

HUMAN RESOURCES

ALL EMPLOYEES

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Governing Board prohibits sexual harassment against district employees and job applicants. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who complains, testifies, or otherwise participates in the complaint process established for the purpose of this policy.

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, harassment that is based on the gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation of the victim.

This policy shall apply to all district employees and to other persons on district property or with some employment relationship with the district, such as interns, volunteers, contractors, and job applicants.

Any district employee who engages or participates in sexual harassment or who aids, abets, incites, compels, or coerces another to commit sexual harassment in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

The Superintendent or designee shall take all actions necessary to ensure the prevention, investigation, and correction of sexual harassment, including but not limited to:

1. Providing training to employees in accordance with law and administrative regulation.
2. Publicizing and disseminating the district's sexual harassment policy to employees and others to whom the policy may apply.
3. Ensuring prompt, thorough, and fair investigation of complaints.
4. Taking timely and appropriate corrective/remedial action(s), which may require interim separation of the complainant and the alleged harasser and subsequent monitoring of developments.

The Superintendent or designee may periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the district's strategies to prevent and address harassment. Such evaluation may involve conducting regular anonymous employee surveys to assess whether harassment is occurring or is perceived to be tolerated, partnering with researchers or other agencies with the needed expertise to evaluate the district's prevention strategies, and using any other effective tool for receiving feedback on systems and/or processes. As necessary, changes shall be made to the harassment policy, complaint procedures, or training.

## Sexual Harassment Reports and Complaints

Any district employee who feels that he/she has been sexually harassed in the performance of his/her district responsibilities or who has knowledge of any incident of sexual harassment by or against another employee shall immediately report the incident to his/her direct supervisor, another supervisor, the district's coordinator for nondiscrimination, or the Superintendent. A supervisor or administrator who receives a harassment complaint shall promptly notify the district's coordinator for nondiscrimination. The district's coordinator for nondiscrimination is the Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources. The Deputy Superintendent, Instructional Support or Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, may be contacted instead of the Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, if the Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, is the target of the sexual harassment or is the subject of the complaint.

Complaints of sexual harassment shall be filed and investigated in accordance with the complaint procedure specified in Administrative Regulation 4190, Conduct – Harassment/Discrimination. An employee may bypass his/her supervisor in filing a complaint where the supervisor is the subject of the complaint.

All complaints and allegations of sexual harassment shall be kept confidential to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation or to take other subsequent necessary actions. (2 CCR 11023)

### Legal Reference:

#### EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex

#### GOVERNMENT CODE

12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act, especially:

12940 Prohibited discrimination

12950 Sexual harassment; distribution of information

12950.1 Sexual harassment training

#### LABOR CODE

1101 Political activities of employees

#### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

11009 Employment discrimination

11021 Retaliation

11023 Harassment and discrimination prevention and correction

11024 Sexual harassment training and education

11034 Terms, conditions, and privileges of employment

#### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs receiving state financial assistance

#### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 Title IX prohibition against discrimination

## UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000e-2000e-17 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended

## CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

106.1-106.9 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities

106.51-106.61 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in employment in education program or activities

## COURT DECISIONS

Department of Health Services v. Superior Court of California, (2003) 31 Cal.4th 1026

Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, (1998) 118 S.Ct. 2275

Burlington Industries v. Ellreth, (1998) 118 S.Ct. 2257

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, (1998) 118 S.Ct. 1989

Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Serv. Inc., (1998) 118 S.Ct. 998

Meritor Savings Bank, FSB v. Vinson et al., (1986) 447 U.S. 57

## Management Resources:

## U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

Promising Practices for Preventing Harassment, November 2017

## WEB SITES

California Department of Fair Employment and Housing: <http://www.dfeh.ca.gov>Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: <http://www.eeoc.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>

Revised: August 21, 2018 (8/7/18; 9/17/96; Adopted: 2/4/92; name of individual deleted 1/03)

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This administrative regulation shall apply to all allegations of sexual harassment involving employees, interns, volunteers, and job applicants, but shall not be used to resolve any complaint by or against a student.

Definitions

Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the work or educational setting when: (Education Code 212.5; Government Code 12940; 2 CCR 11034)

1. Submission to the conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the individual's employment.
2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting the individual.
3. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits, services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the district.

