Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
Code	103 Vol I 2025
Status	First Reading

<u>Authority</u>

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, **religious** creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability.[1] [2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9]**[10]**[11][12][13][14][15][16][17][18]

The Board also declares it to be the policy of this district to comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. Such discrimination shall be referred to throughout this policy as Title IX sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the district may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the **Office** for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The district is committed to the maintenance of a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination by providing all students **admission**, course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities without any form of discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment. Discrimination is inconsistent with the rights of students and the educational and programmatic goals of the district and is prohibited at, or in the course of, district-sponsored programs or activities, including transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activities.

Violations of this policy, including acts of retaliation as described in this policy, or knowingly providing false information, may result in disciplinary consequences under applicable Board policy and procedures.[19][20][21][22]

The Board directs that the foregoing statement of Board policy be included in each student and staff handbook, and that this policy and related attachments be posted to the district's website.

The Board requires a notice stating that the district does not discriminate in any manner, including Title IX sexual harassment, in any district education program or activity, to be issued to all students, parents/guardians, employment applicants, employees and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district. All discrimination notices and information shall include the title, office address, telephone number and email address of the individual(s) designated as the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator.

Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination and Retaliation

The Board encourages students and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to Title IX sexual harassment, other discrimination or retaliation to promptly report such incidents to the building principal, even if some elements of the related incident took place or originated

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away from school grounds, school activities or school conveyances. A person who is not an intended victim or target of discrimination but is adversely affected by the offensive conduct may file a report of discrimination.

The student's parents/guardians or any other person with knowledge of conduct that may violate this policy is encouraged to immediately report the matter to the building principal.

A school employee who suspects or is notified that a student **may have** been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy shall immediately report the incident to the building principal, as well as properly making any mandatory **law enforcement** or child protective services reports required by law.[23][24]

If the building principal is the subject of a complaint, the student, third party or a reporting employee shall report the incident directly to the Title IX Coordinator.

The complainant or the individual making the report may use the **designated district report form** attached to this policy for purposes of reporting an incident or incidents in writing; however, **oral** reports of an incident or incidents shall be accepted, documented and the procedures of this policy and the relevant attachments followed.

The building principal shall promptly notify the Title IX Coordinator of all reports of discrimination, Title IX sexual harassment or retaliation. The Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant regarding the report to gather additional information as necessary, and to discuss the availability of supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator shall consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall conduct an assessment to determine whether the reported circumstances are most appropriately addressed through the Discrimination Complaint Procedures prescribed in Attachment 2 to this policy, or if the reported circumstances meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment and are most appropriately addressed through the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints in Attachment 3, or other Board policies.

Disciplinary Procedures When Reports Allege Title IX Sexual Harassment

When a report alleges Title IX sexual harassment, disciplinary sanctions may not be imposed until the completion of the grievance process for formal complaints outlined in Attachment 3. The district shall presume that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination has been made at the completion of the grievance process for formal complaints.

When an emergency removal, as described in Attachment 3, is warranted to address an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of an individual, and it is not feasible to continue educational services remotely or in an alternative setting, the normal procedures for suspension and expulsion shall be conducted to accomplish the removal, including specific provisions to address a student with a disability where applicable.[19][21][25][26]

When an emergency removal is not required, disciplinary sanctions shall be considered in the course of the Title IX grievance process for formal complaints. Following the issuance of the written determination and any applicable appeal, any disciplinary action specified in the written determination or appeal decision shall be implemented in accordance with the normal procedures for suspensions, expulsions or other disciplinary actions, including specific provisions to address a student with a disability where applicable.[19][20][21][25]

Discipline/Placement of Student Convicted or Adjudicated of Sexual Assault

Upon notification of a conviction or adjudication of a student in this district for sexual assault against another student enrolled in this district, the district shall comply with the disciplinary or placement requirements established by state law and Board policy.[27][28]

<u>Confidentiality</u>

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a report and the investigation related to any form of discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment, shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy, the attachments and the district's legal and investigative obligations. [29][30][31][32][33]

<u>Retaliation</u>

The Board prohibits retaliation by the district or any other person against any person for: [32]

- 1. Reporting or making a formal complaint of any form of discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment.
- 2. Testifying, assisting, participating or refusing to participate in a related investigation, process or other proceeding or hearing.
- 3. Acting in opposition to practices the person reasonably believes to be discriminatory.

The district, its employees and others are prohibited from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or discriminating against anyone for actions described above. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator immediately if retaliation is believed to have occurred.

Definitions

Complainant shall mean an individual who is alleged to be the victim.

Pregnancy – the use of assisted reproductive technology, the state of being in gestation, childbirth, breastfeeding, the postpartum period after childbirth and medical conditions related to pregnancy.[34]

Race includes all of the following:[34][35]

- 1. Ancestry, national origin or ethnic characteristics.
- 2. Interracial marriage or association.
- 3. Traits associated with race, which includes but is not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles, such as braids, locks and twists.
- 4. Hispanic ancestry, national origin or ethnic characteristics.
- 5. Persons of any other national origin or ancestry as specified by a complainant or in a complaint.

Religious creed includes all aspects of religious observance, practice or belief.[36]

Respondent shall mean an individual alleged to be the perpetrator of the discriminatory conduct.

Discrimination

Discrimination shall mean to treat individuals differently, or to harass or victimize based on a protected classification including race, color, age, **religious** creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or handicap/disability.

Harassment is a form of discrimination based on the protected classifications listed in this policy consisting of unwelcome conduct such as graphic, written, electronic, verbal or nonverbal acts including offensive jokes, slurs, epithets and name-calling, ridicule or mockery, insults or putdowns, offensive objects or pictures, physical assaults or threats, intimidation, or other conduct that may be harmful or humiliating or interfere with a person's school or school-related performance when such conduct is:

- 1. Sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive; and
- 2. A reasonable person in the complainant's position would find that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment such that it deprives or adversely interferes with or limits an individual or group of the ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or opportunities offered by a school.

Definitions Related to Title IX Sexual Harassment

Formal complaint shall mean a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Title IX sexual harassment and requesting that the district investigate the allegation under the grievance process for formal complaints. The authority for the Title IX Coordinator to sign a formal complaint does not make the Title IX Coordinator a party in the grievance process for formal complaints. The phrase "document filed by a complainant" refers to a document or electronic submission that contains the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint.[31][37]

Supportive measures shall mean nondisciplinary, nonpunitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed.[37]

Supportive measures shall be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the educational program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the educational environment, or to deter sexual harassment. **Supportive measures** may include, but are not limited to:[<u>37</u>]

- 1. Counseling.
- 2. Extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments.
- 3. Modifications of work or class schedules.
- Campus escort services.
- 5. Mutual restrictions on contact between the parties.
- 6. Changes in work or housing locations.
- 7. Leaves of absence.
- 8. Increased security.
- 9. Monitoring of certain areas of the campus.
- 10. Assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs.

11. Assistance from community health resources including counseling resources.

Supportive measures may also include assessments or evaluations to determine eligibility for special education or related services, or the need to review an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Service Agreement based on a student's behavior. This could include, but is not limited to, a manifestation determination or functional behavioral assessment (FBA), in accordance with applicable law, regulations or Board policy. **The Title IX Coordinator shall consult with the Director of Special Education in the implementation of supportive measures for students with an IEP or Section 504 Service Agreement.[18][19][25][26] [38]**

Title IX sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:[<u>37</u>]

- 1. A district employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or district service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct, commonly referred to as *quid pro quo sexual harassment*.
- Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to a district education program or activity.
- 3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking.
 - a. **Dating violence** means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and where the existence of such a relationship is determined by the following factors:[39]

i. Length of relationship.

ii. Type of relationship.

- iii. Frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
- b. **Domestic violence** includes felony or misdemeanor **crimes committed** by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving federal funding, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.[39]
- c. Sexual assault means a sexual offense under state or federal law that is classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. [40]
- d. **Stalking**, under Title IX means stalking on the basis of sex, for example when the stalker desires to date a victim. Stalking means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to either: [39]
 - i. Fear for their safety or the safety of others.
 - ii. Suffer substantial emotional distress.

Such conduct must have taken place during a district education program or activity and against a person in the United States to qualify as sexual harassment under Title IX. An **education program or activity** includes the locations, events or circumstances over which the district

exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the harassment occurs. Title IX applies to all of a district's education programs or activities, whether such programs or activities occur on-campus or off-campus. [30][31][37]

Delegation of Responsibility

In order to maintain a program of nondiscrimination practices that is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the Board designates the [41]

[The district may choose the same or different individuals to fulfill the roles of Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If designating one (1) individual to fulfill both responsibilities, select the first option and enter the appropriate position title. If designating two (2) individuals to fulfill the separate responsibilities, select the second option and enter the appropriate position titles.]

{ x} Dr. Jon Pollard as the district's Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator can be contacted at:

Address: 252 Memorial Street, Exeter, PA., 18643

Email: jpollard@wyomingarea.org

Phone Number: (570)655-3733

{ } _____ as the district's Compliance Officer and _____ as the district's Title IX Coordinator.

The Compliance Officer can be contacted at:

Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

The Title IX Coordinator can be contacted at:

Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

The Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator shall fulfill designated responsibilities to ensure adequate nondiscrimination procedures are in place, to recommend new procedures or modifications to procedures and to monitor the implementation of the district's nondiscrimination procedures in the following areas, as appropriate:

- 1. Curriculum and Materials Review of curriculum guides, textbooks and supplemental materials for discriminatory bias.
- 2. Training Provide training for students and staff to prevent, identify and alleviate **conduct** which may constitute discrimination.
- 3. Resources Maintain and provide information to staff on resources available to complainants in addition to the school complaint procedure or Title IX procedures, such as making reports to **law enforcement**, and available supportive measures such as assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs and community health resources

including counseling resources.

- 4. Student Access Review of programs, activities and practices to ensure that all students have equal access and are not segregated except when permissible by law or regulation.
- 5. District Support Assure that like aspects of the school programs and activities receive like support as to staffing and compensation, facilities, equipment, and related areas.[42]
- 6. Student Evaluation Review of assessments, procedures, and guidance and counseling materials for stereotyping and discrimination.
- 7. Reports/Formal Complaints Monitor and provide technical assistance to individuals involved in managing informal reports and formal complaints.

Guidelines

Title IX Sexual Harassment Training Requirements

The Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or any individual designated to facilitate an informal resolution process related to Title IX sexual harassment shall receive the following training, as required or appropriate to their specific role:

- 1. Definition of sexual harassment.
- Scope of the district's education program or activity, as it pertains to what is subject to Title IX regulations.
- 3. How to conduct an investigation and grievance process for formal complaints, including examination of evidence, drafting written determinations, handling appeals and informal resolution processes, as applicable.
- 4. How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest and bias.
- 5. Use of relevant technology.
- 6. Issues of relevance including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.
- 7. Issues of relevance, weight of evidence and application of standard of proof and drafting investigative reports that fairly summarize relevant evidence.
- 8. How to address complaints when the alleged conduct does not qualify as Title IX sexual harassment but could be addressed under another complaint process or Board policy.

All training materials shall promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of Title IX sexual harassment without relying on sex stereotypes.

All training materials shall be posted on the district's website.

Disciplinary Consequences

A student who is determined to be responsible for **a** violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include but is not limited to:[19][20][21]

1. {x } Loss of school privileges.

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2. $\{x\}$ Permanent transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.

3. {x } Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.

4. $\{x\}$ Detention.

5. {x } Suspension.

6. {x } Expulsion.

7. {x } Referral to law enforcement officials.

An employee who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the applicable Board policy, collective bargaining agreement and individual contract, up to and including dismissal and/or referral to law enforcement officials.[22][43]

Reports of Discrimination

Any reports of discrimination that are reviewed by the Title IX Coordinator and do not meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment but are based on race, color, age, **religious** creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability shall follow the Discrimination Complaint Procedures in Attachment 2 to this policy.

Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment

Any reports deemed by the Title IX Coordinator to meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX shall follow the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints in Attachment 3 to this policy.

