

REGULATION

TITLE IX SEX DISCRIMINATION

Title IX Coordinator

The Superintendent shall appoint an employee as the "Title IX Coordinator." If the Title IX Coordinator is the respondent, the complaint shall be filed with the Superintendent.

Title IX Coordinator:

Name/Title: Alicia Pantoja- Paraprofessional/Librarian
Address: 38128 Saguaro St.
Salome, AZ 85348
E-mail: apantoja@salomek8.org
Telephone: 928-859-3339

Response to Sex Discrimination

A recipient with knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination in its education program or activity must respond promptly and effectively.

An "education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the District exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sex discrimination occurs, and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the District.

The District's initial response to any report of sex discrimination must treat complainants and respondents equally by offering supportive measures to both and must follow the established grievance process before disciplining a respondent.

The Title IX Coordinator shall promptly:

- A. Contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures;

- B. Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures;
- C. Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures; and
- D. Explain to the complainant the process for filing a complaint.

Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive 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 complaint. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter sex discrimination. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, and other similar measures. The District shall maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

The District may remove a respondent from the District's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that the District undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sex discrimination justifies removal, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Response to a Notification of Conduct

The Title IX Coordinator must take the following actions upon being notified of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination:

- A. Treat the complainant and respondent equitably. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(i)).
- B. Offer and coordinate supportive measures, as appropriate, for the complainant. If the recipient has initiated grievance procedures or offered

an informal resolution process to the respondent, offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate, for the respondent. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(ii)).

C. Notify the complainant, or if the complainant is unknown, the individual who reported the conduct, of the grievance procedures and the informal resolution process, if available and appropriate. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(iii)(A)).

D. If a complaint is made, notify the respondent of the grievance procedures and the informal resolution process, if available and appropriate. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(iii)(B)).

E. In response to a complaint, initiate the recipient's grievance procedures or informal resolution process, if available and appropriate. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(iv)).

F. In the absence of a complaint or the withdrawal of any or all of the allegations in a complaint, and in the absence or termination of an informal resolution process, make a fact-specific determination by considering, at a minimum, eight (8) listed factors, and determining whether the conduct as alleged presents an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of a complainant or other person or prevents the recipient from ensuring equal access based on sex to its education program or activity such that the Title IX Coordinator may initiate a complaint. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(v)).

G. If the Title IX Coordinator initiates a complaint, notify the complainant prior to doing so and appropriately address reasonable concerns about the complainant's safety or the safety of others. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(vi)).

H. Regardless of whether a complaint is initiated, take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the recipient's education program or activity, in addition to providing remedies to an individual complainant. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(vii)).

If the conduct alleged does not meet the Title IX definition of sex discrimination as established in Governing Board policy, did not occur in the District's education program or activity, or did not occur against a person in the United States, then the District shall dismiss the allegations for purposes of Title IX but may still address the allegations in any manner the District deems appropriate under other District policies.

The District may dismiss a complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time:

- A. The complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the complaint or any allegations therein;
- B. The respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the District; or
- C. Specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the complaint or allegations therein.

Upon dismissal of a complaint or any allegations therein, the District shall promptly send written notice of the dismissal, including the reasons for the dismissal, simultaneously to the parties.

When investigating a formal complaint and throughout the grievance process, the District shall:

- A. Ensure that the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence rests on the District and not on the parties, except that certain treatment records cannot be obtained without voluntary, written consent of a party;
- B. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses and evidence;
- C. Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations or to gather and present evidence;
- D. Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any meeting or grievance proceeding;
- E. Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of any meeting or grievance proceeding, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate;
- F. Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation (prior to completion of the investigative report, the investigator will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, a copy of all evidence gathered during the investigation and will allow the parties at least ten (10) days to submit a written response to any of the evidence); and

G. Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least ten (10) days prior to a determination of responsibility, send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or hard copy, for their review and written response.

After the District has sent the investigative report to the parties and before reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker(s) shall afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence are offered to prove consent.

Decision-maker(s) must not have bias or conflict of interest. A decision-maker may be the Title IX Coordinator or investigator as long as there is no bias or conflict of interest.

The decision-maker(s), who cannot be the same person(s) as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s), shall apply the District's established standard of evidence and shall issue a written determination regarding responsibility that includes:

- A. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sex discrimination;
- B. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
- C. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
- D. Conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct to the facts;
- E. A statement of and rationale for the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the District imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity shall be provided by the District to the complainant; and

F. The District's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

The District shall provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

The District shall offer both parties the right to appeal from a determination regarding responsibility and from a dismissal of a complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

- A. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- B. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
- C. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias.

As to all appeals, the District shall:

- A. Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;
- B. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator;
- C. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal does not have a conflict of interest or bias;
- D. Give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;
- E. Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and
- F. Provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

The District may not require as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, waiver of the right to an investigation and adjudication of complaints of sex discrimination. However, at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding

responsibility during a complaint process, the District may facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication, provided that the District:

- A. Provides to the parties a written notice disclosing:
 - 1. The allegations;
 - 2. The requirements of the informal resolution process, provided that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process; and
 - 3. Any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that shall be maintained or could be shared;
- B. Obtains the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process; and
- C. Does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

The District shall maintain for a period of seven (7) years records of:

- A. Each sex discrimination investigation including:
 - 1. Any determination regarding responsibility;
 - 2. Any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent; and
 - 3. Any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity.
- B. Any appeal and the result therefrom;
- C. Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
- D. All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The District shall make these training materials publicly available on its website, or if the District does not maintain a website the District shall make these materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public.

The District shall create and maintain for a period of seven (7) years, records of any actions, including supportive measures taken in response to a report or complaint of sex discrimination. In each instance, the District shall document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity. If a District does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the District shall document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the District in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.