

Policy 0410: Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities

Status: ADOPTED

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CSBA NOTE: Education Code 234.1 mandates districts to adopt policy as well as a process to ensure that district programs and activities are free from unlawful discrimination.

In accordance with various provisions of state and federal law and regulation, and related court cases, discrimination in education programs and activities is unlawful when it is based on certain actual or perceived characteristics of an individual. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on race or ethnicity; ancestry; color; ethnic group identification; nationality; national origin; immigration status; sex; sexual orientation; sex stereotypes; gender; gender identity; gender expression; religion; disability; medical condition; genetic information; pregnancy, false pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or related conditions or recovery; and parental, marital, and family status. For more information specific to the protection of students against discrimination and harassment, see BP/AR 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment and BP/AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment.

Government Code 12940 provides additional protections for employees, job applicants, unpaid interns, and volunteers against unlawful discrimination and harassment on the basis of actual or perceived age; religious creed; reproductive health decision-making; sex, which includes some of the characteristics listed in the prior paragraph, as well as breastfeeding; and veteran or military status. For more information specific to the protection against discrimination as related to volunteers, see BP 1240 - Volunteer Assistance, and, as related to employees, unpaid interns, and job applicants, see BP 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment and BP 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment.

Additionally, Education Code 200 and 210.2, and Government Code 12920 and 12926, as amended by SB 1137 (Ch. 779, Statutes of 2024), provide that prohibited discrimination includes discrimination not just because of one protected class under state law, but also because of the combination of two or more protected bases.

Education Code 260 and 5 CCR 4900-4965 also require the Governing Board to monitor district compliance with these state and federal laws. The federal laws are enforced by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), and the California Department of Education (CDE) may investigate complaints regarding discrimination pursuant to 5 CCR 4600-4670.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681-1688) prohibits discrimination based on sex in district programs and activities. Although the Title IX regulations were amended by 89 Fed.Reg. 33474, effective August 1, 2024, these amendments were vacated nationwide by the United States District Court in Tennessee v. Cardona on January 9, 2025. Following this decision, OCR's February 4, 2025 Dear Colleague Letter clarified that OCR will enforce Title IX based on the regulations as they existed prior to August 1, 2024. Therefore, references in this Board policy to Title IX and its implementing regulations are to the Title IX regulations as they existed prior to August 1, 2024.

The Governing Board is committed to providing equal opportunity for all individuals in district programs and activities.

This policy shall apply to all acts related to a school activity or school attendance and to all acts of the Board and the Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the district. (Education Code 234.1)

District programs, activities, and practices shall be free from unlawful discrimination against an individual or group based on one, or a combination of two or more, protected characteristics, which include, but may not be limited to, race or ethnicity; ancestry; color; ethnic group identification; nationality; national origin; immigration status; sex; sexual orientation; sex stereotypes; gender; gender identity; gender expression; religion; religious creed; age; disability; medical condition; genetic information; pregnancy, false pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or related conditions or recovery; reproductive health decision-making; breastfeeding or related medical conditions; parental, marital, and family status; and veteran or military status; a perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. (Education Code 200, 210.1, 210.2, 212, 212.1, 220, 221.51, 230, 260; Government Code 11135, 12920, 12926, 12940; 20 USC 1681-1688, 29 USC 621, 42 USC 2000d-2000d-7, 2000e-2)

All individuals shall be treated equitably in the receipt of district and school services. Personally identifiable information collected in the implementation of any district program, including, but not limited to, student and family information for the free and reduced-price lunch program, transportation, or any other educational program, shall be used only for the purposes of the program, except when the Superintendent or designee authorizes its use for

another purpose in accordance with law. Resources and data collected by the district shall not be used, directly or by others, to compile a list, registry, or database of individuals based on any of the categories identified above.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 242, CDE has developed guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum, which are available on its website.

For more information regarding the prohibition of discrimination as it applies to textbooks, instructional materials, supplemental instructional materials, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library, see BP/AR/E(1) 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional materials, BP 6161.11 - Supplementary Instructional Materials, and BP 6163.1 - Library Media Centers. Also see CSBA's publication, "Instructional Materials Adoptions: State and local governing board processes, roles, and responsibilities," and corresponding Fact Sheet and Reference, and the California Attorney General's, "Guidance to School Officials re: Legal Requirements for Providing Inclusive Curricula and Books."

