Sexual Harassment

Note: Education Code <u>231.5</u> and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC <u>1681-1688</u>; 34 CFR <u>106.1-106.82</u>) prohibit discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, and mandate that the district adopt and publish complaint procedures. Also see AR <u>5145.71</u> - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures.

Title IX Coordinator

Note: Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.8, districts that receive federal financial assistance are mandated to designate an employee to ensure district compliance with Title IX and its implementing regulations. The following paragraph specifies that the Title IX Coordinator will be the same person(s) designated to serve as the compliance officer(s) for the district's uniform complaint procedures pursuant to AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. Districts may modify this regulation to designate separate district employees to serve these functions.

The district designates the following individual(s) as the responsible employee(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as well as to investigate and resolve sexual harassment complaints under AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. The Title IX Coordinator(s) may be contacted at:

District Secretary

PO Box 1397 or 19177 State Hwy 120, Rm 23, Groveland, CA 209-962-5765

jshimer@bofg.org

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. <u>5145.71</u> - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures)

The district shall notify students, parents/guardians, employees, bargaining units, and applicants for employment of the name or title, office address, email address, and telephone number of the district's Title IX Coordinator. (34 CFR 106.8)

Prohibited Conduct

Note: Education Code 212.5 defines sexual harassment as any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone in the educational setting. For purposes of suspension and expulsion, Education Code 48900.2 defines sexual harassment as conduct, when considered from the perspective of a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim, that is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to have a negative impact upon the victim's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment for the victim; see AR 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process. Conduct that meets the federal definition of sexual harassment in 34 CFR 106.30 (i.e., (1) a district employee conditioning the provision of a district aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; (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 the district's education program or activity; or (3) sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 20 USC 1092 and 34 USC 12291) requires investigation and resolution through Title IX regulations; see AR 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures.

Sexual Harassment

Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the educational setting, under any of the following conditions: (Education Code 212.5; 5 CCR 4916)

- 1. Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's academic status or progress.
- 2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by a student is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting the student.
- 3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the student's academic performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.
- 4. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by the student is used as the basis for any decision affecting the student regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through any district program or activity.

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(cf. <u>5131</u> - Conduct)
(cf. <u>5131.2</u> - Bullying)
(cf. <u>5145.3</u> - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. <u>6142.1</u> - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)
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Note: The following list contains common examples of sexual harassment from the OCR January 2001 Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance, and definitions specified in 5 CCR <u>4916</u>.

Examples of types of conduct which are prohibited in the district and which may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Unwelcome leering, sexual flirtations, or propositions
- 2. Unwelcome sexual slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, or sexually degrading descriptions
- 3. Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body or overly personal conversation
- 4. Sexual jokes, derogatory posters, notes, stories, cartoons, drawings, pictures, obscene gestures, or computer-generated images of a sexual nature
- 5. Spreading sexual rumors

Sexual Harassment

- 6. Teasing or sexual remarks about students enrolled in a predominantly single-sex class
- 7. Massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking, or brushing the body
- 8. Touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way
- 9. Impeding or blocking movements or any physical interference with school activities when directed at an individual on the basis of sex
- 10. Displaying sexually suggestive objects
- 11. Sexual assault, sexual battery, or sexual coercion
- 12. Electronic communications containing comments, words, or images described above

Any prohibited conduct that occurs off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored programs or activities will be regarded as sexual harassment in violation of district policy if it has a continuing effect on or creates a hostile school environment for the complainant or victim of the conduct.

Notifications

A copy of the district's sexual harassment policy and regulation shall:

- 1. Be included in the notifications that are sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year (Education Code $\frac{48980}{5}$; 5 CCR $\frac{4917}{5}$)
- (cf. 5145.6 Parental Notifications)
- 2. Be displayed in a prominent location in the main administrative building or other area where notices of district rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted (Education Code 231.5)

Note: Education Code 231.6, as added by AB 543 (Ch. 428, Statutes of 2019), requires districts serving students in grades 9-12 to create a poster that notifies students of the district's sexual harassment policy, and to display it, as specified below. The district may partner with local, state, or federal agencies, or nonprofit organizations, for the purposes of the design and content of the poster.

3. Be summarized on a poster which shall be prominently and conspicuously displayed in each bathroom and locker room at each school. The poster may be displayed in public areas that are accessible to and frequented by students, including, but not limited to, classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and cafeterias. The poster shall display the rules and procedures for reporting a charge of sexual harassment; the name, phone number, and email address of an appropriate school employee to contact to report a charge of sexual harassment; the rights of

Sexual Harassment

the reporting student, the complainant, and the respondent; and the responsibilities of the school. (Education Code 231.6)

Note: Education Code 234.6, as added by AB 34 (Ch. 282, Statutes of 2019), requires districts, beginning in the 2020-21 school year, to post on the district's web site the district's written policy on sexual harassment as well as other state and federal law requirements, in the manner specified below. 34 CFR 106.8 also requires districts that have web sites to prominently display the contact information for the Title IX Coordinator and the district's nondiscrimination policy on its web site.

4. Be posted in a prominent location on the district's web site in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. This shall include the name or title, office address, email address, and telephone number of the employee(s) designated as the district's Title IX Coordinator. (Education Code 234.6; 34 CFR 106.8)

(cf. <u>1113</u> - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. <u>1114</u> - District-Sponsored Social Media)

Note: Education Code <u>231.5</u>, as amended by AB 543, requires the district to provide a copy of the district's sexual harassment policy as part of any orientation program conducted for new and continuing students.

- 5. Be provided as part of any orientation program conducted for new and continuing students at the beginning of each quarter, semester, or summer session (Education Code $\underline{231.5}$)
- 6. Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school's or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct (Education Code 231.5)
- 7. Be included in any handbook provided to students, parents/guardians, employees, or employee organizations (34 CFR $\underline{106.8}$)

Reporting Complaints

A student or parent/guardian who believes that the student has been subjected to sexual harassment by another student, an employee, or a third party or who has witnessed sexual harassment is strongly encouraged to report the incident to a teacher, the principal, the district's Title IX Coordinator, or any other available school employee. Within one school day of receiving such a report, the principal or other school employee shall forward the report to the district's Title IX Coordinator. Any school employee who observes an incident of sexual harassment involving a student shall, within one school day, report the observation to the principal or Title IX Coordinator, regardless of whether the alleged victim files a formal complaint.

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

Sexual Harassment

When a report or complaint of sexual harassment involves off-campus conduct, the Title IX Coordinator shall assess whether the conduct may create or contribute to the creation of a hostile school environment. If the Title IX Coordinator determines that a hostile environment may be created, the complaint shall be investigated and resolved in the same manner as if the prohibited conduct occurred at school.

When a verbal or informal report of sexual harassment is submitted, the Title IX Coordinator shall inform the student or parent/guardian of the right to file a formal written complaint in accordance with applicable district complaint procedures.

Complaint Procedures

All complaints of sexual harassment by and against students shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with law and district procedures. The Title IX Coordinator shall review the allegations to determine the applicable procedure for responding to the complaint. All complaints that meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with AR 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures. Other sexual harassment complaints shall be investigated and resolved pursuant to AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

(7/15 9/16) 7/20

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2nd Reading/Adopt 09/23/2020