



# The Middle School Transition 5th to 6th Grade

**Monday, January 3rd**

**Session 1: 9:00 AM**

**Session 2: 6:30 PM**

# Goals for Today

- Introduction to Academic and School Based Teams
- Provide parents with:
  - An overview of the Middle School Experience
  - Social and Emotional changes from Grade 5 to 6
  - Academic Expectation changes from Grade 5 to 6
  - Placement Protocols for Advanced Studies:
    - ELA
    - Math
    - Science
    - World Language

# GPS Academic Team

hi



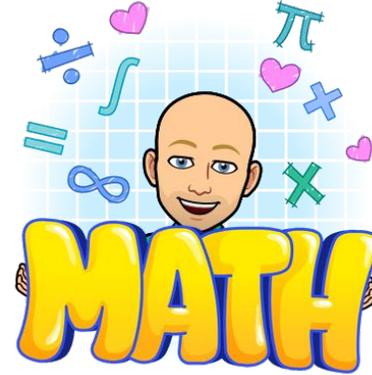
**Marc D'Amico**

Director of K-8 Curriculum & Leadership



**Dr. Benjamin Markus**

Int. Program Coordinator,  
K-8 ELA and Social Studies



**Mike Reid**

Program Coordinator,  
K-8 Mathematics



**Tara Fogel**

Program Coordinator,  
K-8 Science



**Laura Newell**

Program Coordinator,  
K-12 Art & Music



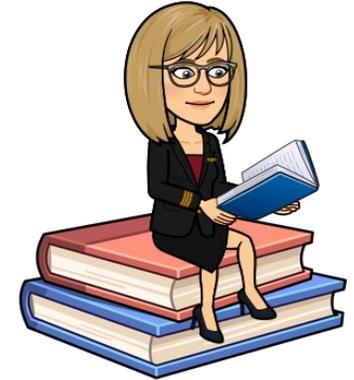
**Adriane Hirsch-Klein**

Program Coordinator,  
K-12 ESOL & World Languages



**Carrie Borcharding**

Program Coordinator,  
Special Education



**Bonnie O'Regan**

Facilitator,  
Advanced Learning Program (ALP)

# Middle School Principals and Counselors



**Gordon Beinstein**  
Principal  
Western Middle School



**Tom Healy**  
Principal  
Central Middle School



**Jason Goldstein**  
Principal  
Eastern Middle School



**Karina Magana**  
School Counselor - Grade 6  
Western Middle School



**Lesley Palange**  
School Counselor - Grade 6  
Central Middle School



**Meghan Moore**  
School Counselor - Grade 6  
Eastern Middle School

# The Middle School Experience

Middle School students undergo a great deal of growth and change

- physically
- emotionally
- socially
- intellectually

# The Middle School Experience

**Middle schools are specifically designed to both support and facilitate each child during this critical time in his or her development.**

**GPS offers educational opportunities that encompass the following:**

- A **supportive community** that is *proactive* and *responsive* to needs of the group and the individual
- An **encouraging climate** that *celebrates* appropriate risk-taking
- A **reflective environment** where we learn from our mistakes and *focus on the growth* and improvement of the *whole child*
- A **rigorous academic** offering across content areas

# Supporting Students for Success

## **Executive Functioning**

Multiple Teachers and Courses

Schedules, Lockers, Chromebooks Oh My!

Organization of Materials and Assignments

Assessment and grading.