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Legal

1. 22 PA Code 12.1 2. 22 PA Code 12.4 3. 22 PA Code 15.1 et seg 4. 22 PA Code 4.4 5. 24 P.S. 1301 6.24 P.S. 1310 7. 24 P.S. 1601-C et seg 8. 24 P.S. 5004 9. 43 P.S. 951 et seq 10. 16 PA Code 41.201 et seq 11. 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq 12. 34 CFR Part 106 13. 29 U.S.C. 794 14. 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq 15. 42 U.S.C. 1981 et seq 16. 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seg

17. U.S. Const. Amend. XIV, Equal Protection Clause

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	18. Pol. 103.1	-			· .	
	19. Pol. 113.1					
	20. Pol. 218					
	21. Pol. 233					
	22, Pol. 317					
	23. Pol. 806					
	24. Pol. 805.1					
	25. Pol. 113.2					
	26. Pol. 113.3					
	27. Pol. 218.3		·			
	<u>28. 24 P.S. 1318.1</u>					
	<u>29. 20 U.S.C. 1232g</u>					
	30, 34 CFR 106.44					
	<u>31. 34 CFR 106.45</u>					
	<u>32. 34 CFR 106.71</u>					
	33. 34 CFR Part 99		• •		-	
	<u>34. 16 PA Code 41.204</u>					
	35. 16 PA Code 41.207			. *		
•	<u>36. 16 PA Code 41.205</u>					
	37. 34 CFR 106.30					
	38. Pol. 113					
	<u>39. 34 U.S.C. 12291</u>				1	
	<u>40. 20 U.S.C. 1092</u>					-
	<u>41. 34 CFR 106.8</u>				•	
	42. Pol. 150		•			·
	43. Pol. 317.1					
	<u>18 Pa. C.S.A. 2709</u>				-	
	<u>20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq</u>					
	<u>28 CFR Part 41</u>					
	28 CFR Part 35	-				
	<u>34 CFR Part 100</u>				-	
	<u>34 CFR Part 104</u>					
	34 CFR Part 110					
	U.S. Const. Amend. I					
	Davis v. Monroe County Bo	ard of Edu	ucation, 526	U.S. 629	(1999)	
	Franklin v. Gwinnett County	/ Public S	chools, 503 l	J.S. 60 (1	992)	
	Gebser v. Lago Vista Indep	endent Sc	hool District	, 524 U.S.	274 (19	98)
	Office for Civil Rights - Res	ources for	Addressing	Racial Har	<u>assment</u>	

Office for Civil Rights - Fact Sheet: Harassment Based on Race, Color, or National Origin on School Campuses (July 2024)

Pol. 122		-	×	
Pol. 123				
Pol. 138				
Pol. 216				
Pol. 220				
Pol. 247				
Pol. 249				
Pol. 251				
Pol. 252	•			
Pol. 320			Χ	
Pol. 324				
Pol. 701				
Pol. 800				
Pol. 801		•		
Pol. 815				
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103-Attach 1 Report Form.pdf (421 KB)

103-Attach 3 Title IX.docx (84 KB)

103-Attach 4 Parental Objection to Participation Letter.docx (30 KB)

103-Attach 2 Discrimination (5) (4).docx (48 KB)

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DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT/BULLYING/ HAZING/DATING VIOLENCE/RETALIATION REPORT FORM

Note: For purposes of Title IX sexual harassment, this Report Form serves initially as an informal report, <u>not</u> a formal complaint of Sexual Harassment under Title IX.

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide a safe, positive learning and working environment that is free from bullying, hazing, dating violence, sexual harassment and other discrimination, and retaliation. If you have experienced, or if you have knowledge of, any such actions, we encourage you to complete this form. The Title IX Coordinator will be happy to support you by answering any questions about the report form, reviewing the report form for completion and assisting as necessary with completion of the report. The Title IX Coordinator's contact information is:

Position:	·	
Address:	•	
Email:		
Phone Number:	·	 _

Retaliation Prohibited

The district, its employees and others are prohibited from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or discriminating against you for filing this report. Please contact the Title IX Coordinator immediately if you believe retaliation has occurred.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations and the filing of a report shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, Board policy, procedures, and the district's legal and investigative obligations. The school will take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the report, consistent with a request for confidentiality as long as doing so does not preclude the school from responding effectively to the report. If you have any questions regarding how the information contained in this report may be used, please discuss them with the Title IX Coordinator prior to filing the report. Once this report is filed, the district has an obligation to investigate the information provided.

I. Information About the Person Making This Report:

Name:	
Address:	· .
Phone Number:	
School Building:	
I am a:	
□ Student □ Parent/Guardian □ Employee	e \Box Volunteer \Box Visitor
□ Other	(please explain relationship to the district)
If you are not the victim of the reported conduct, p	
Name:	
The alleged victim is: \Box Your Child \Box Anoth	
□ Other:(p)	lease explain relationship to the alleged victim)
II. Information About the Person(s) You Believ Hazing, Harassing or Other Discrimination Yo	u are Reporting
What is/are the name(s) of the individual(s) you b are reporting?	elieve is/are responsible for the conduct you
Name(s):	
The reported individual(s) is/are:	
\Box Student(s) \Box Employee(s)	
Other	(please explain relationship to the district)

III. Description of the Conduct You are Reporting

In your own words, please do your best to describe the conduct you are reporting as clearly as possible. Please attach additional pages if necessary:

When did the reported conduct occur? (Please provide the specific date(s) and time(s) if possible):

Where did the reported conduct take place?

Please provide the name(s) of any person(s) who was/were present, even if for only part of the time.

Please provide the name(s) of any other person(s) that may have knowledge or related information surrounding the reported conduct.

Have you reported this conduct to any other individual prior to giving this report?

 \Box Yes \Box No

If yes, who did you tell about it?

If you are the victim of the reported conduct, how has this affected you?

Is there anything else you wish the Title IX Coordinator to know at this time?

I affirm that the information reported above is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Signature of Person Making the Report

Received By

Date

Date

REAL STREET, S

This section is to be completed by the Title IX Coordinator based on reviewing the report with the complainant or other individual making the report.

The purpose of this form is to assist the Title IX Coordinator in gathering information necessary to properly assess the circumstances surrounding the reported conduct to determine if the allegations fall under the definition of Title IX sexual harassment or if the matter merits review and action under the Code of Student Conduct and/or other Board policies. The Title IX Coordinator shall gather as much information as possible in cases of incomplete or anonymous reports (including those that may be received through the Safe2Say Something program) to assess the report.

Upon receipt of the report, The Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant regarding the report to gather additional information as necessary and to discuss the availability of supportive measures as described in Policy 103 and Attachment 3. The Title IX Coordinator shall consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures.

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Name:			. <u>.</u> .	
Address:			· · ·	
Phone Number:				
School Building:				
Reporter is a:	n de la construcción de la constru La construcción de la construcción d			
□ Student □ Parent/G	uardian 🗆 Em	ployee	□ Volunteer	□ Visitor
Other or district)		(p	lease explain relati	onship to the student
If the reporter is not the vic	tim of the reported	l conduct, p	lease identify the a	alleged victim:
Name:				
The alleged victim is: \Box I	Reporter's Child	□ Anothe	er Student 🗆 And	ther Employee
□ Other:		(please e	xplain relationship	to the alleged victim)

I. Reporter Information:

II. Respondent Information

Please state the na			
Name(s):			
The reported res	pondent(s) is/are:		
□ Student(s)	□ Employee(s)		
□ Other		(please explain relationship to the distric	t)
III. Level of Rep	oort:		
□ Informal	□ Formal (see additional	information below on Title IX formal complain	(s)
IV. Type of Rep	ort:		
		ation	
□ Title IX Sexual	l Harassment 🗆 Discrimin	ation Retaliation Bullying Other	
□ Title IX Sexua □ Hazing	l Harassment □ Discrimin □ Dating Violence	ation	
□ Title IX Sexual □ Hazing Nature of the Re	l Harassment □ Discrimin □ Dating Violence	ation	
 Title IX Sexual Hazing Nature of the Ro Race Color Religion 	l Harassment □ Discrimin □ Dating Violence eport (check all that apply):	ation □ Retaliation □ Bullying □ Other □ Age □ Religious Creed □ Sex	
 Title IX Sexual Hazing Nature of the R Race Color Religion Sexual Orienta 	l Harassment	ation	
 Title IX Sexual Hazing Nature of the Ro Race Color Religion Sexual Orienta National Origi 	l Harassment	ation Retaliation Bullying Other Age Religious Creed Sex Sexual Harassment (Title IX) Ancestry	
 Title IX Sexual Hazing Nature of the Religion Religion Sexual Orienta National Origi Marital Status 	l Harassment	ation	
 Title IX Sexual Hazing Nature of the Ro Race Color Religion Sexual Orienta National Origi 	l Harassment	ation Retaliation Bullying Other Age Religious Creed Sex Sexual Harassment (Title IX) Ancestry	

V. Reported Conduct

Describe the reported conduct below, including specific actions, dates, times, locations and any other details necessary to properly assess the reported incident(s).

How often did the conduct occur?

Does the complainant believe the conduct will continue?

□No

 \Box Yes

Do the circumstances involve a student identified as a student with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act? If unsure, contact the Director of Special Education.

 \Box No.

 \Box Yes, please identify the student with a disability and contact the Director of Special Education.

Date Director of Special Education was contacted: _

How has the conduct affected the alleged victim's ability to fully participate in the school's academic, programs, activities or school employment?

What is the alleged victim's relationship with the alleged respondent?

Insert names, descriptions, and/or contact information of individuals believed to have observed the conduct or who otherwise may have knowledge of the conduct and/or related circumstances.

Additional observations or evidence including pictures, texts, emails, video or other information submitted to the Title IX Coordinator.

Identify additional evidence that may be helpful in the course of the investigation.

VI. Safety Concerns

Are there safety concerns that may require emergency removal of or Administrative Leave for a respondent? (This requires an individualized safety and risk analysis as to whether there is an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of a student or other individual.)

No.

Yes, please describe:

VII. Other Reports

Has the conduct been reported to the police or any other agency?

 No

 Yes

 Date reported:

Agency:

VIII. Identification of Policies Implicated by Reported Conduct

Check all that apply:

Policy 103. Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
 Policy 104. Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
 Policy 234. Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students
 Policy 247. Hazing
 Policy 249. Bullying
 Policy 252. Dating Violence
 Other

To meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment, the conduct must have taken place during a district education program or activity involving a person in the United States. An **education program or activity** includes the locations, events or circumstances over which the district exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs. Title IX applies to all of a district's education programs or activities, whether such programs or activities occur on-campus or off-campus.

Did the incident occur during a during a school program or activity involving a person in the United States?

Yes

ΠNο

To meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment, the conduct needs to satisfy one or more of the following (please check all that apply):

 \Box A district employee implicitly or explicitly conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct, commonly referred to as quid pro quo sexual harassment.

□ Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to a district education program or activity.

□ Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking.

Dating violence means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and where the existence of such a relationship is determined by the following factors:

- Length of relationship.
- Type of relationship.
- Frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Domestic violence includes felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving federal funding, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

Sexual assault means a sexual offense under a state or federal law that is classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Stalking means stalking on the basis of sex, for example when the stalker desires to date a victim. Stalking means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to either:

1. Fear for their safety or the safety of others.

2. Suffer substantial emotional distress.

IX. Recommended Course of Action

After consultation with the complainant and consideration of the reported information, the Title IX Coordinator directs the report to proceed under the provisions of (check all that apply):

 \Box No further action at this time. Reason:

□ Policy 247. Hazing
□ Policy 249. Bullying
□ Policy 252. Dating Violence
□ Policy 317.1. Educator Midconduct
□ Policy 806. Child Abuse
□ Other

Delicy 103 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students: Attachment 2

Discrimination Complaint Procedures

Policy 104 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff: Attachment 2 Discrimination Complaint Procedures

Delicy 103. Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students: Attachment 3 Title

IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints Policy 104. Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff: Attachment 3 Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints

X. Title IX Information to Complainant

What supportive measures were discussed with the complainant, and what were the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures?

Upon designating a course of action under Title IX sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly:

1. Explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

- 2. Inform the complainant of the continued availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint.
- 3. The Title IX Coordinator shall contact a student complainant's parents/guardians and provide them with information regarding the report and Title IX sexual harassment procedures and grievance process for formal complaints.

If the complainant/reporter, school staff or others with professional knowledge relating to the complainant's health and well-being indicate that notifying the parents/guardians could cause serious harm to the health or well-being of the complainant or other person(s), the Title IX Coordinator will determine, in consultation with such individuals including the Superintendent and upon advice of legal counsel and upon the request of law enforcement or child welfare agency, whether to withhold or delay notification of the report from the complainant's parents/guardians.

4. Determine what supportive measures may be offered to the respondent.

5. Determine whether the complainant wishes this report to be treated as a formal complaint.

XI. Title IX Coordinator Signature

I recommend the above course of action based on my consultation with the complainant and the information available at this time.

Title IX Coordinator:

Date:

XII. Title IX Formal Complaint Action

The Title IX Coordinator shall have the complainant check the appropriate box and sign and date below to indicate whether or not the complainant wishes to have this form serve as a formal complaint pursuant to Title IX.

I would like my report to be treated as a formal complaint pursuant to Title IX.

 \Box Yes \Box No

Complainant's Signature:

Date: _____

If the complainant does not wish this report to be treated as a formal complaint pursuant to Title IX, the Title IX Coordinator must assess whether actions limited to supportive measures are a sufficient response to alleged behavior, or whether a formal complaint process is necessary to investigate and address the situation adequately. For example, if disciplinary action would be warranted if allegations are true, if the respondent is an employee, or if further investigation is needed to assess the extent of the behavior and impact on others, it may be clearly unreasonable not to initiate the formal complaint process. The Title IX Coordinator may consult with the school solicitor and other district officials in making this decision.

As Title IX Coordinator, I have determined that, notwithstanding the complainant's preference, it is necessary to proceed with the Grievance Process for Formal Complaints for the following reasons:

Therefore, I am signing this form for the purpose of serving as the formal complaint initiating that process:

Title IX Coordinator's Signature:

Date:

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The Discrimination Complaint Procedures prescribed in this Attachment apply to reports of retaliation or discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, religious creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or related conditions, or handicap/disability that do not constitute Title IX sexual harassment as defined in Policy 103.

All reports of discrimination will be reviewed by the Title IX Coordinator upon receipt to determine if the allegations meet the definition and parameters of sexual harassment under Title IX. If the result of this review determines that the allegations fall within the scope of Title IX sexual harassment, then the process set forth in Policy 103 Attachment 3 for Title IX Sexual Harassment will be followed.

[Note: if the same individual is assigned to the roles of Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer through Policy 103, please revise the terminology in this Attachment 2 to reflect the position of Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer throughout.]

