

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

The Governing Board desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the district's academic, extracurricular, and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying targeted at any student by anyone, based on the student's actual race or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, nationality, ethnicity, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

This policy shall apply to all acts related to school activity or to school attendance occurring within a district school, and to acts which occur off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored activities but which may have an impact or create a hostile environment at school.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

Unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct based on any of the categories listed above. Unlawful discrimination also includes the creation of a hostile environment through prohibited conduct that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

Unlawful discrimination also includes disparate treatment of students based on one of the categories above with respect to the provision of opportunities to participate in school programs or activities or the provision or receipt of educational benefits or services.

The Board also prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who reports or participates in the reporting of unlawful discrimination, files or participates in the filing of a complaint, or investigates or participates in the investigation of a complaint or report alleging unlawful discrimination. Retaliation complaints shall be investigated and resolved in the same manner as a discrimination complaint.

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate students' access to the educational program by publicizing the district's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures to students, parents/guardians, and employees. He/she shall provide information on the scope and use of the policy and complaint procedures and take other measures designed to increase the school community's understanding of the requirements of law related to discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the implementation of the district's nondiscrimination policies and practices and, as necessary, shall take action to remove any identified barrier to student access to or participation in the district's educational program. He/she shall report his/her findings and recommendations to the Board after each review.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 1330 - Use of Facilities)
(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)
(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Regardless of whether a complainant complies with the writing, timeline, and/or other formal filing requirements, all complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, shall be investigated and prompt action taken to stop the discrimination, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students.

Students who engage in unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, in violation of law, Board policy, or administrative regulation shall be subject to appropriate consequence or discipline, which may include suspension, or expulsion when the behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code 48900.4. Any employee who permits or engages in prohibited discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation or bullying, shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4119.21/4219.21/4319.21- Professional Standards)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))
(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Record-Keeping

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive prohibited behavior in district schools.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

When required pursuant to Education Code 48985, complaint forms shall be translated into the student's primary language.

Grievance Procedures

The following position is the designated Coordinator for Nondiscrimination to handle complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
401 Nut Tree Road
Vacaville, California 95687
(707) 453-6114

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Any student who feels that he/she has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying should immediately contact the principal, or any other staff member. In addition, any student who observes any such incident should report the incident to the principal, whether or not the victim files a complaint.

Any school employee who observes an incident of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying or to whom such an incident is reported shall report the incident to the superintendent or designee whether or not the victim files a complaint.

In addition, the employee shall immediately intervene when safe to do so. (Education Code 234.1)

Upon receiving a complaint of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, it shall immediately be investigated in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures specified in AR 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the student handbook clearly describes the district's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filing a complaint regarding discrimination or harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and the resources that are available to students who feel that they have been the victim of any such behavior. The district's policy shall also be posted on the district web site or any other location that is easily accessible to students.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)
(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)
(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination
 48900.3 Suspension or expulsion for act of hate violence
 48900.4 Suspension or expulsion for threats or harassment
 48904 Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct
 48907 Student exercise of free expression
 48950 Freedom of speech
 48985 Translation of notices
 49020-49023 Athletic programs
 51500 Prohibited instruction or activity
 51501 Prohibited means of instruction
 60044 Prohibited instructional materials

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parents/guardians for willful misconduct of minor

PENAL CODE

422.55 Definition of hate crime
 422.6 Crimes, harassment

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

432 Student record
 4600-4687 Uniform Complaint Procedures
 4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
 12101-12213 Title II equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000d-2000e-17 Title VI and Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended
 2000h-2-2000h-6 Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 6101-6107 Age Discrimination Act of 1975

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.107 Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.31 Disclosure of personally identifiable information
 100.3 Prohibition of discrimination on basis of race, color or national origin
 104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504
 106.8 Designation of responsible employee for Title IX
 106.9 Notification of nondiscrimination on basis of sex

COURT DECISIONS

Donovan v. Poway Unified School District, (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567
Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District, (2003) 324 F.3d 1130

*Management Resources:*CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for All Students, Policy Brief, April 2010
Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014
Final Guidance Regarding Transgender Students, Privacy, and Facilities, March 2014
Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

FIRST AMENDMENT CENTER PUBLICATIONS

Public Schools and Sexual Orientation: A First Amendment Framework for Finding Common Ground, 2006

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT (continued)

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Dealing with Legal Matters Surrounding Students' Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, 2004

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students, May 2016

Dear Colleague Letter: Title IX Coordinators, April 2015

Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010

Notice of Non-Discrimination, January 1999

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Safe Schools Coalition: <http://www.casafeschools.org>

First Amendment Center: <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

Policy

Adopted: September 1, 2005

Revised: February 24, 2011; June 28, 2012; July 18, 2013; June 15, 2017;

June 28, 2018

VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vacaville, California