

Regional School District 17 Haddam-Killingworth

Safe School Climate Plan



Regional School District 17

SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE PLAN

The Board is committed to creating and maintaining a physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe educational environment free from bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and discrimination. In order to foster an atmosphere conducive to learning, the Board has developed the following Safe School Climate Plan, consistent with state law and Board Policy. This Plan represents a comprehensive approach to addressing bullying, cyberbullying and teen dating violence and sets forth the Board's expectations for creating a positive school climate and thus preventing, intervening, and responding to incidents of bullying and teen dating violence.

Bullying behavior and teen dating violence are strictly prohibited, and students who are determined to have engaged in such behavior are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion from school. The district's commitment to addressing bullying behavior and teen dating violence, however, involves a multi-faceted approach, which includes education and the promotion of a positive school climate in which bullying will not be tolerated by students or school staff.

I. Prohibition Against Bullying, Teen Dating Violence and Retaliation

- A. The Board expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior and teen dating violence on school grounds; at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds; at a school bus stop; on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education; or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education.
- B. The Board also prohibits any form of bullying behavior outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school;
- C. The Board further prohibits any form of teen dating violence outside of the school setting if such violence substantially disrupts the educational process;
- D. In addition to prohibiting student acts that constitute bullying, the Board also prohibits discrimination and/or retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying.
- E. Students who engage in bullying behavior or teen dating violence in violation of Board Policy and the Safe School Climate Plan shall be subject to school discipline, up to and including expulsion, in accordance with the Board's policies on student discipline, suspension and expulsion, and consistent with state and federal law.

II. Definition of Bullying

A. "Bullying" means the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral, or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same district, or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district, that:

- (1) causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property;
- (2) places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property;
- (3) creates a hostile environment at school for such student;
- (4) infringes on the rights of such student at school; or
- (5) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

B. Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, verbal or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

III. Other Definitions

A. "**Cyberbullying**" means any act of bullying through the use of the internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

B. "**Electronic communication**" means any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo-electronic or photo-optical system.

C. "**Hostile environment**" means a situation in which bullying among students is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the school climate.

D. "**Mobile electronic device**" means any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment capable of providing data communication between two or more individuals, including, but not limited to, a text messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital

assistant, a laptop computer, equipment that is capable of playing a video game or a digital video disk, or equipment on which digital images are taken or transmitted.

E. "**Outside of the school setting**" means at a location, activity or program that is not school related, or through the use of an electronic device or a mobile electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education.

F. "**Prevention and intervention strategy**" may include, but is not limited to,

- (1) implementation of a positive behavioral interventions and supports process or another evidence-based model approach for safe school climate or for the prevention of bullying identified by the Department of Education,
- (2) school rules prohibiting bullying, harassment and intimidation and establishing appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts,
- (3) adequate adult supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom and other specific areas where bullying is likely to occur,
- (4) inclusion of grade-appropriate bullying education and prevention curricula in kindergarten through high school,
- (5) individual interventions with the bully, parents and school employees, and interventions with the bullied child, parents and school employees,
- (6) school-wide training related to safe school climate,
- (7) student peer training, education and support,
- (8) promotion of parent involvement in bullying prevention through individual or team participation in meetings, trainings and individual interventions, and
- (9) culturally competent school-based curriculum focusing on social emotional learning, self-awareness and self-regulation.

G. "**School climate**" means the quality and character of school life with a particular focus on the quality of the relationships within the school community between and among students and adults.

H. "School employee" means

- (1) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or

(2) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.

I. **“School-Sponsored Activity”** shall mean any activity conducted on or off school property (including school buses and other school-related vehicles) that is sponsored, recognized or authorized by the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education.

J. **“Teen dating violence”** means any act of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, including stalking, harassing and threatening, that occurs between two students who are currently in or who have recently been in a dating relationship.

IV. Leadership and Administrative Responsibilities

A. Safe School Climate Coordinator

The Superintendent has appointed Dr. Kris Lindsay-Stevens, Director of Student Services as the District Safe School Climate Coordinator (“Coordinator”). The Coordinator shall:

- (1) be responsible for implementing the district’s Safe School Climate Plan;
- (2) collaborate with Safe School Climate Specialists, the Board, and the Superintendent to prevent, identify and respond to bullying in district schools;
- (3) provide data and information, in collaboration with the Superintendent, to the Department of Education regarding bullying; and
- (4) meet with Safe School Climate Specialists at least twice during the school year to discuss issues relating to bullying in the school district and to make recommendations concerning amendments to the district’s Plan.

B. Safe School Climate Specialist

The Principal of each school (or principal’s designee) shall serve as the Safe School Climate Specialist. The Safe School Climate Specialist shall investigate or supervise the investigation of reported acts of bullying, collect and maintain records of reports and investigations of bullying in the school and act as the primary school official responsible for preventing, identifying and responding to reports of bullying in the school.

Safe School Climate Specialists

- Haddam Killingworth High School - Adam Apicella, Assistant Principal
- Haddam Killingworth Middle School - Dolores Bates, Principal
- Haddam Killingworth Intermediate School - Eric Larson, Principal
- Burr Elementary School - Brienne Whidden, Principal
- Killingworth Elementary School - Dennis Reed, Principal

Procedures for Reporting and Investigating Complaints of Bullying

A. Students and parents (or guardians of students) may file written reports of bullying. Written reports of bullying shall be reasonably specific as to the basis for the report, including the time and place of the alleged conduct, the number of incidents, the target of the suspected bullying, and the names of potential witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any building administrator and/or the Safe School Climate Specialist (i.e. building principal or his/her designee), and all reports shall be forwarded to the Safe School Climate Specialist for review and actions consistent with this Plan.

B. Students may make anonymous reports of bullying to any school employee. Students may also request anonymity when making a report, even if the student's identity is known to the school employee. In cases where a student requests anonymity, the Safe School Climate Specialist or his/her designee shall meet with the student (if the student's identity is known) to review the request for anonymity and discuss the impact that maintaining the anonymity of the complainant may have on the investigation and on any possible remedial action. All anonymous reports shall be reviewed and reasonable action will be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that does not disclose the source of the report, and is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of bullying. No disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

C. School employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying shall orally notify the Safe School Climate Specialist, or another school administrator if the Safe School Climate Specialist is unavailable, not later than one (1) school day after such school employee witnesses or receives a report of bullying. The school employee shall then file a written report not later than two (2) school days after making such an oral report.