## **Social and Emotional Learning**

Friends and Groups

Advocating for themselves

# Special Education at Middle School

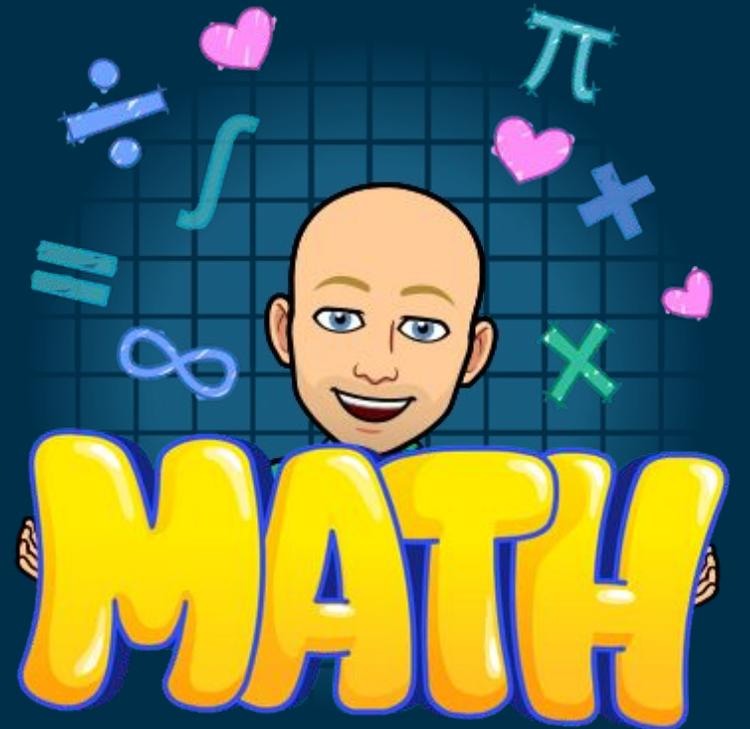
- Each Middle School has a continuum of services based on student need
- Programs are individualized through the IEP
  - Students may receive Push-in/Pull out services, Co-taught classes, small group, individual sessions, etc.
  - Support time may be built into the schedule through an Academic Lab elective period with a special education teacher
  - Related services are offered at each Middle School
  - Alternative Assessment and Curriculum options are available
- Services for each student are determined by the PPT
  - Some services may be recommended to change as the student transitions from Elementary to Middle School based on the structure of a middle school day

# Core Academics: Middle School Placement Timeline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>January 20th - February 4th, 2022</b>	Parent Input Form Live
<b>February 22nd - March 24th, 2022</b>	Additional Teacher Input, Assessments and BAC Information Gathered
<b>March 31st - April 1st, 2022</b>	Placement Letters Emailed to Parents
<b>Before April Break:</b>	Information sent to middle schools for scheduling