All reports of discrimination and retaliation brought pursuant to the district's discrimination policy **will** also be reviewed for conduct which may not be proven discriminatory under Policy 103 but merits review and possible action under the Code of Student Conduct and other Board policies. (Pol. 103.1, **113.1**, 218, **233**, 247, 249, 252)

Reasonable Accommodations

Throughout the discrimination complaint procedures, the district **will** make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and intellectual impairments that constitute disabilities for all parties, and address barriers being experienced by disadvantaged students such as English learners, homeless students **and other students experiencing educational instability**, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations and Board policy. (Pol. 103.1, 113, 138, 251, 906)

Required Reporting Under Other Policies

In addition to implementing the disciplinary complaint procedures, the building principal or Compliance Officer **will** ensure that reported conduct which meets the definition of other laws, regulations or Board policies, is also appropriately addressed in accordance with the applicable laws, regulations or Board policies, including but not limited to, incidents **involving school safety**, reports of educator misconduct, **bullying**, threats, or reports of suspected child abuse. (Pol. 218, **218.1**, **218.2**, **249**, 317.1, 806, 824)

Timeframes

Reasonably prompt timeframes will be established for completing each step of the discrimination complaint procedures, including timeframes for filing and resolving appeals.

The established timeframes included in these procedures may be adjusted to allow for a temporary delay or a limited extension of time for good cause. Written notice of the delay or extension and the reason for such action **will** be provided to the complainant and the respondent, and documented with the records of the complaint. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, considerations such as:

1. The absence of a party or a witness.

2. Request from law enforcement or child welfare agency.

3. Need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.

PROCEDURES FOR COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION

Step 1 – Reporting

A student or individual who believes they have been subject to discrimination by any student, employee or third party is encouraged to immediately report the incident to the building principal using the **designated district** report form or by making a general report **orally** or in writing to the building principal.

Parents/Guardians of students have the right to act on behalf of the complainant, the respondent, or other individual at any time.

Any person with knowledge of discrimination in violation of Board policy or this procedure is encouraged to immediately report the matter to the building principal.

A school employee who suspects or is notified that a student has been subject to discrimination **will** immediately report the incident to the building principal. Additionally, employees who have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is the victim of child abuse, **will** immediately report the suspected abuse, in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy. (Pol. 806)

The building principal **will** immediately notify the Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer of the reported discrimination.

If the building principal is the subject of a complaint, the student, third party or employee will report the incident directly to the Title IX Coordinator and/or Compliance Officer.

If the Title IX Coordinator or Compliance Officer is the subject of a complaint, the student, third party or employee will report the incident directly to the Superintendent or designee.

The complainant or reporting individual **will** be encouraged to use the **designated district** report form, however, complaints **will** be accepted in person, by phone, by mail or email, or by any other means that results in the appropriate individual receiving the individual's **oral** or written report. **Oral** reports **will** be documented using the **designated district report form**, and theseprocedures **will** be implemented.

The Title IX Coordinator **will** review reports and complaints, and may gather additional information from the individual submitting the report and other parties identified in the report using the **designated district** report form. The Title IX Coordinator **will** promptly contact the complainant regarding the report to gather additional information as necessary, and to discuss the availability of supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator **will** consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures.

The Title IX Coordinator will conduct an assessment to determine whether the reported circumstances are most appropriately addressed through the Discrimination Complaint Procedures prescribed in this Attachment 2, or if the reported circumstances meet the definition and parameters of Title IX sexual harassment and are most appropriately addressed through the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints in Attachment 3, or other applicable Board policies.

If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the report should be addressed through the discrimination complaint procedures, the Compliance Officer **will** be notified and the complaint procedures in this Attachment 2 implemented.

When any party is an identified student with a disability, or thought to be a student with a disability, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the <u>Director of Special Education</u> and coordinate to determine whether additional steps must be taken for the party, while the discrimination complaint procedures are implemented. Such measures may include, but are not limited to, conducting a manifestation determination, functional behavioral assessment (FBA) or other assessment or evaluation, in accordance with applicable law, regulations or Board policy. FBAs must be conducted when a student's behavior interferes with the student's learning or the learning of others and information is necessary to provide appropriate educational programming, and when a student's behavior violates the Code of Student Conduct and is determined to be a manifestation of a student's disability. (Pol. 113, 113.1, 113.2, 113.3)

Step 2 – Initial Communications/Supports

The complainant **will** be informed about the Board's policy on discrimination, including the right to an investigation of both verbal and written reports of discrimination.

The building principal or designee, in consultation with the Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator and other appropriate individuals, will promptly implement appropriate measures to protect the complainant and others as necessary from violation of the policy throughout the course of the investigation.

The building principal or designee may provide to the complainant factual information on the complaint and the investigative process, the impact of choosing to seek confidentiality and the **opportunity to report the incident(s) to law enforcement**. The person accepting the complaint will handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the complainant or respondent.

The building principal or designee will seek to obtain consent from parents/guardians to initiate an investigation where the complainant is under age eighteen (18), and inform parents/guardians of the complainant that the complainant may be accompanied by a parent/guardian during all steps of the complaint procedure. When a parent/guardian requests confidentiality and will not consent to the **complainant's** participation in an investigation, the building principal or designee will explain that the school will take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint consistent with that request for confidentiality as long as doing so does not preclude the school from responding effectively to the discrimination and preventing discrimination that affects other students.

The building principal or Compliance Officer will provide relevant information on resources available in addition to the discrimination complaint procedure, such as making reports to law enforcement, available assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs and community health resources, including counseling resources.

Informal Remedies -

At any time after a complaint has been reported, if the Compliance Officer believes the circumstances are appropriate, the Compliance Officer may offer the parties involved in the complaint the opportunity to participate in informal remedies to address the reported conduct. Informal remedies can take many forms, depending on the particular case. Examples include, but are not limited to, mediation, facilitated discussions between the parties, restorative practices, acknowledgment of responsibility by a respondent, apologies, a requirement to engage in specific services, or other measures to support the parties.

If the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the parties, the district employee facilitating the informal remedies will document the nature of the complaint and the proposed resolution of the matter, have both parties sign the documentation to indicate agreement with the resolution and receive a copy, and forward it to the Compliance Officer.

The Compliance Officer will contact the complainant to determine if the resolution was effective and to monitor the agreed upon remedies, and will document all appropriate actions.

*If the informal remedies result in the final resolution of the complaint, the following steps are not applicable.

Step 3 – Investigation

The Compliance Officer **will** assess whether the investigation should be conducted by the building principal, another district employee, the Compliance Officer or an attorney and **will** promptly assign the investigation to that individual. When a parent/guardian has requested confidentiality and will not consent to the **complainant's** participation in an investigation, the Compliance Officer **will** provide the parent/guardian with a letter containing information related to the district's legal obligations to conduct an investigation and address violations of Board policy, and any other information appropriate to the specific complaint.

The Compliance Officer will ensure that the individual assigned to investigate the complaint has an appropriate understanding of the relevant laws pertaining to discrimination and retaliation issues and Board policy, and how to conduct investigations and draft an investigative report.

The investigator **will** work with the Compliance Officer to assess the anticipated scope of the investigation, who needs to be interviewed and what records or evidence may be relevant to the investigation.

The investigator **will** conduct an adequate, reliable and impartial investigation. The complainant and the respondent may suggest additional witnesses and provide other evidence during the course of the investigation. When the initial complaint involves allegations relating to conduct which took place away from school property, school-sponsored activities or school conveyances, the investigation may include inquiries related to these allegations to determine whether they resulted in continuing effects such as harassment in school settings.

The investigation may consist of individual interviews with the complainant, the respondent, and others with knowledge relative to the allegations. The investigator may also evaluate any other information and materials relevant to the investigation. The person making the report, parties, parents/guardians and witnesses will be informed of the prohibition against retaliation for anyone's participation in the process and that conduct believed to be retaliatory should be reported. All individuals providing statements or other information or participating in the investigation will be instructed to keep the matter confidential and to report any concerns about confidentiality to the investigator.

If the investigation reveals that the conduct being investigated may involve a violation of criminal law, the investigator **will** promptly notify the Compliance Officer, who **will** promptly inform law enforcement authorities about the allegations.

The obligation to conduct this investigation **will** not be negated by the fact that a criminal or child protective services investigation of the allegations is pending or has been concluded. The investigator should coordinate with any other ongoing investigations of the allegations, including agreeing to requests for a delay in fulfilling the district's investigative responsibilities during the fact-finding portion of a criminal or child protective services investigation. Such delays **will** not extend beyond the time necessary to prevent interference with or disruption of the criminal or child protective services investigation, and the reason for **any** such delay **will** be documented by the investigator.

Step 4 – Investigative Report

The investigator will prepare and submit a written report to the Compliance Officer within

{ } twenty (20) school days

 $\{x\}$ thirty (30) school days

{ } _____school days

of the initial report of alleged discrimination, unless the nature of the allegations, anticipated extent of the investigation or the availability of witnesses requires the investigator and the Compliance Officer to establish a different due date. The parties **will** be notified of the anticipated date the investigative report will be completed and of any changes to the anticipated due date during the course of the investigation.

The investigative report **will** include a summary of the investigation, a determination of whether the complaint has been substantiated as factual, the information and evaluation that formed the basis for this determination, whether the conduct violated Board Policy 103 and of any other violations of law or Board policy which may warrant further district action, and a recommended disposition of the complaint. An investigation into discrimination or harassment **will** consider the record as a whole and the totality of circumstances in determining whether a violation of Board policy has occurred, recognizing that persistent and pervasive conduct, when taken together, may be a violation even when the separate incidents are not severe.

The complainant and the respondent **will** be informed of the outcome of the investigation, for example, whether the investigator believes the allegations to be founded or unfounded, within a reasonable time of the submission of the written investigative report, to the extent authorized by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other applicable laws. The respondent **will** not be notified of the individual remedies offered or provided to the complainant.

Step 5 – District Action

If the investigation results in a finding that some or all of the allegations of the discrimination complaint are founded and constitute a violation of Board policy, the district **will** take prompt, corrective action designed to ensure that such conduct ceases and that no retaliation occurs. The district will promptly take appropriate steps to prevent the recurrence of the prohibited conduct and to address the discriminatory effect the prohibited conduct had on the complainant and the district education program or activity. District staff **will** document the corrective action taken and, where not prohibited by law, inform the complainant. The Compliance Officer will follow up by assessing the effectiveness of the corrective action at reasonable intervals.

If an investigation results in a finding that a different policy was violated separately from or in addition to violations of Policy 103 or these procedures, or that there are circumstances warranting further action, such matters **will** be addressed at the conclusion of this investigation

or through disciplinary or other appropriate referrals where further evaluation or investigation is necessary. (Pol. 113.1, 218, 233, 247, 249, **317.1**, **806**, **824**)

Disciplinary actions will be consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, Board policies and administrative regulations, district procedures, applicable collective bargaining agreements, and state and federal laws and regulations. (Pol. 103, 104, 113.1, 218, 233, 317, 317.1)

Appeal Procedure

If the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with a finding made pursuant to these procedures or with recommended corrective action, they may submit a written appeal to the Compliance Officer within fifteen (15) school days of receiving notification of the outcome of the investigation. If the Compliance Officer investigated the complaint, such appeal **will** be made to the Superintendent.

The individual receiving the appeal **will** review the investigation and the investigative report and may also conduct or designate another person to conduct a reasonable supplemental investigation to assess the sufficiency and propriety of the prior investigation.

The person handling the appeal will prepare a written response to the appeal within

{ } five (5) school days.

 $\{ \}$ ten (10) school days.

 $\{x\}$ twenty (20) school days.

{ } school days.

Copies of the response will be provided to the complainant, the respondent and the investigator who conducted the initial investigation.

PSBA Revision 2/25

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students With Disabilities
Code	103.1 Vol I 2025
Status	First Reading

<u>Authority</u>

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide all district programs and practices free from discrimination against all qualified students with disabilities. The Board recognizes its responsibility to provide academic and nonacademic services and programs equally to students with and without disabilities. [1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10]

The district shall provide to each qualified student with a disability enrolled in the district, without cost to the student or parent/guardian, a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). This includes provision of education and related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to afford each qualified student with a disability equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits from educational programs and extracurricular activities without discrimination, to the same extent as each student without a disability, consistent with federal and state laws and regulations.

The Board encourages students and parents/guardians who believe they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment to promptly report such incidents to designated employees, in accordance with Board policy.[10]

The Board directs that complaints of discrimination or harassment shall be investigated promptly, and corrective or preventative action be taken for substantiated allegations.

<u>Confidentiality</u>

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations.

<u>Retaliation</u>

The district and its employees are prohibited from intimidating, threatening, coercing, discriminating or retaliating against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this policy.

Definitions

Qualified student with a disability - a student who has a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the district's educational programs, nonacademic services or extracurricular activities.[11][12]

Section 504 Team - a group of individuals who are knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of the evaluation data and the placement options for the student. This could include, as appropriate, documentation or input from classroom teachers, counselors, psychologists, school nurses, outside care providers and the student's parents/guardians.[4][9]

1/9

Section 504 Service Agreement (Service Agreement) - an individualized plan for a qualified student with a disability which sets forth the specific related aids, services or accommodations needed by the student, which shall be implemented in school, in transit to and from school, and in all programs and procedures, so that the student has equal access to the benefits of the school's educational programs, nonacademic services and extracurricular activities.[13]

Disability harassment - intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on disability that creates a hostile environment by interfering with or denying a student's participation in or receipt of benefits, services or opportunities in the school's educational programs, nonacademic services or extracurricular activities.[10]

Delegation of Responsibility

In order to maintain a program of nondiscrimination practices that is in compliance with applicable law and regulations, the Board designates the [14]

{ x } Superintendent

{ } Assistant Superintendent

{ } _____(other, specify)

as the district's Section 504 Coordinator.

