

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Darien, Connecticut

SERIES 1000: COMMUNITY/BOARD OPERATIONS
POLICY 1300
NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Board of Education that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, alienage, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law is prohibited, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to the control of the Board. The Board's prohibition of discrimination or harassment in its educational programs or activities expressly extends to academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities, including athletics, as well as the district website. It is also the policy of the Board of Education to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any discrimination or harassment on the basis of protected characteristics such as race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, alienage, disability pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status.

For the purposes of this policy, "gender identity or expression" means a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose.

For the purposes of this policy, "veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, released under honorable conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition from active service in, the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard. . "Qualifying condition" means (A) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, (B) an experience of military sexual trauma disclosed to an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, or (C) a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as determined in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 27-103(c), (d).

For the purposes of this policy "race" is inclusive of ethnic traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles. "Protective hairstyles" includes, but is not limited to wigs, headwraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.

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Any individual wishing to file a complaint regarding discrimination or harassment may obtain a copy of the Board's complaint procedures and complaint form which are included in the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination. These regulations accompany Board Policy 1300 and are available online at www.darienps.org or upon request from the main office of any district school.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on reasons such as gender/sex, gender identity, sexual orientation disability or pregnancy such complaints will be handled in accordance with other appropriate policies (e.g., Policy 4118, Sex Discrimination/Harassment in the Workplace; Policy 5275 Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students); Policy 4111 Section 504/ADA (Personnel), and Policy 5125, Section 504/ADA (Students)).

Individuals also may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education ("OCR"):

Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office
U.S. Department of Education
8th Floor
5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109-3921
(617) 289-0111
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Employees may also file a complaint regarding employment discrimination or harassment with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
475 Government Center
Boston, MA 02203
(800-669-4000)

Individuals may also file a complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
450 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, CT 06103-1835
(800-477-5737)

Anyone who has questions or concerns about this policy, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations based on religion, and/or who would like a copy of the Board's complaint procedures or complaint forms related to claims of discrimination or harassment may contact:

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Marjorie Cion
Director of Human Resources
35 Leroy Avenue
Darien, CT 06/820
203-656-7406

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of gender/sex, gender identity or sexual orientation may contact the Board's Title IX Coordinator-~~is~~:

Marjorie Cion
Director of Human Resources
35 Leroy Avenue
Darien, CT 06/820
203-656-7406

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of disability and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations for a disability may contact the Board's Section 504/ADA Coordinator-:

Shirley Klein
Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services
35 Leroy Avenue
Darien, CT 06/820
203-656-7474

Legal References:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq.
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.
Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. § 621
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794
Connecticut General Statutes Sec 1-1n, "Gender Identity or Expression" defined.
Connecticut General Statutes Sec 46a-51, Definitions
Connecticut General Statutes Sec 27-103
Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 46a-58 Deprivation of
Rights
Connecticut Fair Employment Practices Act, Connecticut General Statutes
§ 46a-60
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-81a Sexual orientation discrimination:
Definitions

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Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-81c Sexual orientation discrimination:
Employment.
Public Act No 21-79 “An Act Redefining “Veteran” and Establishing a
Qualifying Review Board

ADOPTED: June 12, 2018
REVISED: January 25, 2022

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Darien, Connecticut

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING DISCRIMINATION
COMPLAINTS (COMMUNITY MEMBERS)**

It is the policy of the Darien Board of Education that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of protected characteristics such as race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status is forbidden, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to the control of the Board. Students, Board employees and third parties are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

It is the express policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any discrimination or harassment on the basis of protected characteristics such as race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, ~~or~~ gender identity or expression, or veteran status.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on reasons such as gender/sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or pregnancy, such complaints will be handled, as appropriate, in accordance with other Board policies (e.g., Policy 4118 Sex Discrimination/Harassment in the Workplace (Personnel); Policy 5275 Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students); Policy 4111 Section 504/ADA (Personnel), and Policy 5125, Section 504/ADA (Students)).

Preferably, complaints should be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the alleged occurrence. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the investigation and resolution of such complaints. The district will investigate such complaints promptly and equitably, and will take corrective action when allegations are verified.

The district will not tolerate any reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status. Any such reprisals or retaliation will result in disciplinary action against the retaliator, and other corrective actions as appropriate.

The school district will periodically provide staff development for district administrators and periodically distribute this policy and implementing Administrative Regulations to staff and students in an effort to maintain an environment free of harassment and discrimination.

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Complaint Procedure

As soon as an individual feels that he or she has been subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status he/she should make a written complaint to the Superintendent, or his/her designee. The individual and any respondent (if applicable) will be provided a copy of the Board's policy and regulation and made aware of his/her rights.