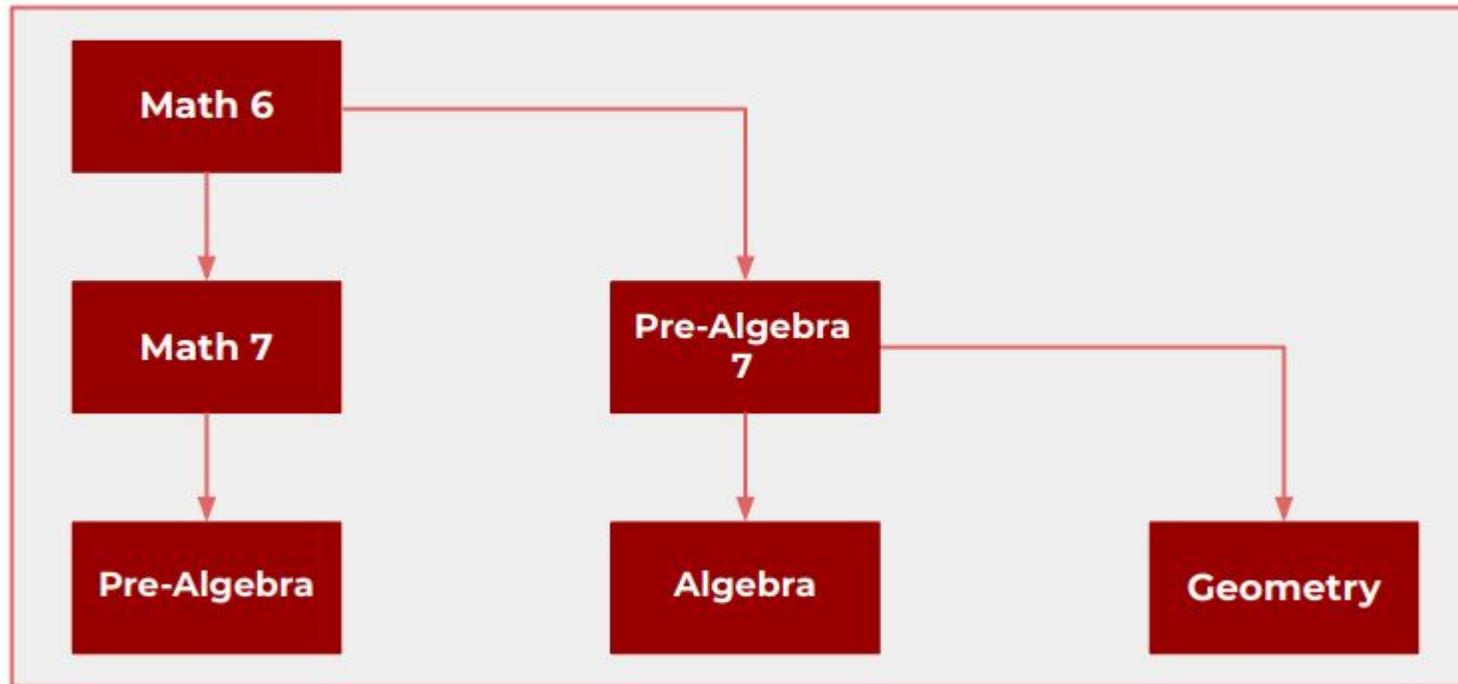
# Middle School Mathematics

Mike Reid  
K-8 Math Coordinator



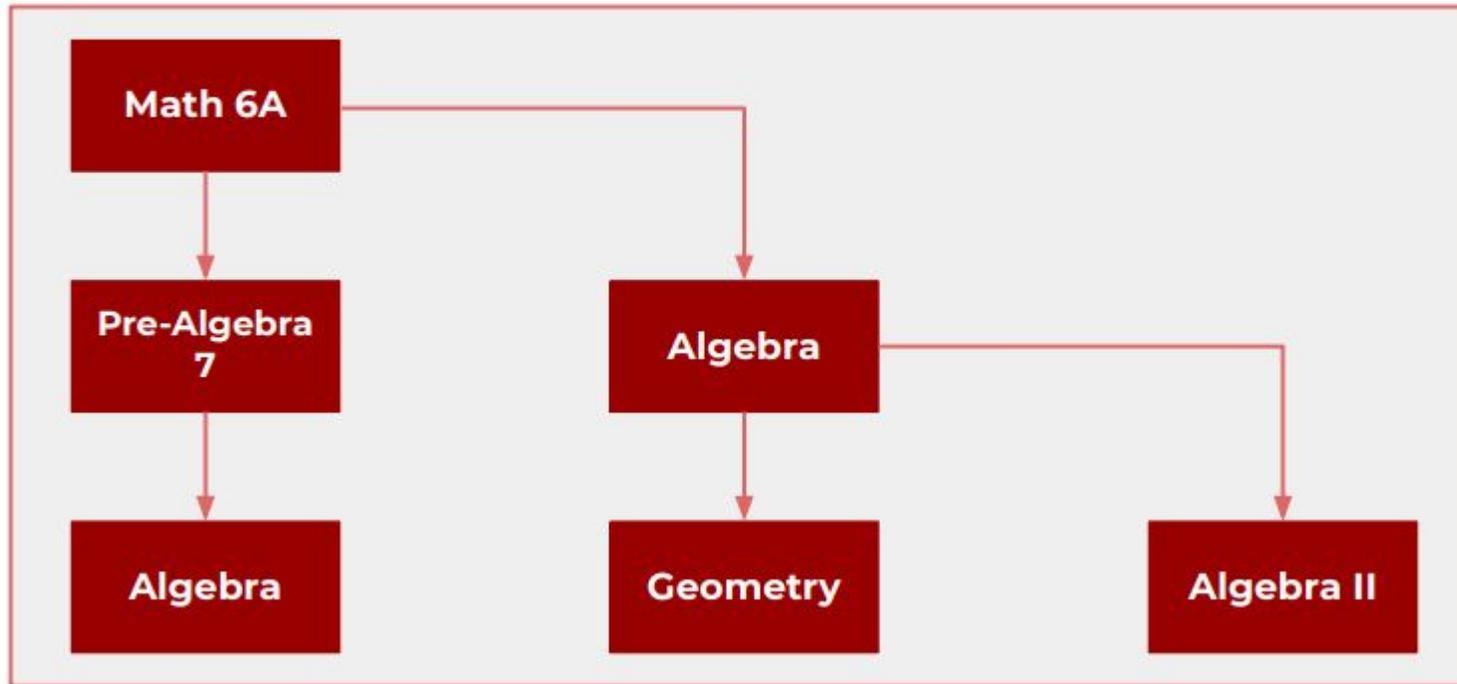
# Middle School Pathway 1: Math 6

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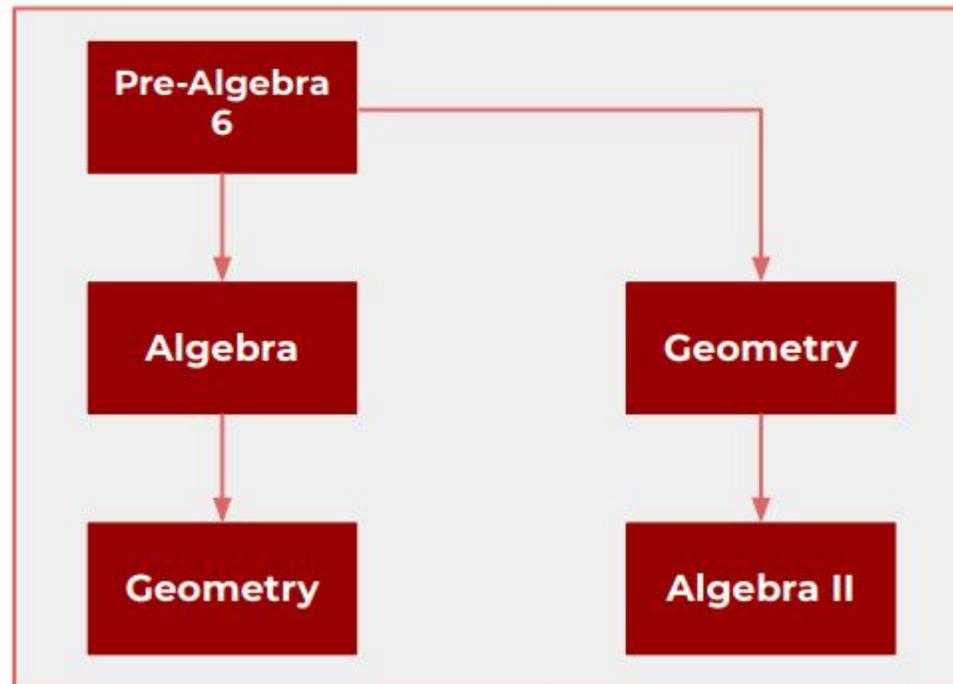
## Middle School Pathway 2: Math 6A

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## Middle School Pathway 3: Pre-Algebra 6

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# Overview of Placement Process: Math

## Key Understandings:

- We will use multiple data points to determine placement.
- District/Building administrators and teachers will collaborate to determine the appropriate math placement of each student.
- Parents will will have the opportunity weigh-in.
- Final decisions for placement will be made prior to April Break.

# Summer School Options for Acceleration

The purpose of the Bridge Program is to provide an alternative route for enrollment in Math 6A, Pre-Algebra 7, Algebra 8.

- The Bridge Program is scheduled during normal Summer School hours. The Placement Test will be given in the beginning of August with Summer School and the end of August with the Academic Office.
- Algebra 1 and Geometry will be offered for students who wish to accelerate in Middle School Math. These courses are scheduled during normal Summer School hours.
- Registration instructions will be posted on the Summer School website.