In addition, each school within the district shall have a Section 504 building administrator.

The district shall publish and disseminate this policy and complaint procedure on or before the first day of each school year by posting it on the district's website and in the student handbook. The district shall notify parents/guardians of students residing in the district of the district's responsibilities under applicable law and regulations, and that the district does not discriminate against gualified individuals with disabilities.[15][16]

Guidelines

Identification and Evaluation

The district shall conduct an annual child find campaign to locate and identify every district student with a disability thought to be eligible for Section 504 services and protections. The district may combine this search with the district's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) child find efforts, in order to not duplicate efforts. [16][17]

If a parent/guardian or the district has reason to believe that a student should be identified as a qualified student with a disability, should no longer be identified as a qualified student with a disability or requires a change in or modification of the student's current Service Agreement, the parent/guardian or the district shall provide the other party with written notice.[18][19][20]

The district shall establish standards and procedures for initial evaluations and periodic reevaluations of students who need or are believed to need related services because of a disability. [20]

The district shall specifically identify the procedures and types of tests used to evaluate a student and provide the parent/guardian the opportunity to give or withhold consent to the proposed evaluation(s) in writing.[20]

The district shall establish procedures for evaluation and placement that assure tests and other evaluation materials:

- 1. Have been validated and are administered by trained personnel.
- 2. Are tailored to assess educational need and are not based solely on IQ scores.
- Reflect aptitude or achievement or anything else the tests purport to measure and do not reflect the student's impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills (except where those skills are what is being measured).

Service Agreement

If a student is determined to be a qualified student with a disability, the district shall develop a written Service Agreement for the delivery of all appropriate aids, services or accommodations necessary to provide the student with FAPE.[13]

The district shall not implement a Service Agreement until the written agreement is executed by a representative of the district and a parent/guardian.[13]

The district shall not modify or terminate a student's current Service Agreement without the parent's/guardian's written consent.[18]

Educational Programs/Nonacademic Services/Extracurricular Activities

The district shall educate a qualified student with a disability with students who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student with a disability. A qualified student with a disability shall be removed from the regular educational environment only when the district determines that educating the student in the regular educational environment with the use of related aids, services or accommodations cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Placement in a setting other than the regular educational environment shall take into account the proximity of the alternative setting to the student's home. [21][22]

The district shall not discriminate against any qualified student with a disability in its provision of nonacademic services and extracurricular activities, including but not limited to, counseling services, athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interest groups or clubs, and referrals to agencies which provide assistance to individuals with disabilities.[21] [22][23][24][25][26][27]

Parental Involvement

Parents/Guardians have the right to inspect and review all relevant school records of the student, meet with the appropriate school officials to discuss any and all issues relevant to the evaluation and accommodations of their child and give or withhold their written consent to the evaluation and/or the provision of services.[13][19][20][28]

Confidentiality of Student Records

All personally identifiable information regarding a qualified student with a disability shall be treated as confidential and disclosed only as permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and its implementing regulations, state regulations and Board policy.[29] [30][31][32]

<u>Discipline</u>

When necessary, the district shall discipline qualified students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and Board policies.[33][34]

Referral to Law Enforcement and Reporting Requirements

For reporting purposes, the term **incident** shall mean an instance involving an act of violence; the possession of a weapon; the possession, use or sale of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; the possession, use or sale of alcohol or tobacco products; or conduct that constitutes an offense listed in the school safety and security provisions of School Code.[35][36][37]

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents committed on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity by a qualified student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies. The Superintendent or designee shall respond in a manner that is consistent with the student's Service Agreement and Behavior Support Plan, if applicable.[11][13][21][31][33][35][38][39][40][41][42][43][44][45][46][47][48]

In making a determination of whether to notify the law enforcement agency of a discretionary incident committed by a qualified student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the Superintendent or designee shall use the same criteria used for students who do not have a disability.[10][40][48][49]

For a qualified student with a disability who does not have a Behavior Support Plan as part of the student's Service Agreement, subsequent to notification to law enforcement, the district, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, shall consider whether a Behavior Support Plan should be developed as part of the Service Agreement to address the student's behavior.[13][41]

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report to the PA Department of Education on the required form all new incidents committed by qualified students with disabilities, including students for whom an evaluation is pending, which occurred on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity.[35][38][48]

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

The district shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice of rights to the parent/guardian of a student suspected of being a qualified student with a disability, an opportunity for the parent/guardian to review relevant records, an impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the student's parent/guardian and a review procedure. [28][50]

A student or parent/guardian filing a claim of discrimination need not exhaust these procedures prior to initiating action in federal court under Section 504.[19]

Parental Request for Assistance

Parents/Guardians may file a written request for assistance with the PA Department of Education if one (1) or both of the following apply: [28]

- 1. The district is not providing the related aids, services and accommodations specified in the student's Service Agreement.
- 2. The district has failed to comply with the procedures and state regulations.

The PA Department of Education shall investigate and respond to requests for assistance and, unless exceptional circumstances exist, shall, within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of the request, send to the parents/guardians and district a written response to the request. The

response to the parents'/guardians' request shall be in the parents'/guardians' native language or mode of communication.[28]

Informal Conference

At any time, parents/guardians may file a written request with the district for an informal conference with respect to the identification or evaluation of a student, or the student's need for related aids, services or accommodations. Within ten (10) school days of receipt of the request, the district shall convene an informal conference. At the conference, every effort shall be made to reach an amicable agreement. [28]

Formal Due Process Hearing

If the matters raised by the district or parents/guardians are not resolved at the informal conference, the district or parents/guardians may submit a written request for an impartial due process hearing. The hearing shall be held before an impartial hearing officer and shall be conducted in accordance with state regulations.[28][51]

Judicial Appeals

The decision of the impartial hearing officer may be appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction.[28]

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

This complaint procedure is in addition to and does not prevent parents/guardians from using any option in the procedural safeguards system.[10]

Step 1 - Reporting

A student or parent/guardian who believes the student has been subject to conduct by any student, employee or third party that constitutes a violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report the incident to the Section 504 building administrator. Any person with knowledge of conduct that may violate this policy, is encouraged to immediately report the matter to the Section 504 building administrator.

A school employee who suspects or is notified that a student has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy shall immediately report the incident to the Section 504 building administrator, as well as properly making any mandatory law enforcement or child protective services reports required by law.[48][52]

If the Section 504 building administrator is the subject of a complaint, the student, parent/guardian or employee shall report the incident directly to the district's Section 504 Coordinator.

The complainant or reporting employee may be encouraged to use the district's report form, available from the Section 504 building administrator or Section 504 Coordinator, or to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted, documented and the procedures of this policy implemented. The person accepting the oral or written complaint may provide factual information on the complaint and the investigative process, the impact of choosing to seek confidentiality and the opportunity to report the incident(s) to law enforcement. In all other respects, the person accepting the complaint shall handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the complainant or those accused of a violation of this policy.

Step 2 – Investigation

The Section 504 Coordinator shall ensure that the individual assigned to investigate the complaint has an appropriate understanding of the relevant laws pertaining to discrimination issues and this policy and how to conduct investigations.

The Section 504 building administrator or Section 504 Coordinator and other appropriate individuals will promptly implement appropriate measures to protect the complainant and others as necessary from violation of the policy throughout the course of the investigation.

The investigator shall work with the Section 504 Coordinator to assess the anticipated scope of the investigation, who needs to be interviewed and what records may be relevant to the investigation.

The investigator shall conduct an adequate, reliable and impartial investigation. The complainant and the accused may suggest additional witnesses and provide other evidence during the course of the investigation. When the initial complaint involves allegations relating to conduct which took place away from school property, school-sponsored activities or school conveyances, the investigation may include inquiries related to these allegations to determine whether they resulted in continuing effects such as harassment in school settings.

The investigation may consist of individual interviews with the complainant, the accused and others with knowledge relative to the allegations. The investigator may also evaluate any other information and materials relevant to the investigation. The person making the report, parties, parents/guardians and witnesses shall be informed of the prohibition against retaliation for anyone's participation in the process and that conduct believed to be retaliatory should be reported. All individuals providing statements or other information or participating in the investigation shall be instructed to keep the matter confidential and to report any concerns about confidentiality to the investigator.

If the investigation reveals that the conduct being investigated may involve a violation of criminal law, the investigator shall promptly notify the Section 504 Coordinator, who shall promptly inform law enforcement authorities about the allegations.[10][48][52][53][54]

The obligation to conduct this investigation shall not be negated by the fact that a criminal or child protective services investigation of the allegations is pending or has been concluded. The investigator should coordinate with any other ongoing investigations of the allegations, including agreeing to requests for a short delay in fulfilling the district's investigative responsibilities during the fact-finding portion of a criminal or child protective services investigation. Such delays shall not extend beyond the time necessary to prevent interference with or disruption of the criminal or child protective services investigation, and the reason for such delay shall be documented.

Step 3 – Investigative Report

The investigator shall prepare and submit a written report to the Section 504 Coordinator within twenty (20) days of the initial report of alleged discrimination, unless the nature of the allegations, anticipated extent of the investigation or the availability of witnesses requires the investigator and the Section 504 Coordinator to establish a different due date. The parties shall be notified of the anticipated date the investigative report will be completed and of any changes to the anticipated due date during the course of the investigation.

The report shall include a summary of the investigation, a determination of whether the complaint has been substantiated as factual, the information and evaluation that formed the basis for this determination, whether the conduct violated this policy and of any other violations of law or Board policy which may warrant further district action, and a recommended disposition of the complaint. An investigation into disability harassment shall consider the record as a whole and the totality of circumstances in determining whether a violation of this policy has occurred, recognizing that persistent and pervasive conduct, when taken together, may be a violation even when the separate incidents are not severe.[10]

The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation, for example, whether the investigator believes the allegations to be founded or unfounded, within a reasonable time of the submission of the written report, to the extent authorized by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other applicable laws. The accused shall not be notified of the individual remedies offered or provided to the complainant.[29][30][31][32]

<u>Step 4 – District Action</u>

If the investigation results in a finding that some or all of the allegations of the complaint are established and constitute a violation of this policy, the district shall take prompt, corrective action designed to ensure that such conduct ceases and that no retaliation occurs. The district shall promptly take appropriate steps to prevent the recurrence of the prohibited conduct and to address the discriminatory effect the prohibited conduct had on the complainant and the school or school program environment. District staff shall document the corrective action taken and, where not prohibited by law, inform the complainant. The Section 504 Coordinator shall follow up by assessing the effectiveness of the corrective action at reasonable intervals.

If the investigation results in a finding that a different policy was violated separately from or in addition to violations of this policy, or that there are circumstances warranting further action, such matters shall be addressed at the conclusion of this investigation or through disciplinary or other appropriate referrals where further evaluation or investigation is necessary.

Disciplinary actions shall be consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, Board policies and administrative regulations, district procedures, applicable collective bargaining agreements and state and federal laws.[33][34][55][56]

Appeal Procedure

- 1. If the complainant or the accused is not satisfied with a finding made pursuant to the policy or with recommended corrective action, they may submit a written appeal to the district's Section 504 Coordinator within fifteen (15) days.
- 2. The Section 504 Coordinator shall review the investigation and the investigative report and may also conduct a reasonable supplemental investigation to assess the sufficiency and propriety of the prior investigation.
- 3. The Section 504 Coordinator shall prepare a written response to the appeal within twenty (20) days. Copies of the response shall be provided to the complainant, the accused and the investigator who conducted the initial investigation.

