and customary procedures for requesting any kind of leave.~~

For purposes of OFLA, an eligible employee shall provide at least ~~{<sup>26</sup>30}~~ days' written notice of the need for foreseeable leave before starting family leave. An employee may commence family leave without prior notice in the event of: an unexpected illness, injury or condition of a child of the employee that requires home care; the death of a family member; the closure of the school or child care provider of the employee's child due to a public health emergency unless the declaration of the emergency was issued by the Governor at least 30 days before commencement of the leave; or an illness, injury or condition related to the employee's own pregnancy or childbirth that disables the employee from performing any available job duties offered by the district. If an employee commences leave without prior notice as allowed above, the employee must give oral notice<sup>27</sup> to the employer within 24 hours of the commencement of the leave and must provide the written notice within three days after returning to work. Failure of an employee to provide the required notice for leave may result in the district deducting up to three weeks from the

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<sup>26</sup> {This number of days should align with the days provided in the leave request form.}

<sup>27</sup> Oral notice may be given by any other person on behalf of the employee taking the leave.



employee's unused OFLA leave in that one-year leave period. The employee may be subject to disciplinary action for not following the district's notice procedures.

The district may request additional information<sup>28</sup> to determine the requested leave qualifies as FMLA or OFLA leave as provided by law. The district may designate the employee as provisionally on FMLA or OFLA leave until sufficient information is received to properly make a determination.

An eligible employee able to give advance notice of the need to take leave must follow the district's known, reasonable and customary procedures for requesting any kind of leave.

For the purposes of FMLA, if advance notice is not possible, an employee eligible for FMLA leave must provide notice as soon as practicable. "As soon as practicable," for the purpose of FMLA leave, means as soon as both possible and practical, taking into account all of the facts and circumstances in the individual case. In most situations, as soon as practicable will be within one business day of an employee becoming aware of the need. Failure of an employee to provide the required notice for FMLA leave may result in the district delaying the employee's leave up to 30 days after the notice is ultimately given.<sup>29</sup>

For the purposes of OFLA, if an eligible employee is taking leave in an unforeseeable situation, an employee must give oral or written notice<sup>30</sup> within 24 hours before or after commencement of the leave.

In all cases, proper documentation must be submitted no later than three working days following the employee's return to work.

For purposes of OMFLA, an employee must provide the district with notice of the intention to take leave within five business days of receiving official notice of an impending call or order to active duty or of a leave from deployment.

## Verification

Under FMLA, the district may require an eligible employee to provide medical certification, when appropriate<sup>31</sup>, to support the stated reason for such leave. In most cases, the district will provide written notification to an employee of this requirement within five working days of the employee's request for leave. The employee is required to submit such medical certification no later than 15 calendar days after receipt of the district's notification that medical certification is required, unless not practicable. Any additional certifications, including second and third opinions, will be in accordance with applicable law.

Under OFLA, the district may require an eligible employee to provide medical verification, when appropriate<sup>32</sup>, to support the stated reason for qualifying OFLA leave. The district will provide written notification to an employee of this requirement and state the consequences for failure to provide the

<sup>28</sup> ~~Except in cases to verify OFLA bereavement leave unless the district requires the use of an attestation form for purposes of determining affinity.~~ See OAR 839-009-0260 for OFLA and 29 CFR § 825.305 et. al. for FMLA.

<sup>29</sup> See 29 CFR § 825.304.

<sup>30</sup> Notice may be given by any other person on behalf of the employee taking the leave.

<sup>31</sup> Medical verification is not allowed in every situation. Review current laws and guidance for more information.

<sup>32</sup> Medical verification is not allowed in every situation. Review current laws and guidance for more information. (OAR 839-009-0260)

requested medical verification. If the employee gives advance written notice of foreseeable leave, the district may require the employee to provide medical verification for OFLA leave before the leave starts. If the employee begins unforeseeable OFLA leave without prior notice, the employee is required to submit such medical verification within 15 calendar days after receipt of the district's request for medical verification. The employee may be subject to disciplinary action for not providing the requested medical verification.

For the purposes of OFLA qualified leave, costs associated with obtaining the medical verification shall be borne by the district, or be paid as otherwise allowed by law. The district will not delay the use of qualifying OFLA leave when medical verification is not received before the commencement of unforeseeable leave. The district may not require an employee to obtain a second opinion.

Under OFLA, the district may request verification for the need for leave to care for a child who requires home care due to the closure of the child's school or child care provider as a result of a public health emergency. A request for verification may include a request for:

1. The name of the child requiring home care;
2. The name of the school or child care provider that is subject to the closure;
3. A statement from the employee that no other family member of the child is willing and able to care for the child; and
4. A statement that special circumstances exist that require the employee to provide home care for the child during the day, if the child is older than 14 years of age.