D. The Safe School Climate Specialist shall be responsible for reviewing any anonymous reports of bullying and shall investigate or supervise the investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports. The Safe School Climate Specialist shall also be responsible for promptly notifying the parents or guardians of the student alleged to have committed an act or acts of bullying, and the parents or guardians of the student against whom such alleged act or acts were directed, that an investigation has commenced. In order to allow the district to adequately investigate complaints filed by a student or parent/guardian, the parent of the student suspected of being bullied should be asked to provide consent to permit the release of that student's name in connection with the investigation process, unless the student and/or parent has requested anonymity.

E. In investigating reports of bullying, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegations and the ages of the students involved. The Safe School Climate Specialist will interview witnesses, as necessary, reminding the alleged perpetrator and other parties that retaliation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

VII. Responding to Verified Acts of Bullying

A. Following investigation, if acts of bullying are verified, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall notify the parents or guardians of the students against whom such acts were directed as well as the parents or guardians of the students who commit such acts of bullying of the finding not later than forty-eight (48) hours after the investigation is completed. This notification shall include a description of the school's response to the acts of bullying. In providing such notification, however, the Regional School District No. 17 Public Schools will take care to respect the statutory privacy rights of other students, including the perpetrator of such bullying. The specific disciplinary consequences imposed on the perpetrator, or personally identifiable information about a student other than the parent/guardian's own child, may not be disclosed except as provided by law.

B. In any instance in which bullying is verified, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall invite the parents or guardians of the student against whom such act was directed to a meeting to communicate the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student/victim and policies and procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying. The Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall also invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any verified act of bullying to a meeting, separate and distinct from the previously described meeting, to discuss specific interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of bullying. The invitation may be made simultaneous with the notification described above in Section VII.A.

C. If bullying is verified, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall develop a student safety support plan for any student against whom an act of bullying was directed. Such a support plan will include safety measures to protect against further acts of bullying.

D. A specific written intervention plan shall be developed to address repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual. The written intervention plan may include counseling, discipline and other appropriate remedial actions as determined by the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee and may also incorporate a student safety support plan, as appropriate.

E. Notice to Law Enforcement - If the Principal of a school (or his/her designee) reasonably believes that any act of bullying constitutes a criminal offense, he/she shall notify appropriate law enforcement. Notice shall be consistent with the Board's obligations under state and federal law and Board policy regarding the disclosure of personally identifiable student information. In making this determination, the Principal or his/her designee, may consult with the school resource officer, if any, and other individuals the principal or designee deems appropriate.

F. If a bullying complaint raises a concern about discrimination or harassment on the basis of a legally protected classification (such as race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender identity or expression), the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall also coordinate any bullying investigation with other

appropriate personnel within the district as appropriate (e.g. Title IX Coordinator, Section 504 Coordinator, etc.), so as to ensure that any such bullying investigation complies with the requirements of such policies regarding nondiscrimination.

VIII. Teen Dating Violence

A. The school strictly prohibits, and takes very seriously any instances of, teen dating violence, as defined above. The school recognizes that teen dating violence may take many different forms and may also be considered bullying and/or sexual harassment.

B. Students and parents (or guardians of students) may bring verbal or written complaints regarding teen dating violence to any building administrator. The building administrator shall review and address the complaint, which may include referral of the complaint to the Safe School Climate Specialist and/or Title IX Coordinator.

C. Prevention and intervention strategies concerning teen dating violence shall be implemented in accordance with Section X below. Discipline, up to and including expulsion, may be imposed against the perpetrator of teen dating violence, whether such conduct occurs on or off campus, in accordance with Board policy and consistent with federal and state law.

IX. Documentation and Maintenance of Log

A. Each school shall maintain written reports of bullying, along with supporting documentation received and/or created as a result of bullying investigations, consistent with the Board's obligations under state and federal law. Any educational record containing personally identifiable student information pertaining to an individual student shall be maintained in a confidential manner, and shall not be disclosed to third parties without prior written consent of a parent, guardian or eligible student, except as permitted under Board policy and state and federal law.

B. The Principal of each school shall maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in the school and this list shall be available for public inspection upon request. Consistent with district obligations under state and federal law regarding student privacy, the log shall not contain any personally identifiable student information or any information that alone or in combination would allow a reasonable person in the school community to identify the students involved. Accordingly, the log should be limited to basic information such as the number of verified acts, name of school and/or grade level and relevant date. Given that any determination of bullying involves repeated acts, each investigation that results in a verified act of bullying for that school year shall be tallied as one verified act of bullying unless the specific actions that are the subject of each report involve separate and distinct acts of bullying. The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of bullying in each school and shall not set out the particulars of each verified act, including, but not limited to, any personally identifiable student information, which is confidential information by law.

C. The Principal of each school shall report the number of verified acts of bullying in the school annually to the Department of Education in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

X. Other Prevention and Intervention Strategies

A. Bullying behavior and teen dating violence can take many forms and can vary dramatically in the nature of the offense and the impact the behavior may have on the victim and other students. Accordingly, there is no one prescribed response to verified acts of bullying or to teen dating violence. While conduct that rises to the level of “bullying” or “teen dating violence,” as defined above, will generally warrant traditional disciplinary action against the perpetrator of such bullying or teen dating violence, whether and to what extent to impose disciplinary action (e.g., detention, in-school suspension, suspension or expulsion) is a matter for the professional discretion of the building principal (or responsible program administrator or his/her designee). No disciplinary action may be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous complaint of bullying. As discussed below, schools may also consider appropriate alternatives to traditional disciplinary sanctions, including age-appropriate consequences and other restorative or remedial interventions.

B. A specific written intervention plan shall be developed to address repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual. This plan may include safety provisions, as described above, for students against whom acts of bullying have been verified and may include other interventions such as counseling, discipline, and other appropriate remedial or restorative actions as determined by the responsible administrator.

C. The following sets forth possible interventions which may also be utilized to enforce the Board’s prohibition against bullying and teen dating violence:

(1) Non-disciplinary interventions

When verified acts of bullying are identified early and/or when such verified acts of bullying do not reasonably require a disciplinary response, students may be counseled as to the definition of bullying, its prohibition, and their duty to avoid any conduct that could be considered bullying. Students may also be subject to other forms of restorative discipline or remedial actions, appropriate to the age of the students and nature of the behavior.

If a complaint arises out of conflict between students or groups of students, peer or other forms of mediation may be considered. Special care, however, is warranted in referring such cases to peer mediation. A power imbalance may make the process intimidating for the victim and therefore inappropriate. In such cases, the victim should be given additional support. Alternatively, peer mediation may be deemed inappropriate to address the concern.

When an act or acts of teen dating violence are identified, the students involved may be counseled as to the seriousness of the conduct, the prohibition of teen dating violence, and their duty to avoid any such conduct. Students may also be subject to other forms of restorative discipline or remedial actions, appropriate to the age of the students and nature of the behavior.