# Middle School Science

Tara Fogel  
K-8 Science Coordinator



# Middle School Science

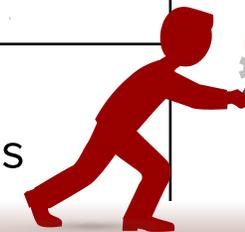
- Performance Expectations
  - Science and Engineering Practices
  - Disciplinary Core Ideas
  - Cross Cutting Concepts

4 Units Per Grade  
Embedded Project  
Modeling  
Phenomena

**Student Choice  
Opportunities for  
Extension and  
Remediation**

# Grade 6 Science

	Grade 6	Grade 6A
Curriculum Coverage & NGSS Standards	<p>NGSS Standards met in 4 units of grade level instruction.</p> <p>Performance Expectations Assessed with in middle level end band.</p>	<p>Mirrors Grade 6 Curriculum with <b>advanced resources</b> and <b>enrichment unit</b>.</p> <p>Performance Expectations Assessed with in and <b>above middle level</b> end band.</p>
Advanced Materials	<p><i>At teacher discretion to meet the needs of all students in every classroom</i></p>	<p><b>Embedded in advanced units:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Non-fiction text</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Data analysis</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assessment criteria</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Digital tool assignments</li> </ul>
Additional Enrichment	<p><i>At teacher discretion to meet the needs of all students in every classroom</i></p>	<p>Students engage in <b>one STEM experience</b> utilizing Grade 8 PEs</p>



# Science at the Middle School

	<b>On-Level students may...</b>	<b>Advanced Students may...</b>
<b>ELA and Math</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● All reading levels</li><li>● All math levels</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Consistently reading above grade level, specifically non-fiction texts</li><li>● Be in ALP Math in Grade 5 and/or recommended for 6A or above in Math.</li></ul>
<b>Interest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Students do not show increased interest or curiosity about the natural world, engineering or a desire to pursue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Shows interest or curiosity in the natural world</li><li>● Shows a propensity towards engineering or solving problems.</li></ul>
<b>Executive Functioning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Reflective and motivated with teacher prompting</li><li>● May require help complete work independently</li><li>● Student work completion matches teacher guidelines</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Intrinsically motivated and reflective without prompting</li><li>● Ability to complete work independently</li><li>● Can work at a quicker pace, generally finishes work on time or early</li></ul>

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Science Placement

**Students meet two the following three indicators:**

1. Level 3 or 4 on Grade 4 ELA SBA
2. Level 3 or 4 on Grade 4 Math SBA
3. Grade 5 Performance Recommendation based on:
  - a. Parent Input Form
  - b. Cumulative Grade 5 Science Report Card Grades
  - c. Science and Engineering Practices Look-Fors Rubric (Utilizing Grade 5 Notebooks)
  - d. Achievement on Grade 5 Unit Performance Tasks

# 7th and 8th Advanced Science Placement

Multiple on-ramps for moving into other placements throughout MS

- Teacher recommendation
- Parent Input
- Cumulative review of student work
- Consultation with school administrator and school counselor

# Middle School ELA & SS ALP English ALP Seminar



**Dr. Benjamin Markus**

K-8 ELA and Social Studies Interim Coordinator

# Middle School Curriculum: Social Studies and ELA

<b>Grade 6-8 SS</b>	<b>Grade 6-8 ELA</b>	<b>ALP English</b>	<b>ALP Seminar (Elective)</b>
<p>Connecticut Framework for Social Studies and Inquiry Standards met through on grade level instruction.</p> <p>Shared experiences across all three middle schools with common assessments.</p>	<p>Common Core Learning Standards met through on grade level instruction.</p> <p>Shared experiences across all three middle schools with common assessments.</p>	<p>A parallel course of study with...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greater depth through the rigor of lessons and differentiated activities.</li><li>• Accelerated to include above-grade level material when appropriate.</li><li>• Advanced pace of learning</li></ul> <p>Shared experiences across all three middle schools with common assessments.</p> <p>Entrance by examination, with building recommendation, and parent consent</p>	<p>An elective course open to all students that emphasizes critical thinking and research.</p> <p>Culminates in a student designed research project.</p>

# Overview of the Placement Process

## ALP English

All 5th Graders interested in being considered for 6th Grade ALP English will take three assessments:

- 1) CoGat Verbal Battery
- 2) NWEA Reading Assessment
- 3) Literacy Performance Task

Teachers and parents have the opportunity to refer students for testing.