District programs and activities shall be free of any discriminatory use, selection, or rejection of textbooks, instructional materials, library books, or similar educational resources.

The use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library shall not be rejected or prohibited by the Board or district on the basis that it includes a study of the role and contributions of any individual or group consistent with the requirements of Education Code 51204.5 and 60040, unless such study would violate Education Code 51501 or 60044. (Education Code 243)

Additionally, the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library shall not be adopted by the Board or district if the use would subject a student to unlawful discrimination as specified in Education Code 220. (Education Code 244)

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 221.2-221.3, the California Racial Mascot Act, declare the use of racially derogatory or discriminatory school or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames in public schools to be contrary to providing an equal education. Specifically, Education Code 221.3, as amended by AB 3074 (Ch. 665, Statutes of 2024), prohibits public schools, except public schools operated by an Indian tribe or a tribal organization, from using the term "Redskins" as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname. Beginning July 1, 2026, Education Code 221.3, as amended by AB 3074, prohibits public schools, other than those operated by an Indian tribe or a tribal organization, from using any derogatory Native American term for school or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames without the written consent of a local federally recognized Indian tribe. Education Code 33315, as amended by AB 3074, requires that the uniform complaint procedures (UCP) be used to investigate and resolve complaints alleging a violation of Education Code 221.3. See BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

District programs and activities shall be free of any racially derogatory or discriminatory school or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames.

Derogatory Native American terms, including Apaches, Big Reds, Braves, Chiefs, Chieftains, Chippewa, Comanches, Indians, Redskins, Savages, Squaw, and Tribe, shall not be used for any school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname, unless permitted in accordance with Education Code 221.3.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually review district programs and activities to ensure the removal of any derogatory or discriminatory name, image, practice, or other barrier that may unlawfully prevent an individual or group in any of the protected categories stated above from accessing district programs and activities. The Superintendent or designee shall take prompt, reasonable actions to remove any identified barrier. The Superintendent or designee shall report the findings and recommendations to the Board after each review.

CSBA NOTE: Complaints alleging discrimination based on a violation of Education Code 243, or 244, as added by SB 153 (Ch. 38, Statutes of 2024), related to the use or prohibited use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or resource in a school library, may be brought under the district's UCP or may be filed directly with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI). Complaints that are filed directly with the SPI are required to identify the basis for doing so, and present evidence that supports the basis for the direct filing. In such cases, the SPI may directly intervene without waiting for an investigation by the district. See BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

All complaints alleging unlawful discrimination in district programs and activities shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, for students,

and Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment, for employees.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 34 CFR 104.8 and 106.8, a district that receives federal aid is required to take "continuing steps" to notify students, parents/guardians, employees, employee organizations, and applicants for admission and employment that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability or sex in its education programs or activities. Additionally, Education Code 221.61 requires districts to post specified information relating to Title IX on their websites. To ensure consistent implementation of the laws, the same notification requirement should be adopted for all the protected categories as provided in the following paragraph.

Pursuant to 34 CFR 104.8 and 106.8, the Superintendent or designee shall notify students, parents/guardians, employees, employee organizations, applicants for admission and employment, and sources of referral for applicants about the district's policy on nondiscrimination and related complaint procedures. Such notification shall be included in the annual parental notification distributed in accordance with Board Policy/Exhibit(1) 5145.6 - Parent/Guardian Notifications and, as applicable, in announcements, bulletins, catalogs, handbooks, application forms, or other materials distributed by the district. The notification shall also be posted on the district's website and social media and in district schools and offices, including staff lounges, student government meeting rooms, and other prominent locations as appropriate.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 234.7, a district is required to notify parents/guardians of their children's right to a free public education regardless of immigration status. The Attorney General's, "Promoting a Safe and Secure Learning Environment: Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's K-12 Schools in Responding to Immigration Issues," updated in December 2024, provides additional detail on this topic, which includes one appendix titled, "Know Your Educational Rights." Such notice may be included in the annual parental notification provided pursuant to Education Code 48980 or through any other cost-effective means. See BP/AR 5145.13 - Response to Immigration Enforcement and BP/E(1) 5145.6 - Parent/Guardian Notifications.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians regarding their children's right to a free public education regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs and their rights related to immigration enforcement. (Education Code 234.7)

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 48985, when 15 percent or more of students enrolled in a school speak a single primary language other than English, all notices and reports sent to the parents/guardians of these students must also be written in the primary language and may be answered by the parent/guardian in English or the primary language. Additionally, 20 USC 6311 and 6312 require that districts receiving Title I funds provide parent/guardian notices in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents/guardians understand.