(2) Disciplinary interventions

When acts of bullying are verified or teen dating violence occurs, and a disciplinary response is warranted, students are subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences. Anonymous complaints of bullying, however, shall not be the basis for disciplinary action.

In-school suspension and suspension may be imposed only after informing the accused perpetrator of the reasons for the proposed suspension and giving him/her an opportunity to explain the situation, in accordance with the Board's Student Discipline policy.

Expulsion may be imposed only after a hearing before the Board of Education, a committee of the Board or an impartial hearing officer designated by the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education in accordance with the Board's Student Discipline policy. This consequence shall normally be reserved for serious incidents of bullying and teen dating violence, and/or when past interventions have not been successful in eliminating bullying behavior.

(3) Interventions for bullied students and victims of teen dating violence

The building principal (or other responsible program administrator) or his/her designee shall intervene in order to address incidents of bullying or teen dating violence against a single individual. Intervention strategies for a bullied student or victim of teen dating violence may include the following:

- (a) Referral to a school counselor, psychologist or other appropriate social or mental health service;
- (b) Increased supervision and monitoring of student to observe and intervene in bullying situations or instances of teen dating violence;
- (c) Encouragement of student to seek help when victimized or witnessing victimization;
- (d) Peer mediation or other forms of mediation, where appropriate;
- (e) Student Safety Support plan;
- (f) Restitution and/or restorative interventions; and

(g) Periodic follow-up by the Safe School Climate Specialist and/or Title IX Coordinator with the bullied student or victim of teen dating violence.

(4) General Prevention and Intervention Strategies - In addition to the prompt investigation of complaints of bullying and direct intervention when acts of bullying are verified, other district actions may ameliorate potential problems with bullying in school or at school sponsored activities. Additional district actions may also ameliorate potential problems with teen dating violence. While no specific action is required, and school needs for specific prevention and intervention strategies may vary from time to time, the following list of potential prevention and intervention strategies shall serve as a resource for administrators, teachers and other professional employees in each school. Such prevention and intervention strategies may include, but are not limited to:

(a) School rules prohibiting bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and intimidation and establishing appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts;

(b) Adequate adult supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom and other specific areas where bullying or teen dating violence are likely to occur;

(c) Inclusion of grade-appropriate bullying and teen dating violence education and prevention curricula in kindergarten through high school, which may include instruction regarding building safe and positive school communities including developing healthy relationships and preventing dating violence as deemed appropriate for older students;

(d) Individual interventions with the perpetrator, parents and school employees, and interventions with the bullied student, parents and school employees;

(e) School-wide training related to safe school climate, which training may include Title IX sex discrimination/sexual harassment prevention training, Section 504/ADA training, cultural diversity/multicultural education or other training in federal and state civil rights legislation or other topics relevant to safe school climate;

(f) Student peer training, education and support;

(g) Promotion of parent involvement in bullying prevention through individual or team participation in meetings, trainings and individual interventions;

(h) Implementation of a positive behavioral interventions and supports process or another evidence-based model approach for safe school climate or for the prevention of bullying and teen dating violence, including any such program identified by the Department of Education;

(i) Respectful responses to bullying and teen dating violence concerns raised by students, parents or staff;

(j) Planned professional development programs addressing prevention and intervention strategies, which training may include school violence prevention, conflict resolution and prevention of bullying and teen dating violence, with a focus in evidence based practices concerning same;

(k) Use of peers to help ameliorate the plight of victims and include them in group activities;

(l) Avoidance of sex-role stereotyping;

(m) Continuing awareness and involvement on the part of school employees and parents with regards to prevention and intervention strategies;

(n) Modeling by teachers of positive, respectful, and supportive behavior toward students;

(o) Creating a school atmosphere of team spirit and collaboration that promotes appropriate social behavior by students in support of others;

(p) Employing classroom strategies that instruct students how to work together in a collaborative and supportive atmosphere; and

(q) Culturally competent school-based curriculum focusing on social-emotional learning, self-awareness and self-regulation.

D. In addition to prevention and intervention strategies, administrators, teachers and other professional employees may find opportunities to educate students about bullying and help eliminate bullying behavior through class discussions, counseling, and reinforcement of socially-appropriate behavior. Administrators, teachers and other professional employees should intervene promptly whenever they observe mean-spirited student conduct, even if such conduct does not meet the formal definition of “bullying.”

E. Funding for the school-based bullying intervention and school climate improvement strategy may originate from public, private, federal or philanthropic sources.

XI. Improving School Climate

The Region 17 schools promote a secure and safe school climate, conducive to teaching and learning that is free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behavior or teen dating violence. Therefore, bullying or harassment of a student by another student is prohibited. Consistent with legislative requirements, the Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement a Safe School Climate Plan that contains the essential elements outlined in Public Act 11-232 An Act Concerning the Strengthening of School Bullying Laws. This plan also includes policies and procedures related to Sexual Harassment and Sex Discrimination. (Please see the RSD17 Safe School Climate Plan posted on each RSD17 School Website.)

XII. Annual Notice and Training

A. Students, and parents or guardians of students shall be notified annually of the process by which students may make reports of bullying.

B. The Board shall provide for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying.

C. At the beginning of each school year, each school shall provide all school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school district's safe school climate plan and require that all school employees annually complete training on the identification, prevention and response to bullying as required by law.

D. Any person appointed by the district to serve as district safe school climate coordinator shall complete mental health and first aid training offered by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

XIII. School Climate Assessments

Biennially, the Board shall require each school in the district to complete an assessment using the school climate assessment instruments, including surveys, approved and disseminated by the Connecticut State Department of Education. The Board shall collect the school climate assessments for each school in the district and submit such assessments to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222d

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222g

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222k

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222l

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 10-233a through 10-233f

Connecticut State Department of Education Circular Letter C-8, Series 2008-2009
(March 16, 2009) 6/26/2016

Are there witnesses who can provide more information regarding your report?

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

If the witnesses are not school district staff or students, please provide contact information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Have there been previous incidents that you are aware of? (check one) **Yes** **No**

If "yes", please describe the behavior of concern, the approximate dates and the location:

Were these incidents reported to school employees? (check one) **Yes** **No**

If "Yes", to whom was it reported and when?

Who: _____ When: _____

How was it reported? (circle one) **Verbal** **Written**

I verify that the above information and events are accurately depicted to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Reporter

Date Submitted

Received By

Date

Administrator’s Summary of Investigation:

(Attach investigative report if space provided below is not sufficient, and note below “See Attached.”)

