

Policy 4119.11: Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 12/01/2015 | Last Revised Date: 07/01/2024 | Last Reviewed Date: 07/01/2024

CSBA NOTE: Sex discrimination and sex-based harassment are prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000e-2000e-17) and/or Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681-1688; 34 CFR 106.1-106.82), as well as the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Government Code 12900-12996).

Education Code 231.5, 2 CCR 11023, and 34 CFR 106.8 mandate that districts have a written policy prohibiting sex discrimination and sex-based harassment against employees. As part of this mandate, districts are also required to adopt a written policy prohibiting sex discrimination and sex-based harassment against students; see BP/AR 5145.7 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment and AR 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.11 and 106.44, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, a district with knowledge of alleged conduct, which occurs in a district program or activity on or after August 1, 2024, that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, is required to follow Title IX grievance procedures when investigating and resolving a complaint based on the alleged conduct. As such a complaint may also fall within the complaint process as specified in AR 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment, it is unclear whether districts would additionally be required to follow the procedures specified in AR 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment. Due to this uncertainty, it is recommended that districts consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel prior to utilizing the process specified in AR 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment for this purpose. For more information regarding the Title IX grievance procedures, see AR 4119.12 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

Pursuant to 2 CCR 11034, the district may be liable for sex-based harassment committed by a supervisor, coworker, or a third party. Pursuant to Government Code 12940, employers may also be held liable for sex-based harassment committed against their workers by clients, customers, or other third parties if they knew or should have known of the harassment and failed to take immediate and appropriate corrective action to stop the harassment.

The following policy shall apply to all district employees, interns, volunteers, contractors, job applicants, and other persons with an employment relationship with the district.

The Governing Board is committed to providing a safe work environment that is free of discrimination, harassment, and intimidation. The Board prohibits sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, as defined in the accompanying administrative regulation, in district programs and activities by and against district employees.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 220.1, as added by AB 1955 (Ch. 95, Statutes of 2024), a district, including a Governing Board member, may not retaliate or otherwise take adverse action against an employee, including by placing the employee on administrative leave, on the basis that the employee supported a student exercising rights specified in Education Code 220.1, performed work in a manner consistent with the district's legal obligations related to educational equity, or provided instruction to students consistent with current content standards, curriculum frameworks, instructional materials adopted by the state board, and state law.

Additionally, the Board prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who complains or testifies about conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, reports such conduct, or otherwise participates or refuses to participate in the complaint process established for the purpose of this policy. (Education Code 220.1; 34 CFR 106.71)

CSBA NOTE: Federal and state courts have provided guidance that may help employers avoid liability or mitigate damages in sex-based harassment cases. In *Department of Health Services v. Superior Court (McGinnis)*, the California Supreme Court outlined measures that may constitute mitigating factors in the assessment of damages, including establishing anti-harassment policies, communicating those policies to employees, consistently enforcing the policies, preserving the confidentiality of employees who report harassment, and preventing retaliation against reporting employees. The U.S. Supreme Court in *Burlington Industries v. Ellerth* held that, for certain claims under federal law, an employer may defend against sex-based harassment claims by proving that (1) reasonable care was exercised to prevent and promptly correct any sexually harassing behavior, and (2) the employee (victim) failed to take advantage of the preventive and corrective opportunities provided by the employer. Additionally, in *Faragher v. City of Boca Raton*, one of the factors relied on by the U.S. Supreme Court in finding liability for harassment by a supervisor was the failure of the policy to provide an assurance to its employees that harassing supervisors may be bypassed in registering complaints.

Pursuant to Government Code 12950.1, employers with five or more employees are required to provide sex-based harassment training to supervisory and nonsupervisory employees which includes training in regard to sex discrimination. Additionally, Title IX, and its implementing regulation 34 CFR 106.8, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, requires specified training related to sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, for all district employees, as well as additional training for (1) investigators, decisionmakers, and other persons who are responsible for implementing the recipient's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures, (2) facilitators of an informal resolution process, and (3) Title IX Coordinators and designees. See the accompanying administrative regulation for timelines and training requirements.