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Legal

1. 22 PA Code 4.4 2. 22 PA Code 12.1 3. 22 PA Code 12.4 4. 22 PA Code 15.1 et seq 5. 29 U.S.C. 794 6. 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq 7. 28 CFR Part 35 8. 28 CFR Part 36 9. 34 CFR Part 104 10. Pol. 103

11. 22 PA Code 15.2
<u>12. 42 U.S.C. 12102</u>
13. 22 PA Code 15.7
<u>14. 34 CFR 104.7</u>
15. 22 PA Code 15.4
16. 34 CFR 104.32
17. Pol. 113
<u>18, 22 PA Code 15.5</u>
<u>19. 22 PA Code 15.6</u>
20. 34 CFR 104.35
21. 22 PA Code 15.3
22. 34 CFR 104.34
23. 34 CER 104.37
24. Pol. 112
25. Pol. 122
26. Pol. 123
27. Pol. 810
28. 22 PA Code 15.8
<u>29. 20 U.S.C. 1232g</u>
30. 34 CFR Part 99
31. 22 PA Code 15.9
32. Pol. 216
33. Pol. 218
34. Pol. 233
<u>35. 24 P.S. 1319-B</u>
<u>36. 22 PA Code 10.2</u>
<u>37. 35 P.S. 780-102</u>
<u>38, 24 P.S. 1306.2-B</u>
<u>39. 22 PA Code 10.21</u>
40. 22 PA Code 10.22
41. 22 PA Code 10.23
<u>42. 22 PA Code 10.25</u>
43. Pol. 113.2
44. Pol. 218.1
45. Pol. 218.2
46. Pol. 222
47. Pol. 227
48. Pol. 805.1
49. 22 PA Code 15.1
50. 34 CFR 104.36

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51. 22 PA Code 14.162 52. Pol. 806 53. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2709 54. Pol. 815 55. Pol. 113.1 56. Pol. 317

103_1-Attach-District-InitiatedEvalNotice.doc (45 KB)

103_1-Attach-ReportFormComplaints.doc (45 KB)

103_1-Attach-ProceduralSafeguards.doc (51 KB)

103_1Attach-Parent_GuardianRequest-PermissionToEvaluate.doc (73 KB)

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REPORT FORM FOR COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION – QUALIFIED STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Complainant:	· · · ·			
Home Address:				
Phone Number:				
School Building:				
Date of Alleged Incident(s):				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Alleged discrimination was based or	n:			
Name of person(s) you believe viola	ated the district's dis	scrimination	policy:	
If the alleged discrimination was dir	ected against anoth	er person, id	entify the other	person:
	es, slurs, epithets ar cts or pictures, phys ges if necessary:	nd name-call sical assaults	ing, ridicule or r or threats, intim	nockery, iidation, or
	nt(s) occurred:			
List any witnesses who were presen	t:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · ·	·
This complaint is based on my hone against me or another person. I certi true, correct and complete to the bes	fy that the informat	ion I have pr		discriminated omplaint is
Complainant's Signature	<u>.</u>	<u> </u>	Date	
Received By	-		Date	
			Q	© 2024 PSBA

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103.1. ATTACHMENT

PARENT/GUARDIAN REQUEST FOR EVALUATION, TERMINATION OR MODIFICATION UNDER SECTION 504

Student Information		
Last Name:	First Name:	Middle Initial:
Birth Date:School:	Grade:	Class:
Parent/Guardian Information	· · ·	
		- · · ·
Last Name:	First Name:	Middle Initial:
Home Address: Home Phone:	Work Phone:	
Referral Information		
The parent/guardian believes that the	above named student.	·
1 should be identified as a d	qualified student with a d	lisability.
The basis for the belief that the studer	nt is a qualified student wit	h a disability is:
Describe how the disability affects the	e student's access to or ber	nefit from the school's educational programs,
nonacademic services or extracurricul		
Describe the requested aids, services	or accommodations:	
	<u>,</u>	
	······································	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
2 should no longer be ident	ified as a qualified studer	nt with a disability.
The basis for the belief that the studer	nt is no longer a qualified s	tudent with a disability is:
· · ·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	1	
3 requires a change or mod		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
The proposed change or modification	of the Service Agreement	is:
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
If you have any additional information	n or medical records which	will assist in this process, please forward
them to the Section 504 Building Adn		i will assist in this process, please forward
Notice of Rights		
· · · ·	spect and review all releva	ant school records of the student, meet with
appropriate school officials to discuss	any and all issues relevan	t to the evaluation and accommodations of luation and/or the provision of services.
Verification		

By submitting this request, I am requesting that the district review the referral information above and any additional information I attached. I understand that the district, its agents and its employees are relying on the accuracy of the information that I have provided in this form, and any information attached thereto, to determine whether and to what extent my child will be provided with accommodations under Section 504.

DO NOT WRITE BELOW (FOR DISTRICT USE ONLY)

			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Reviewed by:			
Name (Please Print)	· .	Title	
Student's Last Name:	First Name:		Middle Initial:
School:	Grade:	Class:	
	·		
The Parent/Guardian Request for Evaluation, Term	ination or Modificatio	n is:	
	ed	Referred for Further	Review
Reason Request Approved or Denied:			
-			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
			· · · ·
Signature - Reviewer		Date	· ·
Signature - Section 504 Building Administrator		Date	
Notice Of Rights			
Parents/Guardians have the right to inspect and rev	view all relevant schoo	l records of the student u	neet with annropriate school
officials to discuss any and all issues relevant to the the evaluation and/or provision of services.	evaluation and accom	modations of their child,	and give or withhold consent to
Procedural Safeguards	947 . A		
Parents/Guardians may also use one or more of the	e procedural safeguard	options, listed in Board p	policy, to resolve a dispute
related to the identification or evaluation of a stude services or accommodations.	ent as a qualified stude	ent with a disability, or the	e student's need for related aids,
	,	·	

]

PERMISSION TO EVALUATE – CONSENT FORM

and Address of		Juan anann.	
		· · · ·	
	-		
	÷		

The district received a Section 504 referral, and we would like to conduct an initial evaluation to determine if your child is a qualified student with a disability.

The first step in the process is to conduct an individual evaluation of your child, which will consist of a variety of tests and assessments. We must have your consent before we can begin.

The procedures and types of tests that will be used in the evaluation are:

A Section 504 Team will conduct the proposed evaluation. Any information you can provide is important to us. Please send your ideas and concerns to us in writing or contact the person listed below if you prefer to discuss your concerns in person. If a team meeting is held, you will be notified. Information from all team members will be considered during the evaluation process.

If your child *is* determined to be a qualified student with a disability, you will be invited to participate in developing a Section 504 Service Agreement (Service Agreement) that will set forth the specific related aids, services or accommodations needed by the individual student.

Giving your consent for evaluation does not mean you give consent to placement or services. If your child is eligible for a Section 504 Service Agreement, you will be asked to give written consent for services to begin.

Please read the enclosed *Procedural Safeguards Notice* that explains your rights, and keep a copy of both forms for your records.

If you have any questions, please contact the Section 504 Building Administrator. Name: Phone:

DIRECTIONS: Please check one (1) of the options and sign the form.

1. I give consent to start an initial evaluation as you propose.

2. I do not give consent to the proposed initial evaluation.

3. I would like to schedule an informal meeting with school personnel to discuss this request.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Daytime Phone

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE FORM TO:

Name:

Address:

103.1. ATTACHMENT

NOTICE OF DISTRICT-INITIATED EVALUATION AND PROVISION OF SERVICES TTER

FOR QUALIFIED STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Dear :
Dear: (Parent/Guardian)
The school district believes that:
 should be identified as a qualified student with a disability. should no longer be identified as a qualified student with a disability. requires a change or modification of the Service Agreement.
The basis for the belief that the student is or is no longer a qualified student with a disability is:
The procedures and types of tests that will be used in the evaluation are:
The proposed change or modification in the Service Agreement is:
If you have any additional information or medical records which will assist in this evaluation, please forward them to me or call me at to discuss this information.
Parents/Guardians have the right to inspect and review all relevant school records of the student, me with appropriate school officials to discuss any and all issues relevant to the evaluation and accommodations of their child and give or withhold their written consent to the evaluation and/or the provision of services.
Directions: Please check the applicable option and sign the form.
Evaluation – complete this section if the district checked item 1 above. I give my permission to proceed with the evaluation. I do not give my permission to proceed with the evaluation. My reason for disapproval is:
I request an informal conference to discuss the evaluation.
Termination – complete this section if the district checked item 2 above. I give my permission to proceed with the termination of services. I do not give my permission to proceed with the termination of services. My reason for disapproval is:
I request an informal conference to discuss the termination of services.
Modification – complete this section if the district checked item 3 above. I give my permission to proceed with the modification of the Service Agreement. I do not give my permission to proceed with the modification of the Service Agreement. My reason for disapproval is: I request an informal conference to discuss the modification of the Service Agreement.
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature Date

Section 504 Building Administrator Signature

Date

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS NOTIFICATION

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As part of the protections available to you if we cannot agree as to what related aids, services or accommodations should or should no longer be provided to your child, one or more options available through the procedural safeguard system may be used to resolve the dispute.

Parental Request For Assistance -

Parents/Guardians may file a written request for assistance with the Department of Education if you believe the school district is not providing the related aids, services and accommodations specified in the Service Agreement and/or the school district has failed to comply with Chapter 15 of the State Board of Education Regulations.

The Department of Education will investigate and respond to requests for assistance and, unless exceptional circumstances exist, will, within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of the request, send to the parents/guardians and school district a written response to the request.

Written requests should be addressed to:

Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of Special Education 333 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17126 717-783-6913

Informal Conference -

Parents/Guardians may file a written request with the school district for an informal conference with respect to the identification or evaluation of a student, or the student's need for related aids, services or accommodations. Within ten (10) school days of receipt of the request, the school district shall convene an informal conference. At the conference, every effort shall be made to reach an amicable agreement.

Formal Due Process Hearing -

Parents/Guardians may file a written request with the school district for an impartial due process hearing.

- 1. The hearing shall be held before an impartial hearing officer.
- 2. The hearing shall be held in the local school district at a place reasonably convenient to the parents/guardians. At the request of the parents/guardians, the hearing may be held in the evening.
- 3. The hearing shall be an oral, personal hearing and shall be open to the public unless the parents/guardians request a closed hearing.

- 4. If the hearing is open, the decision issued in the case, and only the decision, shall be available to the public.
- 5. If the hearing is closed, the decision shall be treated as an educational record of the student and may not be available to the public.
- 6. The decision of the hearing officer shall include findings of fact, discussion and conclusions of law. The decision shall be based solely upon the substantial evidence presented at the hearing. The hearing officer shall have the authority to order that additional evidence be presented.
- 7. A written transcript of the hearing shall, upon request, be made and provided to parents/guardians at no cost.
- 8. Parents/Guardians may be represented by legal counsel.
- 9. A parent/guardian or a parent's/guardian's representative shall be given reasonable access to all educational records, including any tests or reports upon which the proposed action is based.
- 10. Any party may prohibit the introduction of any evidence at the hearing that has not been disclosed to that party at least five (5) days before the hearing.
- 11. A parent/guardian or a parent's/guardian's representative has the right to compel the attendance of and question witnesses of the school entity or agency who may have evidence upon which the proposed action might be based.
- 12. Any party has the right to present evidence and testimony, including expert medical, psychological or educational testimony.

The following timeline applies to due process hearings:

- 1. A hearing shall be held within thirty (30) calendar days after a parent's/guardian's initial request for a hearing.
- 2. The hearing officer's decision shall be issued within forty-five (45) calendar days after the parent's/guardian's request for a hearing.

Judicial Appeals -

The decision of the impartial hearing officer may be appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction. Under some circumstances, you may raise these claims directly under Section 504 without going through the due process hearing.

If, within sixty (60) calendar days of the completion of the administrative due process proceedings under this chapter, an appeal or original jurisdiction action is filed in state or federal court, the administrative order shall be stayed pending the completion of the judicial proceedings, unless the parents/guardians and school district agree otherwise.

Please indicate the type of procedural safeguard you are requesting:

Informal Conference

Formal Due Process Hearing

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature

Date

Section 504 Building Administrator Signature

Date

•

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
Code	104 Vol I 2025
Status	First Reading

<u>Authority</u>

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide to all persons equal access to all categories of employment in this district, regardless of race, color, age, **religious** creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, handicap/disability **or pregnancy, childbirth or pregnancy-related medical conditions**. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, **as well as pregnancy, childbirth and pregnancy-related conditions**. [1][2][3] [4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11][12][13][14][15]

The Board also declares it to be the policy of this district to comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. Such discrimination shall be referred to throughout this policy as Title IX sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the district may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the **Office** for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The Board directs that the foregoing statement of Board policy be included in each student and staff handbook, and that this policy and related attachments be posted to the district's website.

The Board requires a notice stating that the district does not discriminate in any manner, including Title IX sexual harassment, in any district education program or activity, to be issued to all students, parents/guardians, employment applicants, employees and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district. All discrimination notices and information shall include the title, office address, telephone number and email address of the individual(s) designated as the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator.

Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination and Retaliation

The Board encourages employees, **applicants** and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to Title IX sexual harassment, other discrimination or retaliation to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or **Title IX Coordinator**. A person who is not an intended victim or target of discrimination but is adversely affected by the offensive conduct may file a report of discrimination.

An employee serving in a supervisory position who suspects or is notified that a district employee may have been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy shall immediately report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator.

If the building principal is the subject of a complaint, the complainant or the individual making the report shall direct the report of the incident to the Title IX Coordinator.

If the Title IX Coordinator is the subject of a complaint, the complainant or building principal shall direct the report of the incident to the Superintendent or designee.

The complainant or the individual making the report may use the **designated district report form** attached to this policy for purposes of reporting an incident or incidents in writing; however, **oral** reports of an incident or incidents shall be accepted, documented and the procedures of this policy and the relevant attachments followed.

The building principal shall promptly notify the Title IX Coordinator of all reports of discrimination, Title IX sexual harassment or retaliation. The Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant regarding the report to gather additional information as necessary, and to discuss the availability of supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator shall consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall conduct an assessment to determine whether the reported **conduct is** most appropriately addressed through the Discrimination Complaint Procedures prescribed in Attachment 2 to this policy, or if the reported **conduct meets** the definition of Title IX sexual harassment and **is** most appropriately addressed through the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints in Attachment 3, or other Board policies.

Disciplinary Procedures when Reports Allege Title IX Sexual Harassment

When a report alleges Title IX sexual harassment, disciplinary sanctions may not be imposed until the completion of the grievance process for formal complaints outlined in Attachment 3. The district shall presume that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination has been made at the completion of the grievance process for formal complaints.

Administrative Leave -

When an employee, based on an individualized safety and risk analysis, poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of any student or other individual, the employee may be removed on an emergency basis.

An accused, nonstudent district employee may be placed on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process for formal complaints, consistent with all rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and in accordance with state law and regulations, Board policy and an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual contract.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a report, and the investigation related to any form of discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment, shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, **Board** policy, the attachments and the district's legal and investigative obligations.[16][17][18][19][20]

Retaliation

The Board prohibits retaliation by the district or any other person against any person for:[19]

- 1. Reporting or making a formal complaint of **conduct that may constitute** discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment.
- 2. Testifying, assisting, participating **in any manner** or refusing to participate in a related investigation, process or other proceeding or hearing.
- 3. Acting in opposition to practices the person reasonably believes to be discriminatory.