Resolutions/Conclusions from the Investigation

Finding of Policy Violation **Yes** **No**

Bullying

Investigator Name/Title: _____

Investigator Signature: _____ Date: _____

District Safe School Climate Coordinator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Regional School District 17

Verified Bullying Communications (Form C)

Safe School Climate Specialist completes the following actions for verified bullying cases:

1. Notification has been made to parents of student perpetrator(s):

Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____ Meeting Date: _____

Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____ Meeting Date: _____

Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____ Meeting Date: _____

Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____ Meeting Date: _____

2. Notification has been made to parents of student target:

Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____ Meeting Date: _____

Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____ Meeting Date: _____

Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____ Meeting Date: _____

Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____ Meeting Date: _____

3. Safe School Climate Specialist has developed and implemented a Student Safety Support/Intervention Plan. Start date: _____

4. Report Submission Checklist:

____ Alleged Bullying Report and Investigation (Form A)

____ Intervention Plan (Form B) (AND file in each involved students' C file; exclude other students' names)

____ Verified Bullying Communications (Form C)

____ File the above documents in the Safe School Climate Binder

____ Complete Safe School Climate Record-Keeping Log Entry

Safe School Climate Coordinator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Regional School District 17

SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE RECORD-KEEPING LOG

Date of Receipt of Alleged Complaint	Nature of Complaint	Date Investigation Commenced	Interim Measures Needed and Afforded	Resolution
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> Sex Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Dating Violence		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date Investigation Completed: _____ Allegation Verified: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Investigation Report Completed (including findings) Date: _____ • Verified Findings Report/Letter Sent to District Safe School Climate Coordinator Date Sent: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> Sex Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Dating Violence		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date Investigation Completed: _____ Allegation Verified: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Investigation Report Completed (including findings) Date: _____ • Verified Findings Report/Letter Sent to District Safe School Climate Coordinator Date Sent: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> Sex Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Dating Violence		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date Investigation Completed: _____ Allegation Verified: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Investigation Report Completed (including findings) Date: _____ • Verified Findings Report/Letter Sent to District Safe School Climate Coordinator Date Sent: _____

School to copy blank log pages

Regional School District 17

SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE PLAN

VERIFIED ACTS OF BULLYING REPORTING LOG

School: _____ Year: _____

Verified Acts of Bullying

Month	Number of Acts Verified
September	
October	
November	
December	
January	
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	
Total Verified Acts	

Regional School District 17

SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE PLAN

COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORTING LOG

School: _____ Year: _____

Date of Allegation Report	Verified or Not

Appendix A

Series 5000
Students

5131.911(a) – P/R

BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION POLICY

The Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education is committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment that is physically, emotionally and intellectually safe and thus free from bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and discrimination. In accordance with state law and the Board's Safe School Climate Plan, the Board expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior on school grounds; at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program, whether on or off school grounds; at a school bus stop; on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education; or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by Board of Education.

The Board also prohibits any form of bullying behavior outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. Discrimination and/or retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying is likewise prohibited.

Students who engage in bullying behavior or teen dating violence shall be subject to school discipline, up to and including expulsion, in accordance with the Board's policies on student discipline, suspension and expulsion, and consistent with state and federal law. For purposes of this policy, "Bullying" means the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district, or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district, that:

- (1) causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property;
- (2) places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property;
- (3) creates a hostile environment at school for such student;
- (4) infringes on the rights of such student at school; or
- (5) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, verbal or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation,

gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

For purposes of this policy, "**Cyberbullying**" means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

For purposes of this policy, "**Teen Dating Violence**" means any act of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, including stalking, harassing and threatening, that occurs between two students who are currently in or who have recently been in a dating relationship.

Consistent with the requirements under state law, the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or his/her designee(s), along with the Safe School Climate Coordinator, to be responsible for developing and implementing a Safe School Climate Plan in furtherance of this policy. As provided by state law, such Safe School Climate Plan shall include, but not be limited to provisions which:

- (1) Enable students to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees and require students and the parents or guardians of students to be notified at the beginning of each school year of the process by which students may make such reports;
- (2) enable the parents or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying;
- (3) require school employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to orally notify the safe school climate specialist, or another school administrator if the safe school climate specialist is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school employee witnesses or receives a report of bullying, and to file a written report not later than two school days after making such oral report;
- (4) require the safe school climate specialist to investigate or supervise the investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports made under this section and that the parents or guardians of the student alleged to have committed an act or acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of the student against whom such alleged act or acts were directed receive prompt notice that such investigation has commenced;
- (5) require the safe school climate specialist to review any anonymous reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report;
- (6) include a prevention and intervention strategy for school employees to deal with bullying and teen dating violence;
- (7) provide for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying;

(8) require each school to notify the parents or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours after the completion of the investigation described in subdivision (4), above;

(9) require each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student against whom such act was directed to a meeting to communicate to such parents or guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student against whom such act was directed and policies and procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying;

(10) require each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any verified act of bullying to a meeting, separate and distinct from the meeting required in subdivision (9) above, to discuss specific interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of bullying;

(11) establish a procedure for each school to document and maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in such school and to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in such school and make such list available for public inspection, and annually report such number to the Department of Education and in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;

(12) direct the development of case-by-case interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and discipline;

(13) prohibit discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying;

(14) direct the development of student safety support plans for students against whom an act of bullying was directed that address safety measures the school will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying;

(15) require the principal of a school, or the principal's designee, to notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal, or the principal's designee, believes that any acts of bullying constitute criminal conduct;

(16) prohibit bullying (A) on school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by the local or regional board of education, and (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, or (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school;

(17) require, at the beginning of each school year, each school to provide all school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school district's safe school climate plan; and

(18) require that all school employees annually complete the training described in Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 10-220a or 10-222j.

The notification required pursuant to subdivision (8) (above) and the invitation required pursuant to subdivisions (9) and (10) (above) shall include a description of the response of school employees to such acts and any consequences that may result from the commission of further acts of bullying. Any information provided under this policy or accompanying Safe School Climate Plan shall be provided in accordance with the confidentiality restrictions imposed under the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act ("FERPA") and the district's Confidentiality and Access to Student Information policy and regulations.

The Board shall submit its Safe School Climate Plan to the State Department of Education for review and approval. Not later than thirty (30) calendar days after approval by the Department, the Board shall make such plan available on the Board's and each individual school in the school district's web site and ensure that the Safe School Climate Plan is included in the school district's publication of the rules, procedures and standards of conduct for schools and in all student handbooks.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-145a

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-145o

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-220a

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222d

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222g

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222h

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222j

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222k

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222l

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 10-233a through 10-233f 6/26/16

Appendix B

Series 5000 5145.5 P/R
Students

POLICY REGARDING TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 - PROHIBITION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT (STUDENTS)

It is the policy of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education (the “Board”) for the –Regional School District No. 17 Public Schools that any form of sex discrimination or sexual harassment is prohibited in the Board’s education programs and activities, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to substantial control by the Board. The Board does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that it operates and the Board is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations (“Title IX”) not to discriminate in such a manner. Students, Board employees and third parties are required to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of students, employees and third parties. Any student or employee who engages in conduct prohibited by this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination, respectively.