The district's nondiscrimination policy and related informational materials shall be published in a format that parents/guardians can understand. Additionally, when 15 percent or more of a school's students speak a single primary language other than English, those materials shall be translated into that other language. (Education Code 48985; 20 USC 6312)

Access for Individuals with Disabilities

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its implementing regulations, district facilities must be accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. Compliance methods may include equipment redesign, reassignment of services to accessible buildings, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of services at alternate accessible sites, and alteration of existing facilities and construction of new facilities. In achieving compliance, a district need not make structural changes to existing facilities if other methods are effective, the district can demonstrate that the structural change would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the activity, or the district can demonstrate an undue financial or administrative burden. However, pursuant to 28 CFR 35.151, all newly constructed facilities must comply with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Designs issued by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

Additionally, pursuant to 28 CFR 35.136, a district is required to permit an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal on district premises when, without the animal's assistance, the individual with a disability will not be able to access or participate in a district program or activity. For language addressing this mandate, see AR 6163.2 - Animals at School. It is recommended that districts with questions about compliance with the ADA consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel as appropriate.

District programs and facilities, viewed in their entirety, shall be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and any implementing standards and/or regulations. When structural changes to existing district facilities are needed to provide individuals with disabilities access to programs, services, activities, or facilities, the

Superintendent or designee shall develop a transition plan that sets forth the steps for completing the changes.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 28 CFR 35.130 and 35.160, the ADA requires districts to provide services and aids to ensure that an individual with a disability is not excluded from participation or denied a benefit, service, or program on the basis of that disability. However, if the district can show that providing such aids and services would fundamentally alter the nature of the function, program, or meeting, or would be an undue burden, then the district need not provide them.

Additionally, Government Code 54953.2 requires that all Board meetings meet the protections of the ADA and implementing regulations (28 CFR 35.160 and 36.303). The district is required to ensure that such meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities and that disability-related accommodations, such as auxiliary aids and services, are made available upon the request of any individual with a disability. In addition, Government Code 54953 requires Boards to maintain and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the ADA, and to resolve any doubt in favor of accessibility. See BB 9320 - Meetings and Notices and BB 9322 - Agenda/Meeting Materials.

OCR has interpreted the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to include the requirement that district websites be accessible to individuals with disabilities. In April 2024, the DOJ updated its regulations to include specific technical standards to ensure that content available through a district's web and mobile applications are accessible to individuals with disabilities by April 26, 2027. For more information on website accessibility, see OCR's June 2010 and May 2011 Dear Colleague Letters, and BP 1113 - District and School Websites.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's web and mobile applications comply with technical standards prescribed by law, and as necessary, shall provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services to afford individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in or enjoy the benefits of district services, programs, or activities. These aids and services may include, but are not limited to, qualified interpreters or readers, assistive listening devices, assistive technologies or other modifications to increase accessibility to district and school websites, notetakers, written materials, taped text, and Braille or large-print materials. Individuals with disabilities shall notify the Superintendent or designee if they have a disability that requires special assistance or services. Reasonable notification should be given prior to a school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 28 CFR 35.107, a district that has 50 or more employees is required to designate at least one employee to coordinate the district's efforts to comply with the ADA. The designated employee could be the same individual or position responsible for the district's compliance with state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs as identified in the district's UCP procedures. The following paragraph, which identifies the person or position identified in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures as the responsible employee, may be modified if the district chooses to designate another person or position.

The individual identified in Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures as the employee responsible for coordinating the district's response to complaints and for complying with state federal civil rights laws is hereby designated as the district's ADA coordinator. The compliance officer shall receive and address requests for accommodation submitted by individuals with disabilities, and shall investigate and resolve complaints regarding their access to district programs, services, activities, or facilities.

(title or position)

(address)

(telephone number)

(email)