The district, its employees and others are prohibited from intimidating, threatening, **harassing**, coercing, or discriminating against anyone for actions described above. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator immediately if they believe retaliation has occurred.

Definitions

Complainant shall mean an individual who is alleged to be the victim.

Pregnancy, childbirth and pregnancy-related medical conditions, as defined in federal law, refers to the pregnancy or childbirth of the specific employee and includes, but is not limited to, current pregnancy; past pregnancy or recovery; termination of pregnancy; potential or intended pregnancy (which can include infertility, fertility treatment and the use of contraception); labor; childbirth; and lactation. Related medical conditions are medical conditions relating to the pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, childbirth or lactation of the specific employee.[21]

Pregnancy, as defined in state regulation, shall include the use of assisted reproductive technology, the state of being in gestation, childbirth, breastfeeding, the postpartum period after childbirth and medical conditions related to pregnancy.[22]

Respondent shall mean an individual alleged to be the perpetrator of the discriminatory conduct.

Discrimination

Discrimination shall mean to treat individuals differently, or to harass or victimize based on a protected classification including race, color, age, **religious** creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability.

Harassment is a form of discrimination based on the protected classifications listed in this policy, or association with an individual who has a protected classification, consisting of objectively and subjectively hostile conduct such as graphic, written, electronic, verbal or nonverbal acts including offensive jokes or comments, slurs, stereotypes, epithets and name-calling, ridicule or mockery, insults or put-downs, offensive objects or pictures, physical assaults or threats, intimidation, ostracism, or other conduct that affects a term, condition or privilege of employment, and may be harmful or humiliating or interfere with a person's school or school-related work performance, including when: [10]

- 1. Submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an employee's status; or
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment-related decisions affecting an employee; or
- 3. Such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that a reasonable person in the complainant's position would find that it unreasonably interferes with the complainant's performance at work or otherwise creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment such that it alters the complainant's working conditions.

Examples of harassment based on race, color, ancestry or national origin may include but not be limited to harassment regarding traits or characteristics related to an individual's name, cultural dress or diet, accent, linguistic characteristics or manner of speech, or physical characteristics, such as hairstyles or hair texture.

Harassment based on religion, religious creed, sex, pregnancy or related conditions, or handicap/disability may include harassment based on a request for or receipt of a reasonable accommodation.

Discrimination or harassment based on handicap/disability may also include harassment based on how an individual speaks, looks or moves, as well as discrimination or harassment because an individual is regarded as having an impairment, even if the individual does not have an actual disability; has a record or history of a disability, even if the individual does not currently have a disability; or is associated with an individual who has a disability.

Religious creed includes all aspects of religious observance, practice or belief.[23]

Race includes all of the following: [24]

- 1. Ancestry, national origin or ethnic characteristics.
- 2. Interracial marriage or association.
- 3. Traits associated with race, which includes but is not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles, such as braids, locks and twists.
- 4. Hispanic ancestry, national origin or ethnic characteristics.[22]
- 5. Persons of any other national origin or ancestry as specified by a complainant or in a complaint.

Definitions Related to Title IX Sexual Harassment

Formal complaint shall mean a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Title IX sexual harassment and requesting that the district investigate the allegation under the grievance process for formal complaints. The authority for the Title IX Coordinator to sign a formal complaint does not make the Title IX Coordinator a party in the grievance process for formal complaints. The phrase "document filed by a complainant" refers to a document or electronic submission that contains the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint. [18][25]

Supportive measures shall mean nondisciplinary, nonpunitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed.[25]

Supportive measures shall be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the educational program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the educational environment, or to deter sexual harassment. **Supportive measures** may include, but are not limited to:[25]

- 1. Counseling or Employee Assistance Program.
- 2. Extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments.
- 3. Modifications of work or class schedules.
- 4. Campus escort services.
- 5. Mutual restrictions on contact between the parties.

6. Changes in work locations or other activities.

7. Leaves of absence.

8. Increased security.

9. Monitoring of certain areas of the campus.

10. Assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs.

11. Assistance from community health resources including counseling resources.

Title IX sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following: [25]

- 1. A district employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or district service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct, commonly referred to as *quid pro quo sexual harassment*.
- 2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to a district education program or activity.
- 3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking.
 - a. **Dating violence** means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and where the existence of such a relationship is determined by the following factors: [26]

i. Length of relationship.

ii. Type of relationship.

iii. Frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

- b. **Domestic violence** includes felony or misdemeanor **crimes committed** by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving federal funding, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.[26]
- .c. **Sexual assault** means a sexual offense under state or federal law that is classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.[27]
- d. **Stalking,** under Title IX means stalking on the basis of sex, for example when the stalker desires to date a victim. Stalking means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to either: [26]

i. Fear for their safety or the safety of others.

ii. Suffer substantial emotional distress.

Such conduct must have taken place during a district education program or activity and against a person in the United States to qualify as sexual harassment under Title IX. An **education program or activity** includes the locations, events or circumstances over which the district exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the harassment occurs. Title IX applies to all of a district's education programs or activities, whether such programs or activities occur on-campus or off-campus.[17][18][25]

Delegation of Responsibility

In order to maintain a program of nondiscrimination practices that is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the Board designates the [28]

[The district may choose the same or different individuals to fulfill the roles of Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If designating one (1) individual to fulfill both responsibilities, select the first option and enter the appropriate position title. If designating two (2) individuals to fulfill the separate responsibilities, select the second option and enter the appropriate position titles.]

 $\{x \}$ Dr. Jon Pollard as the district's Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator can be contacted at:

Address: 252 Memorial Street, Exeter, PA., 18643

Email: jpollard@wyomingarea.org

Phone Number: (570)655-3733

as the district's Compliance Officer and as the district's Title IX Coordinator.

The Compliance Officer can be contacted at:

Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

The Title IX Coordinator can be contacted at:

Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

The Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator shall fulfill designated responsibilities to ensure adequate nondiscrimination procedures are in place, to recommend new procedures or modifications to procedures and to monitor the implementation of the district's nondiscrimination procedures in the following areas, as appropriate:

 Review - Review of personnel practices and actions for discriminatory bias and compliance with laws against discrimination to include monitoring and recommending corrective measures when appropriate to written position qualifications, job descriptions and essential job functions; recruitment materials and practices; procedures for screening applicants; application and interviewing practices for hiring and promotions; district designed performance evaluations; review of planned employee demotions, non-renewal of contracts, and proposed employee disciplinary actions up to and including termination.

- 2. Training Provide training for supervisors and staff to prevent, identify and alleviate problems of employment discrimination.
- 3. Resources Maintain and provide information to staff on resources available to alleged victims in addition to the school complaint procedure or Title IX procedures, such as making reports to the police, and available supportive measures such as assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs, and community health resources including counseling resources.
- 4. Reports/Formal Complaints Monitor and provide technical assistance to individuals involved in managing informal reports and formal complaints.

Guidelines

Title IX Sexual Harassment Training Requirements

The Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or any individual designated to facilitate an informal resolution process related to Title IX sexual harassment shall receive the following training, as required or appropriate to their specific role:

- 1. Definition of sexual harassment.
- Scope of the district's education program or activity, as it pertains to what is subject to Title IX regulations.
- 3. How to conduct an investigation and grievance process for formal complaints, including examination of evidence, drafting written determinations, handling appeals and informal resolution processes, as applicable.
- 4. How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest and bias.
- 5. Use of relevant technology.
- 6. Issues of relevance including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.
- 7. Issues of relevance, weight of evidence and application of standard of proof and drafting investigative reports that fairly summarize relevant evidence.
- 8. How to address complaints when the alleged conduct does not qualify as Title IX sexual harassment but could be addressed under another complaint process or Board policy.

All training materials shall promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of Title IX sexual harassment without relying on sex stereotypes.

All training materials shall be posted on the district's website.

Disciplinary Consequences

An employee who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the applicable Board policy, collective bargaining agreement and individual contract, up to and including dismissal and/or referral to law enforcement officials.[29][30][31][32]

Reports of Discrimination

Any reports of discrimination that are reviewed by the Title IX Coordinator and do not meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment but are based on race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, genetic information, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability shall follow the Discrimination Complaint Procedures in Attachment 2 to this policy.

Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment

Any reports deemed by the Title IX Coordinator to meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX shall follow the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints in Attachment 3 to this policy.

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Legal

1.43 P.S. 336.3 2. 43 P.S. 951 et seg 3. 34 CFR Part 106 4. 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seg 5. 29 U.S.C. 206 6. 29 U.S.C. 621 et seg 7. 29 U.S.C. 794 8. 29 CFR Part 1636 9. 42 U.S.C. 1981 et seg 10. 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq 11. 42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq 12. 42 U.S.C. 2000gg et seg 13. 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seg 14. U.S. Const. Amend. XIV, Equal Protection Clause 15. 29 U.S.C. 218d 16. 20 U.S.C. 1232g 17. 34 CFR 106.44 18. 34 CFR 106.45 19. 34 CFR 106.71 20. 34 CFR Part 99 21. 29 CFR 1636.3 22. 16 PA Code 41.204 23. 16 PA Code 41.205 24. 16 PA Code 41.207 25. 34 CFR 106.30 26. 34 U.S.C. 12291 27. 20 U.S.C. 1092 28. 34 CFR 106.8 29. Pol. 317

30. Pol. 317.3

31. Pol. 806

32. Pol. 824

16 PA Code 41.201 et seq

16 PA Code 44.1 et seq

18 Pa. C.S.A. 2709

28 CFR 35.140

28 CFR Part 41

29 CFR Parts 1600-1691

EEOC Enforcement Guidance on Harris v. Forklift Sys., Inc., November 9, 1993

EEOC Enforcement Guidance on Vicarious Employer Liability for Unlawful Harassment by Supervisors, June 18, 1999

EEOC Policy Guidance on Current Issues of Sexual Harassment, March 19, 1990

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission - Questions and Answers on Religious Discrimination in the Workplace

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Enforcement Guidance on Harassment in the Workplace (2024)

Bostock v. Clayton County, 590 U.S. 644 (2020)

Burlington Industries, Inc. v. Ellerth, 524 U.S. 742 (1998)

Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, 524 U.S. 775 (1998)

Groff v. DeJoy, 600 U.S. 447 (2023)

Pol. 320

Pol. 324

Pol. 335

Pol. 336

Pol. 339

Pol. 800

Pol. 801

Pol. 815

104-Attach 1 Report Form.pdf (2,609 KB)

104-Attach 2 Discrimination.docx (49 KB)

104-Attach 3 Title IX.docx (83 KB)

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students
Code	234 Vol I 2025
Status	First Reading

Purpose

A student who is eligible to attend district schools and is married and/or pregnant/parenting shall not be denied admission to the district or an educational program solely because of marriage, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions or potential or actual parenthood.[1]2][3][4][5]

Definition

Pregnancy, as defined in state **regulations**, shall include the use of assisted reproductive technology, the state of being in gestation, childbirth, breastfeeding, the postpartum period after childbirth and medical conditions related to pregnancy.[6]

<u>Authority</u>

The Board directs that students who are married or experiencing pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions or parenting shall have equal access to the same educational programs, activities and services provided to other district students.[2][3]

The Board directs district staff to make reasonable modifications to Board policies, administrative regulations and school rules as necessary to provide equal access to the district's educational program for a student experiencing pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions or parenting. Reasonable modifications may include, but are not limited to:[7]

 $\{x \}$ Breaks during class to address lactation needs or health needs, including eating, drinking and restroom use.

 $\{x\}$ Intermittent absences to attend medical appointments, in accordance with Board policy.[8]

 $x \}$ Voluntary leave of absence as deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed healthcare provider.[8]

 $\{x \}$ Access to online or homebound instruction, or other separate but comparable program of the district's educational programs and activities.[9][10]

{x } Changes in schedule or course sequence.

 $\{x \}$ Extensions of time for coursework or rescheduling of tests and examinations.

 $\{x \}$ Allowing the student flexibility in sitting and standing, and changes in physical space or supplies, including carrying water.

 $\{x \}$ Access to appropriate facilities for addressing lactation needs.

{x } Counseling.

The district shall not require documentation for establishing reasonable modifications or providing equal access to educational programs and activities unless such documentation is required in accordance with law or other Board policies and administrative regulations.[3][7][8] [9][11]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations for implementing this policy.

NOTE: DO NOT use language requiring a student who is married to declare their marital status upon enrollment or at the time of marriage if marriage occurs after enrollment.

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Legal.

1. 24 P.S. 1326 2. 22 PA Code 12.1 3. Pol. 103 4. Pol. 200 5. Pol. 201 6. 16 PA Code 41.204 7. Pol. 103.1 8, Pol. 204 9. Pol. 117 10. Pol. 124 11. Pol. 123 43 P.S. 951 et seq 16 PA Code 41.201 et seg 22 PA Code 4.4 22 PA Code 12.4 20 U.S.C. 1232g 29 U.S.C. 794 34 CFR Part 99 Pol. 146

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Hazing
Code	247 Vol I 2025
Status	First Reading

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times.

Definitions

Hazing occurs when a person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a student with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing membership or status in an organization, causes, coerces or forces a student to do any of the following:[1]

- 1. Violate federal or state criminal law.
- 2. Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the student to a risk of emotional or physical harm.
- 3. Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements.
- 4. Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment.
- 5. Endure brutality of a sexual nature.
- 6. Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student.

Aggravated hazing occurs when a person commits an act of hazing that results in serious bodily injury or death to the student and: [2]

- 1. The person acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of the student; or
- 2. The person causes, coerces or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the student.

Organizational hazing occurs when an organization intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes or facilitates hazing.[3][4]

Any activity, as described above, shall be deemed a violation of this policy regardless of whether: [5]

1. The consent of the student was sought or obtained, or

2. The conduct was sanctioned or approved by the school or organization.

Student activity or organization means any activity, society, corps, team, club or service, social or similar group, operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the district, whose members are primarily students or alumni of the organization. [6][7]

For purposes of this policy, **bodily injury** shall mean impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.[8]

For purposes of this policy, **serious bodily injury** shall mean bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.[8]

<u>Authority</u>

The Board prohibits hazing in connection with any student activity or organization regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours [4][5][7][9][10]

No student, parent/guardian, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall engage in, condone or ignore any form of hazing.

The Board encourages students who believe they, or others, have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

Discrimination/Harassment

Every report of alleged hazing that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination or harassment shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a hazing investigation, potential issues of discrimination or harassment are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination or harassment as well as the incidents of alleged hazing.[11][12]

Delegation of Responsibility

Students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal or designee.

When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[13][14]

<u>Guidelines</u>

In addition to posting this policy on the district's publicly accessible website, the district shall inform students, parents/guardians, sponsors, volunteers and district employees of the district's policy prohibiting hazing, including district rules, penalties for violations of the policy and the program established by the district for enforcement of the policy by means of [4]

- {X } distribution of written policy
- {X } publication in handbooks
- {X } presentation at an assembly

 $\{X\}$ verbal instructions by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program

{X } posting of notice/signs.

This policy, along with other applicable district policies, procedures and Codes of Conduct, shall be provided to all school athletic coaches and all sponsors and volunteers affiliated with a student activity or organization, prior to coaching an athletic activity or serving as a responsible adult supervising, advising, assisting or otherwise participating in a student activity or organization, together with a notice that they are expected to read and abide by the policies, procedures and Codes of Conduct.[7]

Complaint Procedure

A student who believes that they have been subject to hazing is encouraged to promptly report the incident to the building principal or designee.

Students are encouraged to use the district's report form, available from the building principal, or to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted and documented. The person accepting the complaint shall handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the student filing the complaint or those accused of a violation of this policy.

The Board directs that verbal and written complaints of hazing shall be provided to the building principal or designee, who shall promptly notify the Superintendent or designee of the allegations and determine who shall conduct the investigation. Allegations of hazing shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective or preventative action be taken when allegations are substantiated. The Board directs that any complaint of hazing brought pursuant to this policy shall also be reviewed for conduct which may not be proven to be hazing under this policy but merits review and possible action under other Board policies.

Interim Measures/Law Enforcement

Upon receipt of a complaint of hazing, the building principal or designee, in consultation with the Superintendent or designee, shall determine what, if any interim measures should be put in place to protect students from further hazing, bullying, discrimination or retaliatory conduct related to the alleged incident and report. Such interim measures may include, but not be limited to, the suspension of an adult who is involved, the separation of alleged victims and perpetrators, and the determination of what the complaining student needs or wants through questioning.

Those receiving the initial report and conducting or overseeing the investigation will assess whether the complaint, if proven, would constitute hazing, aggravated hazing or organizational hazing and shall report it to law enforcement consistent with district practice and, as appropriate, consult with legal counsel about whether to report the matter to law enforcement at every stage of the proceeding. The decision to report a matter to law enforcement should not involve an analysis by district personnel of whether safe harbor provisions might apply to the person being reported, but information on the facts can be shared with law enforcement in this regard.[15]

Referral to Law Enforcement and School Safety and Security Incident Reporting -

For purposes of reporting hazing incidents to law enforcement in accordance with school safety and security reporting, the term **incident** shall mean an instance involving an act of violence; the possession of a weapon; the possession, use or sale of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; the possession, use or sale of alcohol or tobacco products; or conduct that constitutes an offense listed in the school safety and security provisions of School Code.[16][17][18]

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents committed by students on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies. [16][17][19][20][21][22]

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[<u>17</u>] [22][<u>23</u>]

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all new incidents to the PA Department of Education on the required form. [16][19][22]

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy and the district's legal and investigative obligations.

<u>Retaliation</u>

Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of hazing or participation in an investigation of allegations of hazing is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Consequences for Violations

Safe Harbor –

An individual needing medical attention or seeking medical attention for another shall not be subject to criminal prosecution if the individual complies with the requirements under law, subject to the limitations set forth in law.[15]

Students -

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the investigator shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action up to and including expulsion, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity or organization. The fact of whether a student qualified for and received safe harbor under a criminal investigation shall be considered in assigning discipline. [4][7][15][24][25]

 $\{X\}$ In addition to other authorized discipline, building principals shall have the authority, after providing the student or students an informal hearing, to impose a fine of up to [4][24]

{ } Fifty dollars (\$50)

{X } Two Hundred & Fifty dollars (\$250)

on each student determined to have engaged in hazing in violation of this policy.

 $\{x\}$ When recommended disciplinary action results in a formal hearing before the Board, in addition to other authorized disciplinary consequences, the Board may also impose a fine of up to[4][25]

{ } fifty dollars (\$50)

{x } Two Hundred fifty dollars (\$250)

on each student determined to have engaged in hazing in violation of this policy.

 $\{x\}$ When fines have not been paid, the Superintendent shall have the authority to direct that student diplomas and/or transcripts be withheld until payment in full is made or a payment plan is agreed upon. In cases of economic hardship, the Superintendent shall consider whether diplomas and/or transcripts should be released despite an unpaid fine.[4]

Nonstudent Violators/Organizational Hazing -

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding that a coach, sponsor or volunteer affiliated with the student activity or organization engaged in, condoned or ignored any violation of this policy, the coach, sponsor or volunteer shall be disciplined in accordance with Board policy and applicable laws and regulations. Discipline could include, but is not limited to, dismissal from the position as coach, sponsor or volunteer, and/or dismissal from district employment.[26]

If an organization is found to have engaged in organizational hazing, it shall be subject to the imposition of fines and other appropriate penalties. Penalties may include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on school property or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the district.

Criminal Prosecution -

Any person or organization that causes or participates in hazing may also be subject to criminal prosecution.[4]

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Legal

1. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2802 2. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2803 3. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2804 4. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2808 5. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2806 6. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2801 7.24 P.S. 511 8. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2301 9. Pol. 122 10. Pol. 123 11. Pol. 103 12, Pol. 103.1 13. 24 P.S. 1302-E 14. Pol. 236.1 15. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2810 16. 24 P.S. 1319-B 17. 22 PA Code 10.2 18. 35 P.S. 780-102

<u>19. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B</u> <u>20. 22 PA Code 10.21</u> <u>21. 22 PA Code 10.22</u> 22. Pol. 805.1 <u>23. 22 PA Code 10.25</u> 24. Pol. 218 25. Pol. 233 26. Pol. 317 <u>18 Pa. C.S.A. 2801 et seq</u> <u>22 PA Code 10.23</u> Pol. 113.1 Pol. 916

247-Attach 1 Report Form.pdf (421 KB)

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Dating Violence
Code	252 Vol I 2025
Status	First Reading

<u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from dating violence. Dating violence is inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and is prohibited at all times.

Definitions

Dating partner shall mean a person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person, primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual, serious or long-term.[1]

Dating violence shall mean behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse to control the person's dating partner.[1]

<u>Authority</u>

The Board encourages students who have been subjected to dating violence to promptly report such incidents.

The district shall investigate promptly all complaints of dating violence and shall administer appropriate discipline to any student who violates this policy.[2]

When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[3][4]

Discrimination/Harassment

Every report of alleged dating violence that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination or harassment shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a dating violence investigation, potential issues of discrimination or harassment are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination or harassment as well as the incidents of alleged dating violence.[5][6]

Discipline of Student Convicted or Adjudicated of Sexual Assault

Upon notification of a conviction or adjudication of a student in this district for sexual assault against another student enrolled in this district, the district shall comply with the disciplinary requirements established by state law and Board policy.[7][8]

Guidelines

Complaint Procedure

When a student believes that they have been subject to dating violence, the student is encouraged to promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the

{x } building principal.

{x } guidance counselor.

{x } classroom teacher.

The building principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged dating violence.

The building principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation.[1]

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of dating violence, the building principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.[1][2]

The district shall document the corrective action taken and, where not prohibited by law, inform the complainant.

This policy on dating violence shall be: [1]

- 1. Published in the Code of Student Conduct.
- 2. Published in the Student Handbook.
- 3. Made available on the district's website, if available.
- 4. Provided to parents/guardians.

Dating Violence Training

The district may provide dating violence training to guidance counselors, nurses, and mental health staff at the high school as deemed necessary. At the discretion of the Superintendent, parents/guardians and other staff may also receive training on dating violence.[1]

Dating Violence Education

The district may incorporate age-appropriate dating violence education into the annual health curriculum framework for students in grades nine through twelve. The district shall consult with at least one (1) local domestic violence program or rape crisis program when developing the educational program.[1][9]

A parent/guardian of a student under the age of eighteen (18) shall be permitted to examine the instructional materials for the dating violence education program.[1][10]

At the request of the parent/guardian, the student may be excused from all or part of the dating violence education program.[1][11]

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Legal

<u>1. 24 P.S. 1553</u>
2. Pol. 218
<u>3. 24 P.S. 1302-E</u>
4. Pol. 236.1
5. Pol. 103
6. Pol. 103.1
7. Pol. 218.3
<u>8. 24 P.S. 1318.1</u>
<u>9. 71 P.S. 611.13</u>
10. Pol. 105.1
11. Pol. 105.2
22 PA Code 12.12
<u>20 U.S.C. 1232g</u>

252-Attach 1 Report Form.pdf (421 KB)

Book	Policy Manual
Section	300 Employees
Title	Personal Necessity Leave
Code	336 Vol I 2025
Status	First Reading

<u>Authority</u>

This policy shall provide for absences for defined personal necessity leave by administrative, professional and support employees.

The Board has the authority to specify reasonable conditions under which personal necessity leave may be granted, the type of situations in which such leave will be permitted and the total number of days that may be used by an employee in any school year for such leave.[1][2][3]

<u>Guidelines</u>

Personal Leave

 $\{ x \}$ The total number of days granted for personal leave in any school year may not exceed 4___.

 $\{x\}$ Requests for personal leave shall be made at least $_3$ day(s) in advance to the

{ x } immediate supervisor.

--{--} Superintendent.

 $\{x \}$ The requirement for advanced notice may be waived in qualifying circumstances, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, or in accordance with applicable law and regulations.[3][4]

 $\{x \}$ Personal leave days with pay shall be granted to district employees in accordance with applicable provisions of the administrative compensation plan, individual contract, collective bargaining agreement or Board resolution.

Bereavement Leave

 $\{x \}$ Bereavement leave with pay shall be granted to district employees in accordance with law, applicable provisions of the administrative compensation plan, individual contract, collective bargaining agreement or Board resolution.[2]

If choosing this option, delete the rest of the language below this line.

When a professional or temporary professional employee is absent from duty because of a death in the immediate family, there shall be no deduction in salary for an absence of (3 minimum) school days. The Board may extend the period of absence, at its discretion. **Immediate family** shall be defined as father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, husband, wife, parent-in-law, near relative who resides in the same household or any person with whom the employee has made their home.[2]

When a professional or temporary professional employee is absent from duty because of the death of a near relative, there shall be no deduction in salary for absence on the day of the funeral. The Board may extend the period of absence, at its discretion. **Near relative** shall be defined as first cousin, grandfather, grandmother, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law.[2]

Bereavement leave with pay shall be granted to district employees other than a professional employee or temporary professional employee in accordance with applicable provisions of the administrative compensation plan, individual contract, collective bargaining agreement or Board resolution.[2]

<u>If choosing this language, delete the option above the dividing line.</u>

NOTES:

Military Leave – SC 1176-1181 51 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 4102, 7309 38 U.S.C. Sec. 4301 et seq.

(51 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 7301-7308 does not apply to school district employees) See Stuart Knade's white paper on military leave for guidance - located in P-Policy Documents under Scanned Sample Info.

SC 1154 adds grandchild to the definition of near relative only for professional and temporary professional employees, unless otherwise provided in an ACP, CBA or individual contract.

PSBA Revision 07/24 @2024 PSBA

Legal

<u>1. 24 P.S. 510</u>
<u>2. 24 P.S. 1154</u>
3. Pol. 104
4. 29 CFR 1636.4
<u>20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq</u>
29 CFR Part 1636
<u>34 CFR Part 106</u>
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seg

Book	Policy Manual
Section	300 Employees
Title	Uncompensated Leave
Code	339 Vol I 2025
Status	First Reading

<u>Authority</u>

The Board recognizes that in certain situations an administrative, professional or support employee may request extended leave for personal reasons, and the district could benefit from the return of the employee. This policy establishes parameters for granting uncompensated leaves of absence.

The Board reserves the right to specify the conditions under which uncompensated leave may be taken. Applications for uncompensated leave require approval by the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent. [1]

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Board of all uncompensated leave provided as a reasonable accommodation in accordance with applicable law and regulations.[2]

 $\{x \}$ Uncompensated leave shall be granted in accordance with provisions of the administrative compensation plan, individual contract, collective bargaining agreement or Board resolution.

