

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining a safe school environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. The Board prohibits sexual harassment of students at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who reports, files a complaint or testifies about, or otherwise supports a complainant in alleging sexual harassment.

The District strongly condemns, opposes, and prohibits sexual harassment of students whether verbal, physical, or environmental, by anyone in or from the District. Any student who engages in sexual harassment of anyone in or from the District may be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Any student who feels that he/she is being or has been sexually harassed on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity shall immediately contact his/her teacher, the principal, or any other available school employee. An employee who receives such a complaint shall report it in accordance with administrative regulation.

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

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any complaints regarding sexual harassment are immediately investigated in accordance with administrative regulation. When the Superintendent or designee has determined that harassment has occurred, he/she shall take prompt, appropriate action to end the harassment and to address its effects on the victim.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Disciplinary Actions

Any student who engages in sexual harassment or sexual violence at school or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity is in violation of this policy and shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4-8, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion, provided that, in imposing such discipline, the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

Any staff member found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual violence toward any student shall be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal in accordance with applicable policies, laws, and/or collective bargaining agreements.

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(cf. 4117.4 - Dismissal)
 (cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
 (cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
 (cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)

Confidentiality and Record-Keeping

All complaints and allegations of sexual harassment shall be kept confidential except as necessary to carry out the investigation or take other subsequent necessary action. (5 CCR 4964)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of sexual harassment to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in district schools.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex
 48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion
 48900.2 Additional grounds for suspension or expulsion; sexual harassment
 48904 Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct
 48980 Notice at beginning of term

CIVIL CODE

51.9 Liability for sexual harassment; business, service and professional relationships
 1714.1 Liability of parents/guardians for willful misconduct of minor

GOVERNMENT CODE

12950.1 Sexual harassment training
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
 4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures
 4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1221 Application of laws
 1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
 1681-1688 Title IX, discrimination

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1983 Civil action for deprivation of rights
 2000d-2000d-7 Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964
 2000e-2000e-17 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy
 106.1-106.71 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs

COURT DECISIONS

Donovan v. Poway Unified School District, (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567
Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District, (2003, 9th Cir.) 324 F.3d 1130
Reese v. Jefferson School District, (2001, 9th Cir.) 208 F.3d 736
Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, (1999) 526 U.S. 629
Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, (1998) 524 U.S. 274
Oona by Kate S. v. McCaffrey, (1998, 9th Cir.) 143 F.3d 473
Doe v. Petaluma City School District, (1995, 9th Cir.) 54 F.3d 1447

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Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

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

Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence, April 2014

Dear Colleague Letter: Sexual Violence, April 4, 2011

Sexual Harassment: It's Not Academic, September 2008

Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties, January 2001

WEB SITES

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

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

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

Policy
adopted: May 11, 1993
revised: January 17, 2013
revised: December 17, 2015

LIVINGSTON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Livingston, California

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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 and California Education Code 234.1, as well as to investigate and resolve sexual harassment complaints under AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. The coordinator/compliance officer(s) may be contacted at:

Superintendent
922 B Street
Livingston, CA 95334
(209) 394-5400
azamora@livingstonusd.org

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

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, when made on the basis of sex and 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 of a 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 of for academic decisions affecting the student.
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon 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.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)

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

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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
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

Obligations of All Employees

All employees shall report to their immediate supervisor any sexual harassment by or of students. Employees shall take appropriate action to stop any sexual harassment of students, including discipline of students involved and notification of the incident(s) to the appropriate site administrator.

All employees shall cooperate with any investigation of an alleged act of sexual discrimination/harassment conducted by the District or any appropriate State or Federal Agency.

No employee of the District shall take any action to discourage a victim of harassment from reporting such an instance.

School-Level Complaint Process/Grievance Procedure

Complaints of sexual harassment, or any behavior prohibited by the district's Nondiscrimination/Harassment policy - BP 5145.3, shall be handled in accordance with the following procedure:

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1. **Notice and Receipt of Complaint:** Any student who believes he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment or who has witnessed sexual harassment may file a complaint with any school employee. Within 24 hours of receiving a complaint, the school employee shall report it to the site administrator. In addition, any school employee who observes any incident of sexual harassment involving a student shall, within 24 hours, report this observation to the site administrator, whether or not the victim files a complaint.

In any case of sexual harassment involving the site administrator to whom the complaint would ordinarily be made, the employee who receives the student's report or who observes the incident shall instead report to the Superintendent or designee.

2. **Initiation of Investigation:** The site administrator shall initiate an impartial investigation of an allegation of sexual harassment within five school days of receiving notice of the harassing behavior, regardless of whether a formal complaint has been filed. The district shall be considered to have "notice" of the need for an investigation upon receipt of information from a student who believes he/she has been subjected to harassment, the student's parent/guardian, an employee who received a complaint from a student, or any employee or student who witnessed the behavior.