For conduct to violate this Policy, the conduct must have occurred in an education program or activity of the Board; the conduct must have occurred within the United States of America; and the complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the Board. Conduct that does not meet these requirements still may constitute a violation of another Board policy.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop Administrative Regulations implementing this Policy and in accordance with Title IX (the “Administrative Regulations”).

Sex discrimination occurs when a person, because of the person’s sex, is denied participation in or the benefits of any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- (1) An employee of the Board conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Board on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (i.e., quid pro quo);
- (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the Board’s education programs or activities; or

(3) “Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), “dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), “domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or “stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

Reporting Sex Discrimination or Sexual Harassment

It is the express policy of the Board to encourage victims of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment to report such claims. Students are encouraged to report complaints of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment promptly in accordance with the appropriate process set forth in the Administrative Regulations. The Board directs its employees to respond to such complaints in a prompt and equitable manner. The Board further directs its employees to maintain confidentiality to the extent appropriate and not tolerate any reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment. Any such reprisals or retaliation will result in disciplinary action against the retaliator, up to and including expulsion or termination as appropriate.

Any Board employee with notice of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment allegations shall immediately report such information to the building principal and/or the Title IX Coordinator, or if the employee does not work in a school building, to the Title IX Coordinator.

The Regional School District No. 17 Public Schools administration (the “Administration”) shall provide training to Title IX Coordinator(s), investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process (as set forth in the Administrative Regulations) on the definitions of sex discrimination and sexual harassment, the scope of the Board’s education program and activity, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process, and how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias. The Administration shall make the training materials used to provide these trainings publicly available on the Board’s website. The Administration shall also periodically provide training to all Board employees on the topic of sex discrimination and sexual harassment under Title IX, which shall include but not be limited to when reports of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment must be made. The Administration shall distribute this Policy and the Administrative Regulations to staff, students and parents and legal guardians and make the Policy and the Administrative Regulations available on the Board’s website to promote an environment free of sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

The Board’s Title IX Coordinator is: Dr. Kris Lindsay-Stevens, Director of Student Services. Any individual may make a report of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment directly to the Title IX Coordinator using any one, or multiple, of the following points of contact:

Regional School District No. 17
57 Little City Road, Higganum, CT 06441
Telephone #: 860-345-4244

Rights, Boston Office, U.S. Department of Education, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109-3921 (Telephone (617) 289-0111).

Legal References: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 34 C.F.R § 106.1, et seq.

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, 524 U.S. 274 (1998)

Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, 526 U.S. 629 (1999)

ADOPTED: 12/1/20

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING
TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 - PROHIBITION OF SEX
DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT (STUDENTS)**

It is the policy of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education (the “Board”) for the Regional School District No. 17 Public Schools (“the District”) that any form of sex discrimination or sexual harassment is prohibited, whether by students, District employees or third parties subject to substantial control by the Board. Students, District employees and third parties are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of students, District employees, and third parties. Any student or employee who engages in conduct prohibited by the Board’s Policy regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) shall be subject to disciplinary action. Any third party who engages in conduct prohibited by the Board’s Policy regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) shall be subject to remedial measures, which may include exclusion from school property.

Sex discrimination occurs when a person, because of the person’s sex, is denied participation in or the benefits of any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- (1) An employee of the Board conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Board on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (i.e., quid pro quo);
- (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District’s education programs or activities; or
- (3) “Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), “dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), “domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or “stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30). These definitions can be found in Appendix A of these Administrative Regulations.

Although not an exhaustive list, the following are other examples of conduct prohibited by the Board's Policy regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students):

1. Statements or other conduct indicating that a student's submission to, or rejection of, sexual overtures or advances will affect the student's grades and/or other academic progress.
2. Unwelcome attention and/or advances of a sexual nature, including verbal comments, sexual invitations, leering and physical touching.
3. Display of sexually suggestive objects, or use of sexually suggestive or obscene remarks, invitations, letters, emails, text messages, notes, slurs, jokes, pictures, cartoons, epithets or gestures.
4. Touching of a sexual nature or telling sexual or dirty jokes.
5. Transmitting or displaying emails or websites of a sexual nature.
6. Using computer systems, including email, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging or the use of social networking websites, or other forms of electronic communications, to engage in any conduct prohibited by the Board's Policy regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students).

NOTICE OF THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR

The District's Title IX Coordinator is Dr. Kris Lindsay-Stevens. Any individual may make a report of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment directly to the Title IX Coordinator using any one, or multiple, of the following points of contact

Regional School District No. 17
57 Little City Road, Higganum, CT 06441
Telephone #: 860-345-4244

The Title IX Coordinator manages the District's compliance with Title IX and is an available resource to anyone seeking information or wishing to file a formal complaint. When a student, District employee, or other participant in the District's programs and activities feels that such person has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of sex in any District program or activity, including without limitation being subjected to sexual harassment, such person may contact the Title IX Coordinator or utilize the Title IX grievance systems set forth herein to bring concerns forward for the purpose of obtaining a prompt and equitable resolution.

EXPLANATION OF COMPLAINT PROCESS AND PROCEDURE

The federal regulations implementing Title IX require the adoption and publication of two separate grievance systems: a grievance process for complaints of sex discrimination involving allegations of sexual harassment and grievance procedures for complaints of sex discrimination that are not sexual harassment. Accordingly, the Administration will process any complaints of

sex discrimination involving allegations of sexual harassment, as defined above, pursuant to the grievance process set forth in Section I of these regulations. The Administration will process any complaints of sex discrimination that are not sexual harassment pursuant to the **grievance procedures** set forth in Section II of these regulations.

The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of these Administrative Regulations, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising from these Administrative Regulations.

The obligation to comply with Title IX is not obviated or alleviated by the FERPA.

SECTION I. GRIEVANCE PROCESS FOR COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

A. Definitions

- **Bias** occurs when it is proven that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) demonstrate actual bias, rather than the appearance of bias. Actual bias includes, but is not limited to, demonstrated personal animus against the respondent or the complainant and/or prejudice of the facts at issue in the investigation.
- **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- A **conflict of interest** occurs when it is proven that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) have personal, financial and/or familial interests that affected the outcome of the investigation.
- For purposes of investigations and complaints of sexual harassment, **education program or activity** includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the Board exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs.
- **Employee** means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by the Board or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the Board.