Guidelines

 $\{x \}$ Uncompensated leave may be taken in accordance with applicable law and regulations, and for the following purposes:[2]

{ x } Childrearing/Parental.

{ x } Medical condition of immediate family member.

{ x } Restoration of health.

{ } Elected public office.[3]

{ x } Emergency.

Application

Requests for uncompensated leave shall be made on the district form or in writing to the Superintendent.

{ x } Special consideration will be given to emergencies.

Period of Leave

An uncompensated leave may be granted for a period of

{ x } one (1) semester.

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{ x } _2 years_____ (other).

{x } Extensions for

{ -- } one (1) semester

{ x } one (1) school year

{ } _____ (other)

shall be considered upon proper application.

Uncompensated leave provided as a reasonable accommodation, based on the needs of a qualified employee, shall be granted in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.[2][4]

Uncompensated leave requested by a school employee who has been elected to public office as a county official in any Pennsylvania county shall be granted for the first four (4) years of the elected period of service, in accordance with applicable law. Upon conclusion of the leave, the employee shall be entitled to a position similar to the position held prior to the leave of absence. To qualify for uncompensated leave, such employee shall have been employed by the district for at least five (5) years prior to being elected as a county official.[3]

Commitment of Employee

The employee granted an uncompensated leave of absence shall inform the Board of the employee's intentions within _30_ of the scheduled return date.

 $\{x\}$ If notification is not received within the designated time period prior to the scheduled return date, it shall be assumed that the employee has terminated employment with the district.

Commitment of Employer

At the expiration of uncompensated leave, the employee shall be offered

{ } the first open position for which the employee is qualified.

 $\{x\}$ the same position previously held.

 $\{x\}$ a like position to that previously held.

Time on uncompensated leave shall not count as time on the job, and fringe benefits shall not be provided

{ } unless the employee provides payment for benefits.

 $\{x\}$ except in accordance with the terms of an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

NOTES:

Military Leave – see policy 336 NOTES

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Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1154 2. Pol. 104 3. 24 P.S. 1182 4. 29 CFR 1636.4 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq 29 CFR Part 1636 34 CFR Part 106 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq BoardDocs® PL

Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays
Code	807
Status '	First Reading
Adopted	April 23, 2019
Last Revised	November 18, 2024

<u>Purpose</u>

The Board adopts this policy to ensure that all district schools comply with state and federal laws concerning flag displays, opening exercises and the moment of silence on the anniversary of September 11, while respecting the rights of individuals.

<u>Authority</u>

A United States flag shall be displayed in classrooms and on or near each school building during school hours, in clement weather and at other times determined by the Board.[1]

District schools shall provide opening exercises that include a salute to the flag and/or recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem. [1]

Students may decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem and to salute the flag on the basis of personal belief or religious conviction. Students who choose to refrain from such participation shall respect the rights and interests of classmates who do participate.[1][2]

The Board shall direct professional employees to conduct a brief period of silent prayer or meditation as part of daily opening exercises. Silent prayer or meditation shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise.[3]

The Board directs the district to annually provide, during instructional hours, a moment of silence for students and staff to observe the anniversary of September 11, 2001.[4]

Legal	<u>1. 24 P.S. 771</u>
· · ·	2. 22 PA Code
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<u>2. 22 PA Code 12.10</u> <u>3. 24 P.S. 1516.1</u> 4. 24 P.S. 1555

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
Code	824 Vol I 2025
Status	First Reading

<u>Authority</u>

This policy applies to district employees, volunteers, student teachers and independent contractors and their employees who interact with students or are present on school grounds. For purposes of this policy, such individuals are referred to collectively as **adults**. The term **adults** as used in this policy, does not include district students who perform services on a volunteer or compensated basis.

All adults shall be expected to maintain professional, moral and ethical relationships with district students that are conducive to an effective, safe learning environment. This policy addresses a range of behaviors that include not only obviously unlawful or improper interactions with students, but also precursor grooming and other boundary-blurring behaviors that can lead to more egregious misconduct.

The Board directs that all adults shall be informed of conduct that is prohibited and the disciplinary actions that may be applied for violation of Board policies, administrative regulations, rules and procedures.[1]

This policy is not intended to interfere with appropriate pre-existing personal relationships between adults and students and their families that exist independently of the district or to interfere with participation in civic, religious or other outside organizations that include district students.

Definition

For purposes of this policy, **legitimate educational reasons** include matters or communications related to teaching, counseling, athletics, extracurricular activities, treatment of a student's physical injury or other medical needs, school administration or other purposes within the scope of the adult's assigned job duties.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall annually inform students, parents/guardians and all adults regarding the contents of this Board policy through employee and student handbooks, posting on the district website and by other appropriate methods.

The building principal or designee shall be available to answer questions about behaviors or activities that may violate professional boundaries as defined in this policy.

Independent contractors doing business with the district shall ensure that their employees who have interaction with students or are present on school grounds are informed of the provisions of this policy.[2]

Guidelines

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Adults shall establish and maintain appropriate personal boundaries with students and not engage in any behavior that is prohibited by this policy or that creates the appearance of prohibited behavior.

Prohibited Conduct

Romantic or Sexual Relationships -

Adults shall be prohibited from dating, courting or entering into or attempting to form a romantic or sexual relationship with any student enrolled in the district, regardless of the student's age. Students of any age are not legally capable of consenting to romantic or sexual interactions with adults.[3][4]

Prohibited romantic or sexual interaction involving students includes, but is not limited to:

- 1. Sexual physical contact.
- 2. Romantic flirtation, propositions or sexual remarks.
- 3. Sexual slurs, leering, epithets, sexual or derogatory comments.
- 4. Personal comments about a student's body.

5. Sexual jokes, notes, stories, drawings, gestures or pictures.

- 6. Spreading sexual or romantic rumors.
- 7. Touching a student's body or clothes in a sexual or intimate way.
- 8. Accepting massages, or offering or giving massages other than in the course of injury care legitimately administered by an athletic trainer, coach or health care provider.
- 9. Restricting a student's freedom of movement in a sexually intimidating or provocative manner.
- 10. Displaying or transmitting sexual objects, pictures or depictions.

Social Interactions -

In order to maintain professional boundaries, adults shall ensure that their interactions with students are appropriate.

Examples of prohibited conduct that violates professional boundaries include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Disclosing personal, sexual, family, employment concerns or other private matters to one or more students.
- 2. Exchanging notes, emails or other communications of a personal nature with a student.
- 3. Giving personal gifts, cards or letters to a student without written approval from the building principal.
- 4. Touching students without a legitimate educational reason. (Reasons could include the need for assistance when injured, a kindergartner having a toileting accident and requiring assistance, appropriate coaching instruction or appropriate music instruction).
- 5. Singling out a particular student or students for personal attention or friendship beyond the ordinary professional adult-student relationship.

- 6. Taking a student out of class without a legitimate educational reason.
- 7. Being alone with a student behind closed doors without a legitimate educational reason.
- 8. Initiating or extending contact with a student beyond the school day or outside of class times without a legitimate educational reason.
- 9. Sending or accompanying a student on personal errands.
- 10. Inviting a student to the adult's home.
- 11. Going to a student's home without a legitimate educational reason.
- 12. Taking a student on outings without prior notification to and approval from both the parent/guardian and the building principal.
- 13. Giving a student a ride alone in a vehicle in a nonemergency situation without prior notification to and approval from both the parent/guardian and the building principal.
- 14. Addressing students or permitting students to address adults with personalized terms of endearment, pet names or otherwise in an overly familiar manner.
- 15. Telling a student personal secrets, sharing personal secrets with a student or asking students to keep any conversation, gift or activity a secret.
- 16. For adults who are not guidance/counseling staff, psychologists, social workers or other adults with designated responsibilities to counsel students, encouraging students to confide their personal or family problems and/or relationships. If a student initiates such discussions, the student should be referred to the appropriate school resource.
- 17. Furnishing alcohol, drugs or tobacco to a student or being present where any student is consuming these substances.
- 18. Engaging in harassing or discriminatory conduct prohibited by other district policies or by state or federal law and regulations.[5][6]

Electronic Communications -

For purposes of this policy, **electronic communication** shall mean a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular telephone, computer, computer network, personal data assistant or pager. Electronic communications include, but are not limited to, emails, instant messages and communications made by means of an Internet website, including social media and other networking websites.

As with other forms of communication, when communicating electronically, adults shall maintain professional boundaries with students.

Electronic communication with students shall be for legitimate educational reasons only.

When available, district-provided email or other district-provided communication devices or platforms shall be used when communicating electronically with students. The use of district-provided email or other district-provided communication devices or platforms shall be in accordance with district policies and procedures.[7]

All electronic communications from coaches and advisors to team or club members shall be sent in a single communication to all participating team or club members, except for communications concerning an individual student's medical or academic privacy matters, in which case the

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communications will be copied to the building principal. In the case of sports teams under the direction of the Athletic Director, such medical or academic communications shall also be copied to the Athletic Director.

Adults shall not follow or send or accept requests for current students to be friends or connections on personal social networking sites and shall not create any networking site for communication with students other than those provided by the district for this purpose, without the prior written approval of the building principal.

Exceptions

An emergency situation or a legitimate educational reason may justify deviation from the rules regarding communication or methods for maintaining professional boundaries set out in this policy. The adult shall be prepared to articulate the reason for any deviation from the requirements of this policy and must demonstrate that they have maintained an appropriate relationship with the student.

Under no circumstance will an educational or other reason justify deviation from the "Romantic and Sexual Relationships" section of this policy.

There will be circumstances where personal relationships develop between an adult and a student's family, e.g. when their children become friends. This policy is not intended to interfere with such relationships or to limit activities that are consistent with such relationships. Adults are strongly encouraged to maintain professional boundaries appropriate to the nature of the activity.

It is understood that many adults are involved in various other roles in the community through nondistrict-related civic, religious, athletic, scouting or other organizations and programs whose participants may include district students. Such community involvement is commendable, and this policy is not intended to interfere with or restrict an adult's ability to serve in those roles; however, adults are strongly encouraged to maintain professional boundaries appropriate to the nature of the activity with regard to all youth with whom they interact in the course of their community involvement.

Reporting Inappropriate or Suspicious Conduct

Any person, including a student, who has concerns about or is uncomfortable with a relationship or interaction between an adult and a student, shall promptly notify the building principal or Title IX Coordinator. Reports may be made using the

Discrimination/Harassment/Bullying/Hazing/Dating Violence/Retaliation Report Form or by making a general report orally or in writing. Upon receipt of a report, school staff shall promptly notify the Title IX Coordinator [5][8]

All district employees, independent contractors and volunteers who have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is the victim of child abuse, shall immediately report the suspected abuse, in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.[9][10]

An educator who knows of any action, inaction or conduct which constitutes sexual abuse or exploitation or sexual misconduct under the Educator Discipline Act shall report such misconduct to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the required form, and shall report such misconduct to the Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator and immediate supervisor, promptly, but not later than fifteen (15) days following discovery of such misconduct.[5][8][11][12]

If the Superintendent or designee reasonably suspects that conduct being reported involves an incident required to be reported under the Child Protective Services Law, the Educator Discipline Act or the school safety and security provisions of School Code, the Superintendent or designee shall make a report, in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.[9][10][11] [12][13][14][15][16][17][18]

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It is a violation of Board policy to retaliate against any person for reporting any action pursuant to this policy or for participating as a witness in any related investigation or hearing.[5][8]

Investigation

The Title IX Coordinator shall promptly assess and address allegations of inappropriate conduct in accordance with the procedures for reports of discrimination/harassment.[5][8]

It is understood that some reports made pursuant to this policy will be based on rumors or misunderstandings; the mere fact that the reported adult is cleared of any wrongdoing shall not result in disciplinary action against the person making the report or any witnesses. If as the result of an investigation any individual, including the reported adult, the person making the report or a witness is found to have knowingly provided false information in making the report or during the investigation or hearings related to the report, or if any individual intentionally obstructs the investigation or hearings, this may be addressed as a violation of this policy and other applicable laws, regulations and Board policies. **Obstruction** includes, but is not limited to, violation of "no contact" orders given to the reported adult, attempting to alter or influence witness testimony and destruction of or hiding evidence.[5][8][12][19][20][21][22]

Disciplinary Action

A district employee who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, in accordance with all applicable district disciplinary policies and procedures.[8][12][19]

A volunteer, student teacher, or independent contractor or an employee of an independent contractor who violates this policy may be prohibited from working or serving in district schools for an appropriate period of time or permanently, as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

Training

The district shall provide training with respect to the provisions of this policy to current and new district employees, volunteers and student teachers subject to this policy.

The district, at its sole discretion, may require independent contractors and their employees who interact with students or are present on school grounds to receive training on this policy and related procedures.

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Legal

1. 24 P.S. 510 2. Pol. 818 3. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 3124.2 4. 24 P.S. 2070.9f 5. Pol. 103 6. Pol. 103.1 7. Pol. 815 8. Pol. 104 9. 23 Pa. C.S.A. 6311 10. Pol. 806

<u>11. 24 P.S. 2070.9a</u>
12. Pol. 317.1
<u>13. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B</u>
<u>14. 24 P.S. 1319-B</u>
15. 22 PA Code 10.2
<u>16. 22 PA Code 10.21</u>
17. 22 PA Code 10.22
18. Pol. 805.1
19. Pol. 317
20. Pol. 113.1
21. Pol. 218
22. Pol. 233
<u>24 P.S. 2070.1a et seq</u>
<u>22 PA Code 235.1 et seq</u>
<u>23 Pa. C.S.A. 6301 et seq</u>