

Policy # 12

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the District that all employees and students have a right to work or study in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, which encompasses freedom from sexual harassment. The District strongly disapproves of sexual harassment of its employees or students in any form, and states that all employees as well as students at all levels of the District must avoid offensive or inappropriate sexual or sexually harassing behavior at school, on school grounds, school functions, and on school transportation and will be held responsible for ensuring that such workplace is free from sexual harassment. Specifically, the District prohibits the following:

- Unwelcome sexual advances;
- Requests for sexual favors, whether or not accompanied by promises or threats with regard to the student-teacher, student-student or employment relationship;
- Other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature made to any employee or student that may threaten or insinuate either explicitly or implicitly that any person's submission to or rejection of sexual advances will in any way influence any decision regarding that person's employment, evaluation, wages, advancement, assigned duties, shifts, academic performance, or any other condition of employment, academic or career development;
 - Any verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature or regarding orientation or that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a person's ability to perform the individual's duties;
 - Any verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment.
 - Any verbal or physical conduct regarding gender or sexual orientation that has the purpose of creating a hostile or offensive working or academic environment.

Such conduct may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal or suspension upon instruction.

Other sexually harassing conduct in the workplace, whether physical or verbal, committed by supervisors or non-supervisory personnel or students, is also prohibited. This behavior includes but is not limited to commentary about an individual's body, sexually degrading words to describe an individual, offensive comments, off color language or jokes, innuendos, and displaying sexually suggestive objects, books, magazines, photographs, cartoons or pictures.

Employees or students who have complaints of sexual harassment by anyone in the school environment, including any supervisors, co employees, students, or visitors are urged to report such conduct to the compliance officer so that the District may investigate and resolve the problem.

If the complaint involves the compliance officer, or if the person for any reason is uncomfortable in dealing with the compliance officer, the employee or student may go to the Superintendent or a person appointed by the Superintendent to handle the complaint.

The District will endeavor to investigate all complaints as expeditiously and as professionally as possible. Where investigations confirm the allegations, appropriate corrective action will be taken.

The District will endeavor to maintain the information provided to it in the complaint and investigation process as confidentially as possible, consistent with the laws of the State and, if applicable, the collective bargaining agreement.

There will be no retaliation against employees or students for reporting sexual harassment or assisting the District in the investigation of a complaint.

The procedure to investigate any complaint shall be consistent with the Anti-Discrimination Policy (make reference to the policy adopted by the Board recommended, as amended, a copy of which is attached).

First Reading: January 18, 2017

Second Reading: February 1, 2017

BOE Adoption: