

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure**

A student, parent/guardian, employee, or community member should notify any District Complaint Manager if he or she believes that the Board of Education, its employees, or its agents have violated his or her rights guaranteed by the [State Constitution](#), State or federal statute, or Board policy, or ~~has~~ a complaint regarding any one of the following:

1. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, [42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.](#)
2. ~~Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., excluding Title IX sexual harassment complaints governed by Board policy 2:265, Title IX Grievance Procedure~~ [PRESSPlus1](#)
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, [29 U.S.C. §791 et seq.](#)
4. Discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin prohibited by the Illinois Human Rights Act, [775 ILCS 5/](#); Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, [42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.](#); and/or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, [42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq.](#) (see Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*)
5. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, [42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq.](#) (see also number 4, above, for discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin)
6. Sexual harassment prohibited by the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, [5 ILCS 430/70-5\(a\)](#); Illinois Human Rights Act, [775 ILCS 5/](#); and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, [42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq.](#) (Title IX sexual harassment complaints are addressed under Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*)
7. Breastfeeding accommodations for students, [105 ILCS 5/10-20.60](#)
8. Bullying, [105 ILCS 5/27-23.7](#)
9. Misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children

10. Curriculum, instructional materials, and/or programs
11. Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, [820 ILCS 180/](#)
12. Illinois Equal Pay Act of 2003, [820 ILCS 112/](#)
13. Provision of services to homeless students
14. Illinois Whistleblower Act, [740 ILCS 174/](#)
15. Misuse of genetic information prohibited by the Illinois Genetic Information Privacy Act, [410 ILCS 513/](#); and Titles I and II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, [42 U.S.C. §2000ff](#) *et seq.*
16. Employee Credit Privacy Act, [820 ILCS 70/](#)

The Complaint Manager will first attempt to resolve complaints without resorting to this grievance procedure. If a formal complaint is filed under this policy, the Complaint Manager will address the complaint promptly and equitably. A student and/or parent/guardian filing a complaint under this policy may forego any informal suggestions and/or attempts to resolve it and may proceed directly to this grievance procedure. The Complaint Manager will not require a student or parent/guardian complaining of any form of harassment to attempt to resolve allegations directly with the accused (or the accused's parent(s)/guardian(s)); this includes mediation.

#### Right to Pursue Other Remedies Not Impaired

The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of a complaint filed under this policy shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies, e.g., criminal complaints, civil actions, etc. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies and use of this grievance procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to the pursuit of other remedies. If a person is pursuing another remedy subject to a complaint under this policy, the District will continue with a simultaneous investigation under this policy.

#### Deadlines

All deadlines under this policy may be extended by the Complaint Manager as he or she deems appropriate. As used in this policy, *school business days* means days on which the District's main office is open.

#### Filing a Complaint

A person (hereinafter Complainant) who wishes to avail him or herself of this grievance procedure may do so by filing a complaint with any District Complaint

Manager. The Complainant shall not be required to file a complaint with a particular Complaint Manager and may request a Complaint Manager of the same gender. The Complaint Manager may request the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint or require a meeting with a student's parent(s)/guardian(s). The Complaint Manager shall assist the Complainant as needed.

For any complaint alleging bullying and/or cyberbullying of students, the Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the complaint according to under Board policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, in addition to any response required by this policy.

For any complaint alleging sex discrimination that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), the Title IX Coordinator or designee [PRESSPlus2](#) shall process and review the complaint under Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*.

For any complaint alleging harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the complaint under Board policy 2:270, *Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited*, in addition to any response required by this policy.

For any complaint alleging sexual harassment or other violation of Board policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall process and review the complaint according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy, and shall consider whether an investigation under Board policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, [PRESSPlus3](#) should be initiated.

## Investigation Process

The Complaint Manager will investigate the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on his or her behalf. The Complaint Manager shall ensure both parties have an equal opportunity to present evidence during an investigation. If the Complainant is a student under 18 years of age, the Complaint Manager will notify his or her parents/guardians that they may attend any investigatory meetings in which their child is involved. [PRESSPlus4](#)

The complaint and identity of the Complainant will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or any collective bargaining agreement, (2) as

necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the Complainant.

The identity of any student witnesses will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or any collective bargaining agreement, (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the parent/guardian of the student witness, or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older.

The Complaint Manager will inform, at regular intervals, the person(s) filing a complaint under this policy about the status of the investigation. Within 30 school business days after the date the complaint was filed, the Complaint Manager shall file a written report of his or her findings with the Superintendent. The Complaint Manager may request an extension of time from the Superintendent.

The Superintendent will keep the Board informed of all complaints.

If a complaint contains allegations involving the Superintendent or Board member(s), the written report shall be filed directly with the Board, which will make a decision in accordance with paragraph four of the following section of this policy.

### Decision and Appeal

Within five school business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's report, the Superintendent shall mail provide his or her written decision to the Complainant and the accused ~~by registered mail, return receipt requested, and/or personal delivery~~ [PRESSPlus5](#) as well as to the Complaint Manager. All decisions shall be based upon the *preponderance of evidence* standard.

Within 10 school business days after receiving the Superintendent's decision, the Complainant or the accused may appeal the decision to the Board by making a written request to the Complaint Manager. The Complaint Manager shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the Board.

Within 30 school business days after an appeal of the Superintendent's decision, the Board shall affirm, reverse, or amend the Superintendent's decision or direct the Superintendent to gather additional information. Within five school business days after the Board's decision, the Superintendent shall inform the Complainant and the accused of the Board's action.

