

5145.7 BP: Sexual Harassment

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 12/11/2014 | Last Revised Date: 11/13/2025

The county office of education (COE) does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its programs or activities and complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations.

The COE is committed to maintaining a welcoming, safe, and supportive school environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. Sexual harassment, as defined in the accompanying exhibit, targeted at any student, is prohibited.

Additionally, retaliatory behavior or action against any person who reports, files a complaint, testifies about, assists with, or otherwise supports a complainant in alleging sexual harassment, or otherwise participates or refuses to participate in the complaint process established for the purpose of this policy is prohibited. (Education Code 220.1, 221.8; 34 CFR 106.71)

Students who feel that they are being or have experienced sexual harassment, on COE grounds or at a COE-sponsored or COE-related activity, or off-campus when the conduct has a continuing effect on campus, are strongly encouraged to immediately contact their teacher, the principal or program administrator, the COE's Title IX Coordinator, or any other available school employee.

Any employee who receives a report or observes an incident of sexual harassment by or against a student in a COE education program or activity shall report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator within one workday.

Once notified, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure that the complaint alleging sexual harassment is addressed through Exhibit (1) 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures or County Board Policy/Exhibit (1) 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, as applicable. Additionally, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure that any implementation of Exhibit (1) 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures concurrently meets the requirements of County Board Policy/Exhibit (1) 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall offer and coordinate supportive measures to the complainant and respondent, as deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed of this policy in the manner specified in the accompanying exhibit.

All COE staff shall be trained regarding this policy, and that employees required to receive training related to their duties under Title IX receive training as specified in 34 CFR 106.45. (Government Code 12950.1; 2 CCR 11023, 11024; 34 CFR 106.45)

Instruction/Information

All COE students shall receive age-appropriate information on sexual harassment. Such instruction and information shall include:

1. What acts and behavior constitute sexual harassment, including the fact that sexual harassment could occur between people of the same sex and could involve sexual violence
2. A clear message that students do not have to endure sexual harassment under any circumstance
3. Encouragement to report observed incidents of sexual harassment even when the alleged victim of the harassment has not complained

4. A clear message that student safety is the COE's primary concern, and that any separate rule violation involving an alleged victim or any other person reporting a sexual harassment incident will be addressed separately and will not affect the manner in which the sexual harassment complaint will be received, investigated, or resolved
5. A clear message that, regardless of a complainant's noncompliance with the writing, timeline, or other formal filing requirements, every sexual harassment allegation that involves a student, whether as the complainant, respondent, or victim of the harassment, shall be investigated and action shall be taken to respond to the harassment, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students
6. Information about the COE's procedures for investigating complaints and the person(s) to whom a report of sexual harassment should be made
7. Information about the rights of students and parents/guardians to file a civil or criminal complaint, as applicable, including the right to file a civil or criminal complaint while the COE investigation of a sexual harassment complaint continues
8. A clear message that, when needed, the COE will implement supportive measures to ensure a safe school environment for a student who is the complainant or victim of sexual harassment and/or other students during an investigation

Disciplinary Actions

Upon completion of an investigation of sexual harassment, any student found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual violence in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4-12, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion pursuant to Education Code 48900.2, provided that, in imposing such discipline, the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account.

Record-Keeping

Records shall be maintained in accordance with law, including in accordance with Exhibit (1) 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures, and COE policies and regulations, of all reported cases of sexual harassment to enable the COE to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in COE schools.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 432	Student records
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
5 CCR 4900-4965	Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs
Civ. Code 1714.1	<u>Liability of parent or guardian for act of willful misconduct by a minor</u>
Civ. Code 51.9	<u>Liability for sexual harassment; business, service and professional relationships</u>
Ed. Code 200-262.1	<u>Educational equity; prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex</u>
Ed. Code 220.1	Prohibition of retaliation related to educational equity

Ed. Code 220.3	No requirement to disclose information related to student's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression
Ed. Code 220.3	Prohibition of disclosure of information related to student's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression
Ed. Code 220.5	Prohibition of policies requiring disclosure of information related to student's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression
Ed. Code 35292.5	School restrooms; all-gender restrooms
Ed. Code 48900	Grounds for suspension or expulsion; definition of bullying
Ed. Code 48900	Grounds for suspension and expulsion
Ed. Code 48900.2	Additional grounds for suspension or expulsion; sexual harassment
Ed. Code 48904	Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct
Ed. Code 48980	<u>Parent/Guardian notifications</u>
Ed. Code 49060-49079	Student records
Gov. Code 12950.1	Sexual harassment training
Federal	Description
20 USC 1092	Definition of sexual assault
20 USC 1221	Application of laws
20 USC 1232g	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
20 USC 1681-1688	Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination based on sex
34 CFR 106.1-106.82	Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs
34 CFR 99.1-99.67	Family Educational Rights and Privacy
34 USC 12291	Definition of dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking
42 USC 1983	Civil action for deprivation of rights
42 USC 2000d-2000d-7	Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964
42 USC 2000e-2000e-17	Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended
Management Resources	Description
Court Decision	Tennessee v. Cardona (2024) 737 F.Supp.3d 510
Court Decision	Reese v. Jefferson School District, (2001, 9th Cir.) 208 F.3d 736
Court Decision	Oona by Kate S. v. McCaffrey, (1998, 9th Cir.) 143 F.3d 473
Court Decision	Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, (1998) 524 U.S. 274
Court Decision	Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District, (2003, 9th Cir.) 324 F.3d 1130
Court Decision	Donovan v. Poway Unified School District (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567
Court Decision	Doe v. Petaluma City School District, (1995, 9th Cir.) 54 F.3d 1447
Court Decision	Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, (1999) 526 U.S. 629

CSBA Publication	<u>Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011</u>
Federal Register	<u>Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, April 29, 2024, Vol. 89, No. 83, pages 33474-33896</u>
U.S. DOJ Publication	<u>Dear Colleague Letter: Enforcement of Title IX under the provisions of the 2020 Title IX Rule, February 4, 2025</u>
Website	<u>U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights</u>
Website	<u>CSBA</u>
Website	<u>California Department of Education</u>

Cross References

Code	Description
0410	<u>Nondiscrimination In County Office Programs And Activities</u>
1312.3	<u>Uniform Complaint Procedures</u>
1312.3-E(1)	<u>Uniform Complaint Procedures</u>
1312.3-E(2)	<u>Uniform Complaint Procedures</u>
1312.3-E(3)	<u>Uniform Complaint Procedures</u>
5131.2	<u>Bullying</u>
5131.2	<u>Bullying</u>
5141.52	<u>Suicide Prevention</u>
5141.52	<u>Suicide Prevention</u>
5145.3	<u>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</u>
5145.3	<u>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</u>
5145.71-E(1)	<u>Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures</u>
5145.71-E(2)	<u>Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures</u>
6163.4	<u>Student Use Of Technology</u>
6163.4-E(1)	<u>Student Use Of Technology</u>

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