### **Posted Notice**

The district will post the Bureau of Labor and Industries Family Leave notice in each building or worksite in an area that is accessible to and regularly frequented by employees.<sup>33</sup> The district will also post a notice explaining the provisions of FMLA and providing information concerning the procedures for filing complaints.<sup>34</sup>

### **Record Keeping**

The district will maintain all records as required by federal and state laws including dates leave is taken by employees, identified separately from other leave; hours/days of leave; copies of general and specific notices to employees, including Board policy(ies) and regulations; premium payments of employee health benefits while on leave and records of any disputes with employees regarding granting of leave.

Medical documentation will be maintained separately from personnel files as confidential medical records.

### **Federal vs. State Law**

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<sup>33</sup> [https://www.oregon.gov/boli/employers/Documents/BOLI\\_Printable\\_FamilyMedLv.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/boli/employers/Documents/BOLI_Printable_FamilyMedLv.pdf) {Electronic posting is **not** sufficient to satisfy this requirement; but may be used to supplement the physical posting.}

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHd/legacy/files/fmlaen.pdf> {Electronic posting is sufficient as long as it is posted prominently where it can be readily seen by employees and applicants for employees. The poster and the text must be large enough to be easily read and contain fully legible text.}



Both federal and state law contain provisions for family and medical leave. Federal regulations state an employer must comply with all leave laws; that the federal law does not supersede any provision of state law that provides greater family or medical leave rights than those established pursuant to federal law; and if leave qualifies for FMLA and OFLA leave, the leave used counts against the employee's entitlement under both laws. State law requires that FMLA and ~~OFLA or other~~ state leave entitlements run concurrently when for the same purpose.

# OSBA Model Sample Policy

SAME AS GBN/JBA  
I RECOMMEND

Code: JBA/GBN  
Adopted:

## Sexual Harassment

{Required policy. The requirement for this policy comes from ORS 342.700 et. al., OAR 581-021-0038 and federal Title IX laws.}

The 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<sup>{1}</sup> 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* JBA/GBN-AR(1) - Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure and JBA/GBN-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<sup>{2}</sup>.

## OREGON DEFINITION AND PROCEDURES

### Oregon Definition

Sexual harassment of students, staff members or third parties<sup>3</sup> shall include:

1. A demand or request for sexual favors in exchange for benefits;

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<sup>1</sup> {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.}

<sup>2</sup> {Common complaint procedures that may also be involved include: Nondiscrimination and Civil Rights (Board policy AC), Workplace Harassment (Board policy GBEA), [Hazing,] Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, [Menacing,] Cyberbullying, Teen Dating Violence and Domestic Violence – Student (Board policy JFCF), and Reporting Requirements for Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students (Board policy JHFF/GBNAA).}

<sup>3</sup> “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.



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 consent<sup>4</sup>.<sup>{5}</sup>

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 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, <sup>{6}</sup>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):

<sup>{7}</sup>[Name], [position] at [phone] or [email]

[This] [These] individual[s] [is] [are] responsible for accepting and managing complaints of sexual harassment. Persons wishing to report should contact them using the above information. [This person is also designated as the Title IX coordinator.<sup>{8}</sup>] See JBA/GBN-AR(1) - Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure.

## Response

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<sup>4</sup> “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.

<sup>5</sup> {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.}

<sup>6</sup> {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.}

<sup>7</sup> {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.}

<sup>8</sup> {This must be communicated elsewhere, but it is a good reason to specify it here as well.}

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, 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. [A 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.<sup>{9}</sup>]

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

1. [Discipline of staff and students engaging in sexual harassment;

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<sup>9</sup> {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. 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;
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.

### **Notices**

When a person<sup>10</sup> 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.

The written notification must include<sup>11</sup>:

1. Name and contact information for all persons 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

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<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> Remember confidentiality laws when providing any information.



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
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.

Additionally, notice must be provided to the person who initiated the complaint and, if applicable, the person's parents, when an investigation is initiated and when it is concluded. The notification at the conclusion of the investigation must include whether a violation of the policy was found to have occurred, to the extent allowable under state and federal student confidentiality laws.

### **[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 activity<sup>12</sup>;
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

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<sup>12</sup> "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))

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**

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* JBA/GBN-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.<sup>{13}</sup>

## **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.<sup>14</sup> The district shall treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing supportive measures<sup>15</sup> to the complainant and

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<sup>13</sup> {Note the difference in requirements for Title IX and Oregon law. It makes sense to align these requirements.}

<sup>14</sup> (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.

<sup>15</sup> (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.<sup>15</sup> The district must maintain



by following a grievance procedure<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup>

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.<sup>18</sup> 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 Secretary<sup>19</sup>, or both.]

### **No Retaliation**

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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))

<sup>16</sup> This grievance procedure must meet the requirements of Title 34 C.F.R. § 106.45 (included in accompanying administrative regulation, *see* JBA/GBN-AR(2) - Federal Law (Title IX) Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure).

<sup>17</sup> The Title IX coordinator may also discuss that the Title IX coordinator has the ability to file a formal complaint.

<sup>18</sup> 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))

<sup>19</sup> Of the United States Department of Education.

Neither the district or any person may retaliate<sup>20</sup> 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 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

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## 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).

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

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

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

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<sup>20</sup> Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, intimidation, threats, coercion, and discrimination.