For complaints containing allegations involving the Superintendent or Board

member(s), within 30 school business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's or outside investigator's report, the Board shall ~~mail~~ provide its written decision to the Complainant and the accused, ~~by registered mail, return receipt requested, and/or personal delivery~~ as well as to the Complaint Manager.

This policy shall not be construed to create an independent right to a hearing before the Superintendent or Board. The failure to strictly follow the timelines in this grievance procedure shall not prejudice any party.

### Appointing a Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers [PRESSPlus6](#)

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator to manage the District's efforts to provide equal opportunity employment and educational opportunities and prohibit the harassment of employees, students, and others. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

The Superintendent shall appoint at least one Complaint Manager to administer this policy. If possible, the Superintendent will appoint two Complaint Managers, each of a different gender. The District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be appointed as one of the Complaint Managers.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy and keep current the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and the Complaint Managers.

#### **Nondiscrimination Coordinator:**

Dr. Adam Law

227 North Fourth Street

Geneva, IL 60134

[alaw@geneva304.org](mailto:alaw@geneva304.org)

630.463.3000

#### **Complaint Managers:**

Dr. Adam Law

227 North Fourth Street

Melissa Groot

227 North Fourth Street

Geneva, IL 60134

Geneva, IL 60134

[alaw@geneva304.org](mailto:alaw@geneva304.org)

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630.463.3000

630.463.3000

## LEGAL REF.:

[8 U.S.C. §1324a](#) *et seq.*, Immigration Reform and Control Act.

[20 U.S.C. §1232g](#), Family Education Rights Privacy Act.

[20 U.S.C. §1400](#), The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

[20 U.S.C. §1681](#) *et seq.*, Title IX of the Education Amendments; [34 C.F.R. Part 106](#).

[29 U.S.C. §206\(d\)](#), Equal Pay Act.

[29 U.S.C. §621](#) *et seq.*, Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

[29 U.S.C. §791](#) *et seq.*, Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

[29 U.S.C. §2612](#), Family and Medical Leave Act.

[42 U.S.C. §2000d](#) *et seq.*, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

[42 U.S.C. §2000e](#) *et seq.*, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

[42 U.S.C. §2000ff](#) *et seq.*, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

[42 U.S.C. §11431](#) *et seq.*, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

[42 U.S.C. §12101](#) *et seq.*, Americans With Disabilities Act; [28 C.F.R. Part 35](#).

[105 ILCS 5/2-3.8](#), [5/3-10](#), [5/10-20](#), [5/10-20.5](#), [5/10-20.7a](#), [5/10-20.60](#), [5/10-20.69](#) [5/10-20.75](#), [5/10-22.5](#), [5/22-19](#), [5/22-95](#) (final citation pending), [5/24-4](#), [5/27-1](#), [5/27-23.7](#), and [45/1-15](#).

[5 ILCS 415/10\(a\)\(2\)](#), Government Severance Pay Act.

[5 ILCS 430/70-5\(a\)](#), State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

[410 ILCS 513/](#), Ill. Genetic Information Privacy Act.

[740 ILCS 174/](#), Whistleblower Act.

[740 ILCS 175/](#), Ill. False Claims Act.

[775 ILCS 5/](#), Ill. Human Rights Act.

[820 ILCS 70/](#), Employee Credit Privacy Act.

[820 ILCS 112/](#), Equal Pay Act of 2003.

820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act; 56 Ill.Admin.Code Part 280.

~~[820 ILCS 70/](#), Employee Credit Privacy Act.~~

~~[820 ILCS 112/](#), Equal Pay Act of 2003.~~

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.240](#), [200.40](#), [226.50](#), and [226.570](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:265 (Title IX Grievance Procedure), 2:270 (Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; K-8 Schools), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities), 8:95 (Parental Involvement), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

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## **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to final regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), requiring all Title IX sex discrimination complaints to be processed using policy 2:265, *Title IX Grievance Procedure*. **Issue 116, August 2024**

PRESSPlus 2. “Title IX Coordinator or designee” is used where Title IX is implicated. In contrast, if Title IX is not implicated, “Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee” is used (see the last paragraph under the Filing a Complaint subhead). **Issue 116, August 2024**

PRESSPlus 3. See sample administrative procedure 5:120-AP2, *Employee Conduct Standards*, and its exhibit 5:120-AP2, E, *Expectations and Guidelines for Employee-Student Boundaries*, available at PRESS Online by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com). **Issue 116, August 2024**

PRESSPlus 4. This sentence is deleted because it is not legally required and it is not practical for districts to seek parent/guardian attendance at every investigatory meeting involving their child. **Issue 116, August 2024**

PRESSPlus 5. Using a consistent delivery method that allows the district to verify the date of receipt is a best practice, e.g., registered mail, return receipt requested, and/or personal delivery. **Issue 116, August 2024**

PRESSPlus 6. Names and contact information are required by law to be listed, and it is important that they be regularly monitored and updated.

If changes are made to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Complaint Manager, and/or Title IX Coordinator information, use the Save Status **Adopted with Additional District Edits**. Best practice is that throughout the board policy manual, the same individual be named as Nondiscrimination Coordinator. The Nondiscrimination and Title IX Coordinator(s) need not be the same person. If the district uses a separate Title IX Coordinator who does not also serve as the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, list the Title IX Coordinator's name and contact information separately. **IASB will use the information provided in policy 2:260 for the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator in policies 5:10, 5:20, 7:20, and 7:180. In addition, IASB will use the Title IX Coordinator information provided in policy 2:260 for policy 2:265.**

Complaint Managers identified in individual policies may vary depending upon local district needs. Ensure that policies 2:260, 5:10, 5:20, 7:20, and 7:180 each contain the correct names and contact information for the district's Complaint Managers.



