

## **Section 2 - 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](#) or federal [Constitution](#), State or federal statute, or Board policy, or have 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 policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, [29 U.S.C. §791 et seq.](#)
4. Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, [20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.](#)
5. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, [42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.](#)
6. Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act), [42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq.](#)
7. Breastfeeding accommodations for students, [105 ILCS 5/10-20.60](#)
8. 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 policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*)
9. Bullying, [105 ILCS 5/27-23.7](#)
10. Misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children
11. Curriculum, instructional materials, and/or programs
12. Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, [820 ILCS 180/](#)
13. Illinois Equal Pay Act of 2003, [820 ILCS 112/](#)
14. Provision of services to homeless students
15. Illinois Whistleblower Act, [740 ILCS 174/](#)
16. 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.](#)
17. 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 parents/guardians); 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.

Appointing a Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Complaint Managers, or Other Investigators

The Superintendent shall appoint two Complaint Managers, one of each gender. The District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator, if any, may be appointed as one of the Complaint Managers. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator. For complaints containing allegations involving the Superintendent or Board member(s), the Board President or the Board may appoint the Board attorney or a qualified outside investigator to conduct an independent review of the allegations consistent with the procedures below.

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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:

Edward Condon, Superintendent  
7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305  
condone@district90.org  
708/771-8282

Complaint Managers:

Dr. Alison Hawley,	Anthony Cozzi
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction	Chief Operations Officer
7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305	7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305
hawleya@district90.org	cozzia@district90.org
708/771-8282	708/771-8282

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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. If the complaint contains allegations involving the Superintendent or Board member(s), the Complaint Manager must forward the complaint to the Board. 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 shall process and review the complaint according to 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 sexual harassment or other violation of Board policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*, the Complaint Manager shall process and review the complaint according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy.

#### Investigation Process

The Complaint Manager will investigate the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on his or her behalf. If the Complainant is a student, the Complaint Manager may notify his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) that they may attend any investigatory meetings in which their child is involved. 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.

Within 30 school business days after the date the complaint was filed, the Complaint Manager shall file a written investigation report of his or her findings with the Superintendent. The Complaint Manager may request an extension of time.

The Superintendent will keep the Board informed of all complaints.

If a complaint contains allegations involving the Superintendent or Board member(s), the written investigation 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 his or her 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.

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 Superintendent. The Superintendent 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 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.

Illinois regulations provide that individuals alleging that they have been discriminated against on the basis of their sex have a right to appeal the Board's decision to the Regional Superintendent and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education. The Regional Superintendent retains discretion as to whether he or she will hear an appeal.

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

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.  
[42 U.S.C. §2000e](#) *et seq.*, Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act).  
[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.  
[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](#) (final citation pending), [5/10-22.5, 5/22-19, 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 180/](#), Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act; [56 Ill.Admin.Code Part 280](#).  
[820 ILCS 112/](#), Equal Pay Act of 2003.  
[820 ILCS 70/](#), Employee Credit Privacy Act, [70/10\(b\)](#), and [70/25](#).  
[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 Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), 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

2:260

**Deleted: Appointing a Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers**

¶ The Superintendent shall appoint two Complaint Managers, one of each gender. The District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator, if any, may be appointed as one of the Complaint Managers. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator. ¶

¶ 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:** ¶

Edward Condon, Superintendent. ¶  
7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305

[condone@district90.org](mailto:condone@district90.org) ¶  
708/771-8282 ¶

**Complaint Managers:** ¶

Dr. Alison Hawley. ¶  
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction ¶

Anthony Cozzi. ¶  
Chief Operations Officer ¶  
7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305 - 7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305  
[hawleya@district90.org](mailto:hawleya@district90.org) - [cozzia@district90.org](mailto:cozzia@district90.org) ¶  
708/771-8282 - 708/771-8282 ¶

(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; Elementary Schools), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities), 8:95 (Parental Involvement), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

Adopted: February 22, 2022

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**River Forest Public Schools District 90**

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## Section 5 - GENERAL PERSONNEL

### **5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited**

The School District expects the workplace environment to be productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment. District employees shall not engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, citizenship status, work authorization status, disability, pregnancy, marital status, order of protection status, military status, or unfavorable discharge from military service, nor shall they engage in harassment or abusive conduct on the basis of an individual's other protected status identified in Board policy 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment. Harassment of students, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, is prohibited by Board policies 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure; 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure; 7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; and 7:185, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited.

The District will take remedial and corrective action to address unlawful workplace harassment, including sexual harassment.

#### Sexual Harassment Prohibited

The District shall provide a workplace environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment on the basis of sex as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and federal law. The District provides annual sexual harassment prevention training in accordance with State law.

District employees shall not make unwelcome sexual advances or request sexual favors or engage in any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Sexual harassment prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to, verbal, physical, or other conduct. The terms intimidating, hostile, or offensive include, but are not limited to, conduct which has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment or discomfort. Sexual harassment will be evaluated in light of all the circumstances.