- **Formal complaint** means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the Administration investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. A “document filed by a complainant” means 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.
- **Respondent** means an individual who has been alleged to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- **Supportive measures** means 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 formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. 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 sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, increased security and monitoring, and other similar measures.

B. Reporting Sexual Harassment

1. It is the express policy of the Board to encourage victims of sexual harassment to report such claims. Any person may report sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator. If the District receives notice of sexual harassment or alleged sexual harassment against a student in the District’s education program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, whether or not the complainant has filed a formal complaint, and will consider the complainant’s wishes with respect to such measures. If the complainant has yet to file a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will explain to the complainant the process for doing so.
2. The District will treat complainants and respondents equitably. A respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and a determination regarding responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process if a formal complaint is filed. Nothing in this Regulation shall limit or preclude the District from removing 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, and determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal. If a respondent is removed on an emergency basis, the District shall provide the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

C. Formal Complaint and Grievance Process

1. A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator. At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activity. A formal complaint may be signed by the Title IX Coordinator. If the complaint being filed is against the Title IX Coordinator, the formal complaint should be filed with the Superintendent. If the formal complaint being filed is against the Superintendent, the formal complaint should be filed with the Board Chair, who will then retain an independent investigator to investigate the matter.
2. The District may consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. If possible, formal complaints should be filed within ten (10) school days of the alleged occurrence in order to facilitate the prompt and equitable resolution of such claims. The District will attempt to complete the formal grievance process within ninety (90) school days of receiving a complaint. This timeframe may be temporarily delayed or extended in accordance with Subsection G of this Section.
3. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, if the Title IX Coordinator or designee has not already discussed the availability of supportive measures with the complainant, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will promptly contact the complainant and respondent separately to discuss the availability of such measures and consider the complainant's wishes with respect to them. The District will 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 supportive measures.
4. Within ten (10) school days of receiving a formal complaint, the District will provide the known parties with written notice of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment and a copy of this grievance process. The written notice must also include the following:
 - i. The identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known;
 - ii. The conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment as defined above;
 - iii. The date and the location of the alleged incident, if known;
 - iv. A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
 - v. A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence; and
 - vi. A statement of any provision in the District's Student Discipline Policy or any other policy that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, in the course of an investigation, the District decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the written notice, the District must provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

5. The parties may have an advisor of their choice accompany them during any grievance proceeding at which the party's attendance is required. The District may, in its discretion, establish certain restrictions regarding the extent to which an advisor may participate in the proceedings. If any such restrictions are established, they will be applied equally to all parties.

6. The Title IX Coordinator will, as applicable, promptly commence an investigation of the formal complaint, designate a school administrator to promptly investigate the formal complaint, or dismiss the formal complaint in accordance with Subsection F of this Section. The standard of evidence to be used to determine responsibility is the preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e. more likely than not). The burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on the District and not on the parties.

7. The parties will be given an equal opportunity to discuss the allegations under investigation with the investigator(s) and are permitted to gather and present relevant evidence. This opportunity includes presenting witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

8. Both parties will be given an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint, including the evidence upon which the District does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, 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 District will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have ten (10) school days to submit a written response, which the investigator(s) will consider prior to completion of the investigative report, as described in Paragraph 9 of this section.

9. The investigator(s) will create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence. The investigator(s) will send the investigative report, in an electronic format or hard copy, to each party and to each party's advisor for their review and written response at least ten (10) school days prior to the time a determination regarding responsibility is made.

10. *The Title IX regulations provide that school districts "may, but need not, provide for a hearing." If school districts choose to hold a hearing (live or otherwise), the*

regulations provide school districts significant discretion as to how to conduct such a hearing.

11. The Superintendent will appoint a decision-maker(s), who shall be a District employee or third-party contractor and who shall be someone other than the Title IX Coordinator or investigator(s). If the complaint filed is against the Superintendent, the Board Chair shall appoint the decision-maker, who shall be a District employee or third-party contractor and who shall be someone other than the Title IX Coordinator or investigator(s). The investigator(s) and the decision-maker(s) shall not discuss the investigation's facts and/or determination while the complaint is pending. The decision-maker(s) will 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 about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. The decision-maker(s) will explain to the party proposing the questions any decisions to exclude a question as not relevant.

12. The decision-maker(s) will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. The written determination will include: (1) identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment; (2) 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; (3) findings of fact supporting the determination; (4) conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct to the facts; (5) a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the District will impose on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity will be provided by the District to the complainant; and (6) the District's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal. The written determination will be provided to both parties simultaneously.

13. Student respondents found responsible for violating the Board's Policy regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Employee respondents found responsible for violating the Board's Policy regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) may be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. Other respondents may be subject to exclusion from the District's programs, activities and/or property. In appropriate circumstances, the District may make a criminal referral. Remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education programs or activities.

14. After receiving notification of the decision-maker(s)' decision, or after receiving notification that the District dismissed a formal complaint or any allegation therein, both complainant and respondent may avail themselves of the appeal process set forth in Section V of this Regulation.

D. Informal Resolution

At any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the District may suggest to the parties the possibility of facilitating an informal resolution process, such as mediation, to resolve the formal complaint without the need for a full investigation and adjudication. If it is determined that an informal resolution may be appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will consult with the parties.

Prior to facilitating an informal resolution to a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide the parties with written notice disclosing the sexual harassment allegations, the requirements of an informal resolution process, and any consequences from participating in the informal resolution process. Upon receipt of this document, complainants and respondents have five (5) school days to determine whether they consent to participation in the informal resolution. The District must obtain voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process from both parties.

Prior to agreeing to any resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint. If a satisfactory resolution is reached through this informal process, the matter will be considered resolved. If these efforts are unsuccessful, the formal grievance process will continue.

Nothing in this section precludes a student from filing a complaint of retaliation for matters related to an informal resolution, nor does it preclude either party from filing complaints based on conduct that is alleged to occur following the District's facilitation of the informal resolution. An informal resolution is not permitted to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

E. Appeal Process

After receiving notification of the decision-maker(s)' decision, or after receiving notification that the District dismissed a formal complaint or any allegation therein, both complainant and respondent have five (5) school days to submit a formal letter of appeal to the Title IX Coordinator specifying the grounds upon which the appeal is based.

Appeals will be appropriate only in the following circumstances:

- 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;
- procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual

complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter. A conflict of interest or bias does not exist solely because the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) previously worked with or disciplined the complainant or respondent.