Items #1-4 below reflect the courts' guidance, Government Code 12950.1, and 34 CFR 106.8, and should be modified to reflect district practice.

The Superintendent or designee shall take all actions necessary to ensure the prevention, investigation, and correction of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, including but not limited to:

1. Providing training to employees in accordance with law and administrative regulation
2. Publicizing and disseminating the district's sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policy to employees and others to whom the policy may apply

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Title IX and its implementing regulation 34 CFR 106.8, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, districts are required to provide a notice of nondiscrimination on the basis of sex, as specified below. For more information about the content and publication requirements for the notice of nondiscrimination, see AR 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

3. Publicizing, in accordance with 34 CFR 106.8 and as specified in Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment, a Title IX notice of nondiscrimination to employees, applicants for employment, and bargaining units
4. Ensuring prompt, thorough, fair, and equitable investigation of complaints through the appropriate state and/or federal procedures
5. Taking timely and appropriate corrective/remedial action(s), which may require interim separation of the complainant and the alleged harasser and subsequent monitoring of developments

CSBA NOTE: The following optional paragraph reflects a recommendation of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's informal guidance, "Promising Practices for Preventing Harassment," has been expanded to include sex discrimination, and may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the district's strategies to prevent and address sex discrimination and sex-based harassment. Such evaluation may involve conducting regular anonymous employee surveys to assess whether sex discrimination and/or sex-based harassment is occurring or is perceived to be tolerated, partnering with researchers or other agencies with the needed expertise to evaluate the district's prevention strategies, and using any other effective tool for receiving feedback on systems and/or processes. As necessary, changes shall be made to harassment policy(ies), complaint procedures, or training, as appropriate and in accordance with law.

Reports and Complaints

CSBA NOTE: 34 CFR 106.8, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, requires the district to designate at least one employee to coordinate its responsibilities under Title IX, who must be referred to as the Title IX Coordinator. See the accompanying administrative regulation.

Any district employee who has experienced sex discrimination or sex-based harassment in the district's education program or activity may file a complaint with the district's Title IX Coordinator. (34 CFR 106.2, 106.44)

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.44, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, a district is required to respond promptly and effectively when it has knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sex-based harassment in its education program or activity. 34 CFR 106.44 further obligates a district to require its Title IX Coordinator to monitor the district's programs and activities for barriers to reporting information of such conduct and its employees to notify the Title IX Coordinator when they have such information. The following paragraph should be revised to reflect the district's timeline.

Any employee with knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sex-based harassment by or against another district employee, a student, or a third party in a district education program or

activity shall notify the Title IX Coordinator within one workday. An employee may be subject to discipline for failure to timely report such conduct. (34 CFR 106.44)

Once notified, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure the complaint or allegation is addressed through Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.44, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, when the Title IX Coordinator is notified of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, the Title IX Coordinator is required to offer and coordinate supportive measures to the complainant. Thus, districts should not wait to respond until a "formal" complaint is made. If the district has begun grievance procedures or offered an informal resolution process to the respondent, the Title IX Coordinator is required to offer and coordinate supportive measures to the respondent, as appropriate.

The Title IX Coordinator shall offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the complainant and, if the district has begun grievance procedures or offered an informal resolution process to the respondent, offer and coordinate supportive measures to be provided to the respondent as deemed appropriate under the circumstances. (34 CFR 106.44)

CSBA NOTE: In addition to district discipline imposed on employees who engage in sex-based harassment, Government Code 12940 provides that such employees may be held personally liable in a court of law for any damage to the victim(s).

