

## **STUDENTS**

### Administrative Regulations - Non-Discrimination - Complaints

It is the policy of the Coventry Board of Education (the "Board") 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 also the 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, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status.

Any student and/or parent/guardian 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/Students. These regulations accompany Board Policy 5122.2 Non-Discrimination, 5131 Sex **Discrimination** and Sexual Harassment, 5145 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and are available online at <http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/boe/policies> 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 under other appropriate policies (5131 Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment, 5145 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/ADA).

All other complaints by a student or parents/guardians alleging discrimination or harassment against a student on the basis of the protected characteristics listed herein should file a written complaint with:

Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services  
Coventry Public School  
1700 Main Street  
Coventry, CT 06238  
860-742-7317 x4

Preferably, complaints should be filed within thirty (30) 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 the implementing administrative regulations to staff and students in an effort to maintain an environment free of harassment and discrimination.

### Complaint Procedure

As soon as a student 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 Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services or to the building principal, or designee.

If the 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 student will be provided a copy of the Board's policy and regulation and made aware of the student's rights under this policy and regulation. In the event the Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment based on gender/sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or pregnancy, the Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services shall follow the procedures identified in the appropriate Board policies 5131 Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment, 5145 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/ADA (Students), where applicable, rather than the complaint procedures provided in this policy.

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
- H. Proposed remedy.

Any student who makes an oral complaint of harassment or discrimination to any of the above-mentioned personnel will be provided a copy of this regulation and will be requested to make a written complaint pursuant to the above procedure. If a student (or individual acting on behalf of the student) is unable to make a written complaint, the administrator receiving the oral complaint will either reduce the complaint to writing or assist the student (individual acting on behalf of the student) in completing the written complaint form.

All complaints are to be forwarded immediately to the Superintendent or designee. Upon receipt of a complaint alleging harassment or discrimination under this complaint procedure, the Superintendent shall designate a district or school administrator to 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 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/or 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;
6. Communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant (and respondent, if applicable) (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 applicable) 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 applicable) will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary (see subparagraph 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 discrimination or harassment. Corrective action should include steps to avoid continuing discrimination or harassment;
9. If the complainant (and/or respondent, if applicable) is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of the investigation, the complainant (and/or respondent, if applicable) 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 complainant (and/or respondent, if applicable), 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 the investigator and complainant (and/or respondent, if applicable), a meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint, or a decision affirming or overruling the investigator's conclusions or findings. The Superintendent shall provide written notice to the complainant (and respondent, if applicable) 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.

Any student and/or parent/guardian 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>

Any student and/or parent/guardian 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  
(860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

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

Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services  
Coventry Public School  
1700 Main Street  
Coventry, CT 06238  
860-742-7317 x2

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:

Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services  
Coventry Public School  
1700 Main Street  
Coventry, CT 06238

860-742-7317 x2

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:

Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services  
Coventry Public School  
1700 Main Street  
Coventry, CT 06238  
860-742-7317 x2

S&G 6/28/2021

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