Prohibited sexual harassment also includes conduct which, regardless of whether or not it is motivated by sexual desire, is so severe or pervasive as to unreasonably interfere with the victim's work performance or create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

Examples of actions that might constitute sexual harassment in the work or educational setting, whether committed by a supervisor, a co-worker, or a non-employee, include, but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome verbal conduct such as sexual flirtations or propositions; graphic comments about an individual's body; overly personal conversations or pressure for sexual activity; sexual jokes or stories; unwelcome sexual slurs, epithets, threats, innuendoes, derogatory comments, sexually degrading descriptions, or the spreading of sexual rumors.
2. Unwelcome visual conduct such as drawings, pictures, graffiti, or gestures; sexually explicit emails; displaying sexually suggestive objects.
3. Unwelcome physical conduct such as massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking, or brushing the body; touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way; cornering, blocking, leaning over, or impeding normal movements.

## Training

Every two years, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that supervisory employees receive at least two hours of classroom or other effective interactive training and education regarding sexual harassment. All such newly hired or promoted employees shall receive training within six months of their assumption of the new position. (Government Code 12950.1) Training shall be provided to nonsupervisory employees as required by law or as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

A supervisory employee is any employee having the authority, in the interest of the district, to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or discipline other employees, or the responsibility to direct them, adjust their grievances, or effectively recommend such action, when the exercise of the authority is not of a merely routine or clerical nature, but requires the use of independent judgment. (Government Code 12926)

The district's sexual harassment training and education program for supervisory employees shall be aimed at assisting them in preventing and effectively responding to incidents of sexual harassment, as well as implementing mechanisms to promptly address and correct wrongful behavior. The training shall include, but is not limited to, the following: (Government Code 12950.1; 2 CCR 11024)

1. Information and practical guidance regarding federal and state laws on the prohibition, prevention, and correction of sexual harassment, the remedies available to sexual harassment victims in civil actions, and potential district and/or individual exposure or liability.
2. The types of conduct that constitute sexual harassment and practical examples which illustrate sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation using training modalities such as role plays, case studies, and group discussions, based on factual scenarios taken from case law, news and media accounts, and hypotheticals based on workplace situations and other sources.
3. A supervisor's obligation to report sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation of which he/she becomes aware and what to do if the supervisor himself/herself is personally accused of harassment.
4. Strategies for preventing harassment, discrimination, and retaliation and appropriate steps to ensure that remedial measures are taken to correct harassing behavior, including an effective process for investigation of a complaint.
5. The essential elements of the district's anti-harassment policies, including the limited confidentiality of the complaint process and resources for victims of unlawful sexual harassment, such as to whom they should report any alleged sexual harassment, and how to use the policy if a harassment complaint is filed.
6. A copy of the district's sexual harassment policy and administrative regulation, which each participant shall acknowledge in writing that he/she has received.

7. The definition and prevention of abusive conduct that addresses the use of derogatory remarks, insults, or epithets, other verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating, and the gratuitous sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance.
8. Practical examples of harassment based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.

The Superintendent or designee shall retain for at least two years the records of any training provided to supervisory employees. Such records shall include the names of trained employees, date of the training, the type of training, and the name of the training provider. (2 CCR 11024)

### Notifications

A copy of the Board policy and this administrative regulation shall: (Education Code 231.5)

1. Be displayed in a prominent location in the main administrative building, district office, or other area of the school where notices of district rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted.
2. Be provided to every district employee at the beginning of the first quarter or semester of the school year or whenever a new employee is hired.
3. Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school's or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct.

All employees shall receive a copy of an information sheet prepared by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) or the district that contains, at a minimum, components on: (Government Code 12950)

1. The illegality of sexual harassment.
2. The definition of sexual harassment under applicable state and federal law.
3. A description of sexual harassment, with examples.
4. The district's complaint process available to the employee.
5. The legal remedies and complaint process available through DFEH and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).
6. Directions on how to contact DFEH and the EEOC.
7. The protection against retaliation provided by 2 CCR 11021 for opposing harassment prohibited by law or for filing a complaint with or otherwise participating in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing conducted by DFEH and the EEOC.

In addition, the district shall post, in a prominent and accessible location, the DFEH poster on discrimination in employment and the illegality of sexual harassment and the DFEH poster regarding transgender rights. (Government Code 12950)

Revised:

August 7, 2018 (BP Revised 8/21/18; Board Policy Adopted  
2/4/92)