Upon investigation of a sex discrimination or sex-based harassment complaint, any district employee found to have engaged or participated in sex discrimination or sex-based harassment or to have aided, abetted, incited, compelled, or coerced another to commit sex discrimination or sex-based harassment in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with law and the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

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 References

Description

2 CCR 11006-11086	Discrimination in employment
2 CCR 11009	Employment discrimination
2 CCR 11021	Discrimination in employment - retaliation
2 CCR 11023	Harassment and discrimination prevention and correction
2 CCR 11024	Required training and education on harassment based on sex, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation
2 CCR 11034	Terms, conditions, and privileges of employment
5 CCR 4900-4965	Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary educational programs receiving state or federal financial assistance
Ed. Code 200-262.4	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 220.1	Prohibition of retaliation related to educational equity
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
Gov. Code 12900-12996	Fair Employment and Housing Act
Gov. Code 12940	Unlawful discriminatory employment practices
Gov. Code 12950	Sexual harassment
Gov. Code 12950.1	Sexual harassment training
Lab. Code 1101	Political activities of employees
Lab. Code 1102.1	Discrimination: sexual orientation

State References

Lab. Code 1197.5

Federal References

20 USC 1681-1688

29 CFR 1636

34 CFR 106.1-106.82

42 USC 2000e-2000e-17

42 USC 2000gg-2000gg-6

Management Resources References

Court Decision

Court Decision

Court Decision

Court Decision

Court Decision

Court Decision

Federal Register

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Com.
Publication

Website

Website

Website

Website

Website

Cross References

0410

0450

0450

1312.3

1312.3

1312.3-E(1)

1312.3-E(2)

1313

3530

3530

3600

4030

4030

4033

Description

Wages, hours, and working conditions

Description

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination based on sex

Implementation of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs

Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

Description

Burlington Industries v. Ellreth (1998) 118 S.Ct. 2257

Department of Health Services v. Superior Court of California (2003) 31
Cal.4th 1026

Faragher v. City of Boca Raton (1998) 118 S.Ct. 2275

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District (1998) 118 S.Ct. 1989

Meritor Savings Bank, FSB v. Vinson et al. (1986) 447 U.S. 57

Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Serv. Inc. (1998) 118 S.Ct. 998

[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](#)

Promising Practices for Preventing Harassment, November 2017

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

[California Department of Education](#)

[California Civil Rights Department](#)

[U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights](#)

[Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#)

Description

[Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities](#)

[Comprehensive Safety Plan](#)

[Comprehensive Safety Plan](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Civility](#)

[Risk Management/Insurance](#)

[Risk Management/Insurance](#)

[Consultants](#)

[Nondiscrimination In Employment](#)

[Nondiscrimination In Employment](#)

[Lactation Accommodation](#)

Cross References**Description**

4040	Employee Use Of Technology
4040-E(1)	Employee Use Of Technology
4112.9	Employee Notifications
4112.9-E(1)	Employee Notifications
4117.7	Employment Status Reports
4118	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action
4118	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action
4119.12	Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures
4119.12-E(1)	Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures
4119.21	Professional Standards
4119.21-E(1)	Professional Standards
4119.22	Dress And Grooming
4131	Staff Development
4144	Complaints
4144	Complaints
4212.9	Employee Notifications
4212.9-E(1)	Employee Notifications
4218.1	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action (Merit System)
4219.12	Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures
4219.12-E(1)	Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures
4219.21	Professional Standards
4219.21-E(1)	Professional Standards
4219.22	Dress And Grooming
4231	Staff Development
4244	Complaints
4244	Complaints
4300	Administrative And Supervisory Personnel
4300	Administrative And Supervisory Personnel
4312.9	Employee Notifications
4312.9-E(1)	Employee Notifications
4317.7	Employment Status Reports
4319.12	Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures
4319.12-E(1)	Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures
4319.21	Professional Standards
4319.21-E(1)	Professional Standards
4319.22	Dress And Grooming

Cross References

4344

4344

5145.3

5145.3

5145.7

5145.7

5145.71

5145.71-E(1)

5146

Description[Complaints](#)[Complaints](#)[Nondiscrimination/Harassment](#)[Nondiscrimination/Harassment](#)[Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment](#)[Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment](#)[Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures](#)[Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures](#)[Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students](#)