If the site administrator receives an anonymous complaint or media report about alleged sexual harassment, he/she shall determine whether it is reasonable to pursue an investigation considering the specificity and reliability of the information, the seriousness of the alleged incident, and whether any individuals can be identified who were subjected to the alleged harassment.

3. **Initial Interview with Student:** When a student or parent/guardian has complained or provided information about sexual harassment, the site administrator shall describe the district's grievance procedure and discuss what actions are being sought by the student in response to the complaint. The student who is complaining shall have an opportunity to describe the incident, identify witnesses who may have relevant information, provide other evidence of the harassment, and put his/her complaint in writing. If the student requests confidentiality, he/she shall be informed that such a request may limit the district's ability to investigate.
4. **Investigation Process:** The site administrator shall keep the complaint and allegation confidential, except as necessary to carry out the investigation or take other subsequent necessary action. (5 CCR 4964)

The site administrator shall interview individuals who are relevant to the investigation, including, but not limited to, the student who is complaining, the person accused of harassment, anyone who witnessed the reported harassment, and anyone mentioned as having relevant information. The site administrator may take other

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steps such as reviewing any records, notes, or statements related to the harassment or visiting the location where the harassment is alleged to have taken place.

When necessary to carry out his/her investigation or to protect student safety, the site administrator also may discuss the complaint with the Superintendent or designee, the parent/guardian of the student who complained, the parent/guardian of the alleged harasser if the alleged harasser is a student, a teacher or staff member whose knowledge of the students involved may help in determining who is telling the truth, law enforcement and/or child protective services, and district legal counsel or the district's risk manager.

5. **Interim Measures:** The site administrator shall determine whether interim measures are necessary during and pending the results of the investigation, such as placing students in separate classes or transferring a student to a class taught by a different teacher.
6. **Optional Mediation:** In cases of student-on-student harassment, when the student who complained and the alleged harasser so agree, the site administrator may arrange for them to resolve the complaint informally with the help of a counselor, teacher, administrator, or trained mediator. The student who complained shall never be asked to work out the problem directly with the accused person unless such help is provided and both parties agree, and he/she shall be advised of the right to end the informal process at any time.
7. **Factors in Reaching a Determination:** In reaching a decision about the complaint, the site administrator may take into account:
 - a. Statements made by the persons identified above
 - b. The details and consistency of each person's account
 - c. Evidence of how the complaining student reacted to the incident
 - d. Evidence of any past instances of harassment by the alleged harasser
 - e. Evidence of any past harassment complaints that were found to be untrue

To judge the severity of the harassment, the site administrator may take into consideration:

- a. How the misconduct affected one or more students' education
- b. The type, frequency, and duration of the misconduct

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- c. The identity, age, and sex of the harasser and the student who complained, and the relationship between them
 - d. The number of persons engaged in the harassing conduct and at whom the harassment was directed
 - e. The size of the school, location of the incidents, and context in which they occurred
 - f. Other incidents at the school involving different students
8. **Written Report on Findings and Follow-Up:** No more than 30 days after receiving the complaint, the site administrator shall conclude the investigation and prepare a written report of his/her findings. This timeline may be extended for good cause. If an extension is needed, the site administrator shall notify the student and/or parent/guardian who complained and explain the reasons for the extension.

The report shall include the decision and the reasons for the decision and shall summarize the steps taken during the investigation. If it is determined that harassment occurred, the report shall also include any corrective actions that have or will be taken to address the harassment and prevent any retaliation or further harassment. This report shall be presented to the student who complained, the person accused, the parents/guardians of the student who complained and the student who was accused, and the Superintendent or designee.

In addition, the site administrator shall ensure that the harassed student and his/her parent/guardian are informed of the procedures for reporting any subsequent problems. The site administrator shall make follow-up inquiries to see if there have been any new incidents or retaliation and shall keep a record of this information.

Enforcement of District Policy

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate actions to reinforce the district's sexual harassment policy. As needed, these actions may include any of the following:

1. Removing vulgar or offending graffiti
2. Disseminating and/or summarizing the district's policy and regulation regarding sexual harassment
3. Consistent with the laws regarding the confidentiality of student and personnel records, communicating the school's response to parents/guardians and the community

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4. Taking appropriate disciplinary action

In addition, disciplinary measures may be taken against any person who is found to have made a complaint of sexual harassment which he/she knew was not true.

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 48980; 5 CCR 4917)

A copy of the district's sexual harassment policy and regulation shall be posted on district and school web sites and, when available, on district-supported social media.

(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, including school web sites (Education Code 231.5)

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

3. Be provided as part of any orientation program conducted for new students at the beginning of each quarter, semester, or summer session (Education Code 231.5)
4. 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)
5. Be included in the student handbook

Regulation
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revised: December 17, 2015

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