The District will provide the other party with written notice of such appeal. Both parties will then have an opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome. Such written statement must be submitted ten (10) school days after receiving written notice of the appeal. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Superintendent shall appoint a decision-maker(s) for the appeal, who shall be someone other than the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or initial decision-maker(s). The decision-maker(s) for the appeal, in their discretion, will determine the appropriate procedure for the appeal. After considering the parties' written statements, the decision-maker(s) for the appeal will provide a written decision. If it is found that one of the basis for appeal exists, the decision-maker(s) for the appeal will issue an appropriate remedy.

Supportive measures for either or both parties may be continued throughout the appeal process.

F. Dismissal of a Formal Complaint

The Title IX Coordinator shall dismiss any formal complaint that 1) would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in these Administrative Regulations even if proved, 2) did not occur in the District's education program or activity, or 3) did not occur against a person in the United States. Such dismissal does not preclude action under another Board policy.

The District may dismiss a formal complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation or hearing a complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that 1) the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein; 2) the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed in the District; or 3) specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

Upon a dismissal, the District will promptly and simultaneously send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) therefore to each party. Either party can appeal from the District's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein using the appeals procedure.

A dismissal pursuant to this section does not preclude action by the District under the Student Discipline policy, Code of Conduct for students/or and employees, or any other applicable rule, policy, and/or collective bargaining agreement.

G. Miscellaneous

1. Any timeframe set forth in these Administrative Regulations may be temporarily delayed or extended for good cause. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; concurrent activity by the Department of Children and Families; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities. If any timeframe is altered on a showing of good cause, written notice will be provided to each party with the reasons for the action.

2. If a sexual harassment complaint raises a concern about bullying behavior, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall notify the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee who shall coordinate any bullying investigation with the Title IX Coordinator, to promote the alignment of any such bullying investigation with the requirements of applicable Board policies and state law. Additionally, if a sexual harassment complaint raises a concern about discrimination or harassment on the basis of any other legally protected classification (such as race, religion, color, national origin, age, or disability), the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall make a referral to other appropriate personnel within the District (e.g. Section 504 Coordinator, etc.), so as to ensure that any such investigation complies with the requirements of policies regarding nondiscrimination.

3. If the sexual harassment complaint results in reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected, has had a nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of such injury, is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or that a student has been sexually assaulted by a school employee, then, the person to whom the complaint is given or who receives such information shall report such matters in accordance with the Board's policy on the Reports of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect of Children.

4. Retaliation against any individual who complains pursuant to the Board's Policy regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) and these Administrative Regulations is strictly prohibited. The District will take actions designed to prevent retaliation as a result of filing a complaint. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures for sex discrimination described herein.

5. The District will maintain for a period of seven (7) years records of:

- i. Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Board's education program or activity;
- ii. Any appeal and the result therefrom;
- iii. Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
- iv. All material used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The Board will make these training materials publicly available on its website.

If the District has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an education program or activity of the Board, and for any report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, the District will create and maintain for a period of seven (7) years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. The District will 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 Board's education program or activity. If the District does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the District will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

SECTION II. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR CLAIMS OF SEX DISCRIMINATION (OTHER THAN SEXUAL HARASSMENT)

A. Definitions

- **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination.
- **Respondent** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination.

B. Reporting Sex Discrimination Other than Sexual Harassment

It is the express policy of the Board to encourage victims of sex discrimination to report such claims. Any person may report sex discrimination (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator. If the District receives notice of sex discrimination or alleged sex discrimination against a student in the District's education program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will promptly notify the complainant of the grievance process. The District will treat complainants and respondents equitably during the grievance process. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, and any incident of sexual harassment, as defined above, should be handled pursuant to Section I of these Administrative Regulations.

C. Grievance Procedures

1. As soon as a student feels that he or she has been subjected to sex discrimination other than sexual harassment, he/she or his/her parent/legal guardian should make a written complaint to the Title IX Coordinator or to the building principal, or his/her designee. The student will be provided a copy of the Board's policy and Administrative Regulations and made aware of his or her rights. Preferably, complaints should be filed within ten (10) school days of the alleged occurrence. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the investigation and resolution of such complaints.

2. The complaint should state the:

- i. Name of the complainant;
- ii. Date of the complaint;
- iii. Date(s) of the alleged discrimination;
- iv. Name(s) of the discriminator(s);
- v. Location where such discrimination occurred;
- vi. Names of any witness(es) to the discrimination;
- vii. Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged discrimination; and
- viii. Remedy requested.

3. Any student who makes an oral complaint of sex discrimination to any of the above-mentioned personnel will be provided a copy of these Administrative Regulations and will be requested to make a written complaint pursuant to the above procedure. In appropriate circumstances, such as due to the age of the student making the complaint, a parent or school administrator may be permitted to fill out the form on the student's behalf.

4. All complaints are to be forwarded immediately to the building principal or designee unless that individual is the subject of the complaint, in which case the complaint should be forwarded directly to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. In addition, a copy of any complaint filed under this policy shall be forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator. If the complaint being filed is against the Title IX Coordinator, the complaint should be filed with the Superintendent. If the complaint being filed is against the Superintendent, the complaint should be filed with the Board Chair, who will then retain an independent investigator to investigate the matter.

5. The Title IX Coordinator or designee shall investigate all complaints of sexual discrimination against a student, regardless of whether the conduct occurred on or off-school grounds. Complaints will be investigated promptly within the timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information, and other extenuating circumstances. The investigation shall be conducted discreetly, maintaining confidentiality insofar as possible while still conducting an effective and thorough investigation.

6. Any student who makes a complaint shall be notified of the District's intent to investigate the complaint. In the event the student requests confidentiality or that an investigation not be conducted, the District will take reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint to the extent possible, given the request for confidentiality or that the District not investigate the complaint. If the student insists that his/her personally identifiable information not be shared with the alleged discriminator(s), the student will be informed that the District's ability to investigate and/or take corrective action may be limited.

7. Upon receipt of a sex discrimination complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall either promptly commence an investigation of the complaint, or shall designate a school administrator to promptly investigate the complaint. The Title IX Coordinator or designee shall:

- i. offer to meet with the complainant and respondent (if applicable) separately within ten (10) school days to discuss the nature of the complaint, identify individuals the complainant and respondent (if applicable) believe have relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant and respondent may have;

- ii. provide the complainant and respondent (if applicable) with a copy of the Board's sex discrimination policy and accompanying regulations;
- iii. consider whether any interim measures may be appropriate to protect the complainant or respondent (if applicable), pending the outcome of the investigation;
- iv. conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis of the complaint, including, as applicable, conducting interviews with individuals deemed relevant to the complaint;
- v. consider whether alleged sex discrimination has created a hostile school environment, including consideration of the effects of off-campus conduct on the school;
- vi. communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant, to the respondent, and to any individual properly identified as a party to the complaint (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within ninety (90) school days from the date the complaint was received by the Superintendent's office. The investigator may extend this deadline for no more than fifteen (15) additional school days if needed to complete the investigation. The complainant and respondent (if applicable) shall be notified of such extension. The written notice shall include a finding whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify, to the extent possible, how the District will remedy the discrimination, adhering to the requirements of state and federal law; and
- vii. when sex discrimination has been found, take steps that are reasonably calculated to end the discrimination, take corrective and/or disciplinary action aimed at preventing the recurrence of the discrimination, as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or his/her designee, and take steps to remedy the effects of the sex discrimination.

8. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint. If fixed timeframes cannot be met, the complainant and respondent will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary.

9. If the complainant or respondent (if applicable) is dissatisfied with the findings of the investigation, he or she may file a written appeal within five (5) school days to the Title IX Coordinator, or, if he/she conducted the investigation, to the Superintendent of Schools, who shall review the Title IX Coordinator or designee's written report, the information collected by the Title IX Coordinator or designee together with the recommended disposition of the complaint to determine whether the alleged conduct constitutes sex discrimination. The Title IX Coordinator or Superintendent of Schools may determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. After completing this

review, the Title IX Coordinator or Superintendent of Schools shall respond to the complainant and respondent (if applicable), in writing, within fifteen (15) school days following the receipt of the written request for review.

D. Miscellaneous

1. If a sexual discrimination complaint raises a concern about bullying behavior, the Title IX Coordinator shall notify the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee who shall coordinate any bullying investigation with the Title IX Coordinator, to promote the alignment of any such bullying investigation with the requirements of applicable Board policies and state law. Additionally, if a sexual discrimination complaint raises a concern about discrimination or harassment on the basis of any other legally protected classification (such as race, religion, color, national origin, age, or disability), the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall make a referral to other appropriate personnel within the District (e.g. Section 504 Coordinator, etc.), so as to ensure that any such investigation complies with the requirements of policies regarding nondiscrimination.

2. If the sexual discrimination complaint results in reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected, has had a nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of such injury, is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or that a student has been sexually assaulted by a school employee, then, the person to whom the complaint is given or who receives such information shall report such matters in accordance with the Board's policy on the Reports of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect of Children.

3. Retaliation against any individual who complains pursuant to the Board's Policy regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) and these Administrative Regulations is strictly prohibited. The District will take actions designed to prevent retaliation as a result of filing a complaint. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures for sex discrimination described herein.

Section III. Further Reporting

At any time, a complainant alleging sex discrimination or sexual harassment may also file a formal complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office, U.S. Department of Education, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109-3921 (Telephone (617) 289-0111).

Copies of these Administrative Regulations will be distributed to all students.

Appendix A

Sexual Assault: An offense classified as forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Rape—(Except Statutory Rape) The carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of

the person's age or because of the person's temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sodomy—Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of the person's age or because of the person's temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sexual Assault with an Object—To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of the person's age or because of the person's temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Fondling—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of the person's age or because of the person's temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Incest—Nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape—Nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Dating Violence: 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 shall be determined based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the 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 grant monies, 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.

Stalking: Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

Affirmative Consent means an active, clear and voluntary agreement by a person to engage in sexual activity with another person.

For the purposes of an investigation conducted pursuant to these Administrative Regulations, the following principles shall be applied in determining whether consent for sexual activity was given and/or sustained:

A. Affirmative consent is the standard used in determining whether consent to engage in sexual activity was given by all persons who engaged in the sexual activity.

B. Affirmative consent may be revoked at any time during the sexual activity by any person engaged in the sexual activity.

C. It is the responsibility of each person to ensure that he or she has the affirmative consent of all persons engaged in the sexual activity to engage in the sexual activity and that the affirmative consent is sustained throughout the sexual activity.

D. It shall not be a valid excuse to an alleged lack of affirmative consent that the respondent to the alleged violation believed that the complainant consented to the sexual activity:

(i) because the respondent was intoxicated or reckless or failed to take reasonable steps to ascertain whether the complainant affirmatively consented, or

(ii) if the respondent knew or should have known that the complainant was unable to consent because such individual was unconscious, asleep, unable to communicate due to a mental or physical condition, unable to consent due to the age of the individual or the age difference between the individual and the respondent, or incapacitated due to the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication.

E. The existence of a past or current dating or sexual relationship between the complainant and the respondent, in and of itself, shall not be determinative of a finding of affirmative consent.

Regional School District 17

COMPLAINT FORM REGARDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT (STUDENTS)

This complaint form should be used for complaints of sexual harassment as defined on page 1 of the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

Name of the complainant _____

Date of the complaint _____

Date of the alleged sexual harassment _____

Name or names of the sexual harasser(s) _____

Location where such sexual harassment occurred _____

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the sexual harassment

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged sexual harassment

Remedy requested _____

Signature of Complainant or Title IX Coordinator: _____

Regional School District 17

COMPLAINT FORM REGARDING SEX DISCRIMINATION (OTHER THAN SEXUAL HARASSMENT) (STUDENTS)

This complaint form should be used for complaints of sex discrimination as defined on page 1 of the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

Name of the complainant _____

Date of the complaint _____

Date of the alleged sex discrimination _____

Name or names of the sex discriminator(s) _____

Location where such sex discrimination occurred _____

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the sex discrimination _____

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged sex discrimination

Remedy requested _____

Signature: _____

Regional School District 17

NOTICE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS

In accordance with the Board's Policy and Administrative Regulations Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students), a formal complaint of sexual harassment has been filed with the Title IX Coordinator.

Identities of the parties involved, if known:

_____ (Complainant(s))
_____ (Respondent(s))

The conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment:

The date and the location of the alleged incident, if known:

The Title IX Coordinator or designee will contact the parties regarding the next step in the grievance process. Questions can be directed to the Title IX Coordinator: Dr. Kris Lindsay-Stevens, Director of Student Services (Klindsay-Stevens@rsd17.org or 860-345-4244).

The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct. A determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

All parties involved may have an advisor of their choice who may be, but it is not required to be, an attorney. This advisor may inspect and review evidence as permitted by the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students).

It is a violation of the Board's Student Discipline Policy to lie to school officials or otherwise engage in dishonest behavior, which includes knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process. Any student who knowingly makes false statements or knowingly submits false information during this grievance process will be subject to sanctions pursuant to the Board's Student Discipline Policy. Any employee who knowingly makes false statements or knowingly submits false information during this grievance process is subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

A copy of the Board's Policy and Administrative Regulations Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) is included with this notice.