In the event the Superintendent or designee receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment based on gender/sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or pregnancy, the Superintendent or designee shall follow the procedures identified in the appropriate Board policies (e.g., Policy 4118, Sexual Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace, Policy 5275 Sex discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students); and Policy 5125 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;)

If the discrimination or harassment complaint being filed is against the Superintendent, the complaint should be filed with the Board Chair, who will take appropriate steps, such as retaining an independent investigator, to cause the matter to be investigated in a manner consistent with the Board's non-discrimination policy and regulation. If either the Superintendent or any other party to the complaint is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of the investigation, within (30) calendar days of receiving the findings, such party may present the complaint and written outcome to the Board Chair, who will take appropriate steps, such as retaining an independent investigator different from the investigator who investigated the complaint, to cause the matter to be reviewed in a manner consistent with the Board's non-discrimination policy and regulation.

The complaint should state the:

- A. Name of the complainant,
- B. Date of the complaint,
- C. Date(s) of the alleged harassment/discrimination,
- D. Name(s) of the harasser(s) or discriminator(s),
- E. Location where such harassment/discrimination occurred,
- F. Names of any witness(es) to the harassment/discrimination,
- G. Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged harassment/discrimination; and

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H. Proposed remedy.

Any individual who makes an oral complaint of harassment or discrimination will be provided a copy of this regulation and will be requested to make a written complaint pursuant to the above procedure. If an individual is unable to make a written complaint, the staff member receiving the oral complaint will either reduce the complaint to writing or assist the individual with completing the written complaint form.

All complaints received by staff members are to be forwarded immediately to the Superintendent or his/her designee. Upon receipt of a complaint alleging harassment or discrimination under this complaint procedure, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall promptly investigate the complaint. During the course of the investigation, the investigator shall interview or consult with all individuals reasonably believed to have relevant information, including the complainant, the alleged harasser/discriminator (“respondent”) and any witnesses to the conduct. 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. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible, as determined by the investigator.

Upon receipt of a written complaint of discrimination or harassment, the investigator should:

1. offer to meet with the complainant and respondent (if applicable) within ten (10) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants the complexity of the investigation and/or other extenuating circumstances) to discuss the nature of the complaint, identify individuals the complainant believes has relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant may have;
2. provide the complainant and respondent (if applicable) with a copy of the Board’s non-discrimination policy and accompanying regulations;
3. investigate the factual basis of the complaint, including, as applicable, conducting interviews with individuals deemed relevant to the complaint;
4. conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis for the complaint, including conducting interviews with individuals with information and review of documents relevant to the complaint;
5. maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable throughout the investigative process, in accordance with state and federal law;

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6. communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant and respondent (if any) (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within thirty (30) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants the complexity of the investigation and/or other extenuating circumstances) from the date the complaint was received by the Superintendent's office. The complainant and respondent (if any) shall be notified of any extension of the investigation timeline. 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 or harassment, adhering to the requirements of state and federal law;
7. 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 (if any) will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary (see sub-paragraph 6);
8. whenever allegations are verified, ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken (including, but not limited to, disciplinary action) aimed at preventing the recurrence of the harassment or discrimination. Corrective action should include steps to avoid continuing discrimination or harassment;
9. if either party to the complaint is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of the investigation, such party may present the complaint and written outcome to the Superintendent within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the findings. Upon review of a written request from the party requesting an appeal, the Superintendent shall review the investigative results of the investigator and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with a designated investigator (if applicable), complainant, and respondent (if any) and meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint, or a decision affirming or overruling a designated investigator's conclusions or findings (if applicable). The Superintendent shall provide written notice to the complainant and respondent (if any) of the proposed actions within fifteen (15) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants , the complexity of the investigation and/or other extenuating circumstances) following the receipt of the written request for review.

A complainant alleging discrimination or harassment may file a formal complaint with the Boston Office, Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109-3921 (TELEPHONE NUMBER: 617-289-0111).

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A complainant may also file a complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103-1835 (TELEPHONE NUMBER: 860-541-3400).

An employee alleging discrimination related to their employment may also file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office. John F. Kennedy Federal Building, 475 Government Center, Boston, MA 02203 (TELEPHONE NUMBER: 800-669-4000).

Anyone who has questions or concerns about these regulations, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations based on religion, may contact:

Marjorie Cion
Director of Human Resources
35 Leroy Avenue
Darien, CT 06/820
203-656-7406

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of gender/sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation may contact the Board's Title IX Coordinator:

Marjorie Cion
Director of Human Resources
35 Leroy Avenue
Darien, CT 06/820
203-656-7406

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of disability, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations for a disability, may contact the Board's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

Shirley Klein
Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services
35 Leroy Avenue
Darien, CT 06/820
203-656-7474

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DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM
(For complaints based on race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status)

Name of the complainant _____

Date of the complaint _____

Date of the alleged discrimination/harassment _____

Name or names of the discriminator(s) or harasser(s) _____

Location where such discrimination/harassment occurred _____

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the discrimination/harassment

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged discrimination or harassment _____

Proposed remedy: _____

