

# *Document Status: Draft Update*

## STUDENTS

### **7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities**

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to color, race, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity,<sup>Q1</sup> status of being homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy. Further, the District will not knowingly enter into agreements with any entity or any individual that discriminates against students on the basis of sex or any other protected status, except that the District remains viewpoint neutral when granting access to school facilities under Board of Education policy 8:20, *Community Use of School Buildings and Grounds*. Any student may file a discrimination grievance by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

#### Sex Equity

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any student may file a sex equity complaint by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A student may appeal the Board's resolution of the complaint to the Regional Superintendent (pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/3-10](#)) and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education (pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/2-3.8](#)).

#### Administrative Implementation

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator, **who also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator**.<sup>PRESSPlus1</sup> The Superintendent and Building Principal shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy and **related** grievance procedures.<sup>PRESSPlus2</sup>

#### LEGAL REF.:

[20 U.S.C. §1681](#) et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; **implemented** by [34 C.F.R. Part 106](#).

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

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

[Good News Club v. Milford Central Sch.](#), 533 U.S. 98 (2001).

[Ill. Constitution, Art. I](#), §18.

[105 ILCS 5/3.25b](#), [5/3.25d](#)(b), [5/10-20.12](#), [5/10-20.60](#)(P.A.s 100-29 and 100-163, final citations pending), [5/10-22.5](#), and [5/27-1](#).

[775 ILCS 5/1-101](#) et seq., Illinois Human Rights Act.

[775 ILCS 35/5](#), Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.240](#) and [Part 200](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), [2:265 \(Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure\)](#), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:60 (Residence), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:160 (Student Appearance), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), [7:185 \(Teen Dating Violence Prohibited\)](#), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access), 7:340 (Student Records), 8:20 (Community Use of School Buildings and Grounds)

### Questions and Answers:

**\*\*\*Required Question 1.** Executive Order (EO) 2019-11, titled “Strengthening Our Commitment to Affirming and Inclusive Schools” established the Affirming and Inclusive Schools Task Force (Task Force) to identify strategies and best practices for ensuring welcoming, safe, supportive, and inclusive school environments for transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming students. The Task Force delivered a report that served as the basis for two non-regulatory guidance documents entitled *Supporting Transgender, Nonbinary and Gender Nonconforming Students* and *Sample District Policy and Administrative Procedures* at [www.isbe.net/supportallstudents](http://www.isbe.net/supportallstudents). The Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) hosts these documents on its website.

Does the Board want to incorporate ISBE’s *Sample District Policy and Administrative Procedures* policy recommendation into this policy?

- No (default)
- Yes (IASB will replace "gender identity" with "gender, gender identity (whether or not

traditionally associated with the student's sex assigned at birth), gender expression," add "or gender expression" to the first sentence under the Sex Equity subhead, and add the following sentence to that subhead: "Students shall be supported in a manner consistent with their gender identity. This will include, but not be limited to, use of restrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities that correspond with the student's gender identity." In addition, the list of protected classifications in policy 7:20 will be amended to replace "gender identity" with "gender; gender identity (whether or not traditionally associated with the student's sex assigned at birth);")

### **PRESSPlus Comments**

[PRESSPlus 1.](#) 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, see the **PRESS Plus** Question in policy 2:260. **Issue 105, August 2020**

[PRESSPlus 2.](#) The Illinois Principals Association maintains a handbook service that coordinates with **PRESS** material, *Online Model Student Handbook (MSH)*, at: [www.ilprincipals.org/resources/model-student-handbook](http://www.ilprincipals.org/resources/model-student-handbook). **Issue 105, August 2020**