Students that meet the requirements will be offered a placement into Middle School ALP English.

# Middle School World Language



**Adriane Hirsch-Klein**  
K - 12 WL/ESOL Coordinator



# World Language Course Sequence Guide 2020-21

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Spanish	Spanish 1A	Spanish 2A	Spanish 3A	Spanish 4H
	Spanish 1C	Spanish 2	Spanish 3	Spanish 3A Spanish 4
	Spanish 6 Native	Spanish 7 Native	Spanish 8 Native	Spanish 3/4 Native Spanish 5 Native Spanish 5H Native
French	French 1A (CMS only)	French 2A (CMS only)	French 3A (CMS only)	French 4H French 4
	French 1 Beginning	French 1 Continuing	French 2	French 3A French 3B

- Students are able to change languages in grade 9 or take the recommended course and an additional language as an elective (double up).
  - Other options: ASL, Chinese, Latin, Italian, and German.
- Students need to qualify based on specified placement criteria to enter the honors courses in grade 9.

# Overview of Placement Process: World Language

- The middle school placement process begins with students in 5th grade as we determine the appropriate 6th grade World Language placement.
- Placement will be determined using the following measures:
  - AAPPL Interpersonal Listening/Speaking Assessment (ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Language) (March, 2022)
  - One page reading comprehension/writing assessment (March 2022)
  - Average of 5th grade unit assessments (2021-2022)
  - Teacher recommendation informed by classroom performance
- **Mid-March:** Language choice google form emailed to 5th grade families to submit to Spanish or French teacher
- **Early June:** 6th grade language placement emailed to parents by Spanish or French teacher

# Students New to the District

- All students new to the district will participate in a placement process to determine appropriate placement into a Math and Science class.
- Participation in a gifted program in another school district does not automatically qualify a student for placement in ALP courses in Greenwich. However, because another district's placement process may give us enough information to make a placement decision, parents should submit the relevant documentation to the district ALP office.

# Middle School Art and Music



Laura Newell  
K-12 Arts Coordinator

# Why Arts in Middle School?

- Explicit use of the right brain ***creativity***
- Standards that support visual-spatial abilities, reflection, and self-criticism
- Support the willingness to experiment and learn from their mistakes

# Visual Arts

- Elective in each grade level
- 2D and 3D experiences
- Opportunities to enter into juried art shows
- Potential Virtual Reality Experience!

# Music

## Ensembles

### Band-Orchestra-Chorus

- *No small group lessons*
- *Smaller group classes that focus on rehearsal skills in addition to instrumental technique*
- *Opportunities to audition for Honors ensembles such as the Western Regionals Festival*
- *Additional extra curricular opportunities (musical participation, small ensembles, pop ensembles, etc)*

## General Music

### Piano-Guitar-Ukulele

- *Application of basic music skills on a pitched instrument*
- *Instrument application dependent on class and offering*
- *Opportunities for advancement of skills in each year through personalized curricula*
- *Foundational skills that can be applied in an ensemble setting if so desired!*

# Reminder: *Placement Timeline*

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# Closing Thoughts

Students that **feel successful...**

1. gain confidence and esteem, academically and socially
2. build good habits which will carry over into other areas.

**There are many opportunities to advanced and accelerate in seventh, eighth and ninth grades.**

**It is often wise to focus on making sure students have a successful transition into middle school before looking for advanced or accelerated programming.**



# Curricular and Placement Contacts

**ELA and Seminar**

Dr. Benjamin Markus

**Math**

Mike Reid

**Science**

Tara Fogel

**World Language**

Adriane Hirsch-Klein

**Art and Music**

Laura Newell

**Special Education**

Carrie Borcharding

**Advanced Studies**

Bonnie O'Regan

# Questions?

The Greenwich Public School District is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The District does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws.