

# CARLISLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: DISCRIMINATION/TITLE IX  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
AFFECTING STUDENTS

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## 103. DISCRIMINATION/TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT AFFECTING STUDENTS

### **Authority**

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 regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, gender –identity, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, disability, or any other status protected by law.

[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11][12][13][14][15][16][17]

The Board also declares it to be the policy of the 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 Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The district shall provide to all students, without discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment, course offerings, counseling, assistance, athletics and extracurricular activities. 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. The equitable distribution of district resources is one means the district shall use to ensure all students receive a quality education. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute handicaps and disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

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.

[18][19][20][21]

The Board directs that the foregoing statement be referenced in student handbooks and posted on the District 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 contact information for individual(s) designated as the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinators.

#### Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination and Retaliation

The Board encourages students and third parties who 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 took place or originated 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 has 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 police or child protective services reports required by law. [22]

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 contact the Title IX Coordinator at [www.carlisleschools.org/TitleIX](http://www.carlisleschools.org/TitleIX) for purposes of reporting an incident in writing; however, verbal reports of an incident or incidents shall be accepted, documented, and the procedures of this policy 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.

#### 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. 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. [18][20][23]24]

When an emergency removal 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. [18][19][20][23]

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.

#### 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 maintained in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy, the attachments and the District's legal and investigative obligations. [25][26][27][28][29]

#### Retaliation

The Board prohibits retaliation by the District or any other person against any person for: [28]

Reporting or making a formal complaint of any form report of discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment.

Testifying, assisting, participating, or refusing to participate in a related investigation, process or other proceeding or hearing.

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.

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

Discrimination shall mean to treat individuals differently, or to harass or victimize based on a protected classification including race, color, age, 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 put-downs, 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. [27][30]

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. [30]

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: [30]

1. Counseling.
2. Extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments.
3. Modifications of work or class schedules.
4. Mutual restrictions on contact between the parties.
5. Changes in work location.
6. Administrative leave or attendance accommodations.
7. Increased security.
8. Monitoring of certain areas of the school/District campus.
9. Assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs.
10. 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 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. [18][23][24][17][31]

Title IX sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following: [30]

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 harassment*.

Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offense 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: [32]

Length of relationship.

Type of relationship.

Frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

*Domestic violence* includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence 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. [32]

*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. [33]

*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: [32]

Fear for their safety or the safety of others.

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. [26][27][30]

### **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 Assistant Superintendent as the district's Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. [34]

The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator can be contacted at [www.carlisleschools.org/TitleIX](http://www.carlisleschools.org/TitleIX).

The Compliance Office 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 this Policy 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 problems of 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 the police, 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 matters.
6. Student Evaluation - Review of tests, 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:

- Definition of sexual harassment.
- Scope of the District's education program or activity, as it pertains to what is subject to Title IX regulations.
- 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.
- How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest and bias.
- Use of relevant technology.
- Issues of relevance including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.
- Issues of relevance, weight of evidence and application of standard of proof and drafting investigative reports that fairly summarize relevant evidence.
- 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 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: [18][19][20]

- Loss of school privileges
- Permanent transfer to another school building, classroom, or school bus

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- Exclusion from school-sponsored activities
- Detention
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- 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 of law enforcement officials. [21][36]

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, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability shall follow Administrative Guidelines for Discrimination Complaint Procedures.

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 Administrative Guidelines for Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints.

Equivalence Between Schools

The Board directs that services in Title I schools and programs, when taken as a whole, shall be substantially comparable or greater to services in schools and programs that do not receive Title I funds. [37]

Curriculum materials, instructional supplies and percentages of highly qualified personnel shall be equivalent between all district schools when compared on a grade-span by grade-span basis or a school-by-school basis.

The Board understands that equivalence between programs and schools shall not be measured by:

1. Changes in enrollment after the start of the school year.
2. Varying costs associated with providing services to students with disabilities.



3. Unexpected changes in personnel assignments occurring after the beginning of the school year.
4. Expenditures on language instruction education programs.
5. Other expenditures from supplemental state or local funds consistent with the intent of Title I.

Complaints by individuals and organizations regarding implementation of equivalence between schools shall be processed in accordance with Policy 906 Public Complaints

**Legal References:**

1. 22 PA Code 12.1
2. 22 PA Code 12.4
3. 22 PA Code 15.1 et seq
4. 22 PA Code 4.4
5. 24 P.S. 1301
6. 24 P.S. 1310
7. 24 P.S. 1601-C et seq
8. 24 P.S. 5004
9. 43 P.S. 951 et seq
10. 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq
11. 34 CFR Part 106
12. 29 U.S.C. Sec. 794
13. 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq
14. 42 U.S.C. 1981 et seq
15. 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000d et seq
16. U.S. Const. Amend. IXV, Equal Protection Clause
17. Pol. 103.1
18. Pol. 113.1
19. Pol. 218
20. Pol. 233
21. Pol. 317
22. Pol. 806
23. Pol. 113.2
24. Pol. 113.1
25. 20 U.S.C. 1232g
26. 34 CFR 106.44
27. 34 CFR 106.45
28. 34 CFR 106.71
29. 34 CFR Part 99

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30. 34 CFR 106.30  
31. Pol. 113  
32. 34 U.S.C. 12291  
33. 20 U.S.C. 1092  
34. 34 CFR 106.8  
35. Pol. 150  
36. Pol. 317.1  
37. 20 U.S.C. 6321  
18 Pa. C.S.A. 2709  
20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq  
28 CFR Part 35  
28 CFR Part 41  
34 CFR Part 100  
34 CFR Part 104  
34 CFR Part 106  
34 CFR Part 110  
U.S. Const. Amend. I  
*Bostock v. Clayton County*, 590 U.S., 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020)  
*Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education*, 526 U.S. 629 (1999)  
*Franklin v. Gwinnett County Public Schools*, 503 U.S. 60 (1992)  
*Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District*, 524 U.S. 274 (1998)  
Office for Civil Rights - Resources for Addressing Racial Harassment  
Pol. 000  
Pol. 122  
Pol. 123  
Pol. 138  
Pol. 216  
Pol. 220  
Pol. 247  
Pol. 249  
Pol. 251  
Pol. 252  
Pol. 320  
Pol. 701  
Pol. 815  
Pol. 832  
Pol. 906