#### Making a Report or Complaint

Employees and *nonemployees* (persons who are not otherwise employees and are directly performing services for the District pursuant to a contract with the District, including contractors, and consultants) are encouraged to promptly report information regarding violations of this policy. Individuals may choose to report to a person of the individual's same gender. Every effort should be made to file such reports or complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

Aggrieved individuals, if they feel comfortable doing so, should directly inform the person engaging in the harassing conduct or communication that such conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

#### Whom to Contact with a Report or Complaint

An employee should report claims of harassment, including making a confidential report, to any of the following: his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

An employee may also report claims using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. If a claim is reported using Board policy 2:260, then the Complaint Manager shall process and review the claim according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

**Nondiscrimination Coordinator:**

Edward Condon, Superintendent.

7776 Lake Street, River Forest, IL 60305 [condone@district90.org](mailto:condone@district90.org)

708/771-8282

## Complaint Managers:

Dr. Alison Hawley,  
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction  
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Anthony Cozzi

Chief Operations Officer

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708/771-8282

## Investigation Process

Any District employee who receives a report or complaint of harassment must promptly forward the report or complaint to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager. If the report or complaint contains allegations of harassment by the Superintendent, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or Complaint Manager must forward the report or complaint to the Board. Any employee who fails to promptly forward a report or complaint may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

Reports and complaints of harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain a workplace environment that is productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment.

For any report or complaint alleging sexual harassment that, if true, would implicate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ([20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.](#)), the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or designee shall consider whether action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, should be initiated.

For any other alleged workplace harassment that does not require action under policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or a Complaint Manager or designee shall consider whether an investigation under policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and/or 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, should be initiated, regardless of whether a written report or complaint is filed.

For any report or complaint of harassment containing allegations involving the Superintendent, the Board President or the Board may appoint the Board attorney or a qualified outside investigator to conduct an independent review of the allegations.

## Reports That Involve Alleged Incidents of Sexual Abuse of a Child by School Personnel

An *alleged incident of sexual abuse* is an incident of sexual abuse of a child, as defined in [720 ILCS 5/11-9.1A\(b\)](#), that is alleged to have been perpetrated by school personnel, including a school vendor or volunteer, that occurred: on school grounds during a school activity; or outside of school grounds or not during a school activity.

Any complaint alleging an incident of sexual abuse shall be processed and reviewed according to policy 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. In addition to reporting the suspected abuse, the complaint shall also be processed under policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, or policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

## Enforcement

A violation of this policy by an employee may result in discipline, up to and including discharge. A violation of this policy by a third party will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any

person making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action, which for an employee may be up to and including discharge.

### Retaliation Prohibited

An employee's employment, compensation, or work assignment shall not be adversely affected by complaining or providing information about harassment. Retaliation against employees for bringing complaints or providing information about harassment is prohibited (see Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*), and depending upon the law governing the complaint, whistleblower protection may be available under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act ([5 ILCS 430/](#)), the Whistleblower Act ([740 ILCS 174/](#)), and the Ill. Human Rights Act ([775 ILCS 5/](#)).

An employee should report allegations of retaliation to his/her immediate supervisor, the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

Employees who retaliate against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in the reporting or complaint process will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

### Recourse to State and Federal Fair Employment Practice Agencies

The District encourages all employees who have information regarding violations of this policy to report the information pursuant to this policy. The following government agencies are available to assist employees: the Ill. Dept. of Human Rights and the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Superintendent shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members, applicants, and nonemployees of this policy, which shall include posting on the District website and/or making this policy available in the District's administrative office, and including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

### LEGAL REF.:

[42 U.S.C. §2000e](#) et seq., Title V I of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; [29 C.F.R. §1604.11](#).

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

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

[775 ILCS 5/2-101](#)(E) and (E-1), [5/2-102\(A\)](#), (A-10), (D-5), [5/2-102\(E-5\)](#), [5/2-109](#), [5/5-102](#), and [5/5-102.2](#), Ill. Human Rights Act. [56 Ill. Admin.Code Parts 2500](#), [2510](#), [5210](#), and [5220](#).

[Vance v. Ball State Univ.](#), 570 U.S. 421 (2013).

[Crawford v. Metro. Gov't of Nashville & Davidson Cnty.](#), 555 U.S. 271 (2009).

[Jackson v. Birmingham Bd. of Educ.](#), 544 U.S. 167 (2005).

[Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Servs.](#), 523 U.S. 75 (1998).

[Burlington Indus. v. Ellerth](#), 524 U.S. 742 (1998).

[Fragher v. City of Boca Raton](#), 524 U.S. 775 (1998).

[Harris v. Forklift Systems](#), 510 U.S. 17 (1993).

Franklin v. Gwinnett Co. Public Schools, 503 U.S. 60 (1992).

Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986).

*Porter v. Erie Foods Int, Inc.*, 576 F.3d 629 (7th Cir. 2009).

*Williams v. Waste Mgmt.*, 361 F.3d 1021 (7th Cir. 2004).

*Berry v. Delta Airlines*, 260 F.3d 803 (7th Cir. 2001).

*Sangamon Cnty. Sheriff's Dept. v. Ill. Human Rights Com'n*, 233 Ill.2d 125 (Ill. 2009).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 2:265 (Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

Adopted: January 23, 2023

**River Forest Public Schools District 90**

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