STUDENTS

POLICY - NONDISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

This policy shall apply to all acts constituting unlawful discrimination or harassment related to school activity or to school attendance occurring within a County Education Office program, and to acts which occur off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored activities but which may have an impact or create a hostile environment at school.

The County Board and County Superintendent desire to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access to and opportunities in the County Education Office's academic, extracurricular, and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The County Board and County Superintendent prohibit, at any County Education Office program or school activity, unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, targeted at any student by anyone, based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct based on any of the categories listed above. Unlawful discrimination also occurs when prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

Unlawful discrimination also includes disparate treatment of students based on one of the categories above with respect to the provision of opportunities to participate in school programs or activities or the provision or receipt of educational benefits or services.

The County Superintendent also prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who reports or otherwise participates in the reporting of unlawful discrimination, files or participates in the filing of a complaint, or investigates or participates in the investigation of a complaint or report alleging unlawful discrimination. Retaliation complaints shall be

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investigated and resolved in the same manner as a discrimination complaint.

The County Superintendent or designee shall facilitate students' access to the educational program by publicizing the County Education Office's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures to students, parents/guardians, and employees. In addition, the County Superintendent or designee shall post the County Education Office’s policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying and other required information on the County Education Office’s website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students, in accordance with law and the accompanying regulation.

The County Superintendent or designee shall provide training and/or information on the scope and use of the policy and complaint procedures and take other measures designed to increase the school community’s understanding of the requirements of law related to discrimination. The County Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the implementation of the County Education Office’s nondiscrimination policies and practices and, as necessary, shall take action to remove and identified barrier to student access to or participation in the County Education Office’s educational program. The County Superintendent’s designee shall report the findings and recommendations to the County Superintendent after each review.

Regardless of whether a complainant complies with the writing, timeline, and/or other formal filing requirements, all complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, shall be investigated and prompt action taken to stop the discrimination, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students.

Students who engage in unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, in violation of law, Board policy, or administrative regulation shall be subject to appropriate consequence or discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion when the behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code 48900.4. Any employee who permits or engages in prohibited discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Record-Keeping

The County Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, to enable the County Education Office to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive prohibited behavior in County Education Office programs.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

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48900.3 Suspension or expulsion for act of hate violence
48900.4 Suspension or expulsion for threats or harassment
48904 Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct
48907 Student exercise of free expression
48950 Freedom of speech
48985 Translation of notices
49020-49023 Athletic programs
49060-49079 Student records
51500 Prohibited instruction or activity
51501 Prohibited means of instruction
60044 Prohibited instructional materials

CIVIL CODE
1714.1 Liability of parents/guardians for willful misconduct of minor

GOVERNMENT CODE
11135 Nondiscrimination in programs or activities funded by state

PENAL CODE
422.55 Definition of hate crime
422.6 Crimes, harassment

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
432 Student record
4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures
4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29
794 Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
2000d-2000e-17 Title VI and Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended
2000h-2-2000h-6 Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
6101-6107 Age Discrimination Act of 1975
12101-12213 Title II equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28
35.107 Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
99.31 Disclosure of personally identifiable information
100.3 Prohibition of discrimination on basis of race, color or national origin
104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504
106.8 Designation of responsible employee for Title IX
106.9 Notification of nondiscrimination on basis of sex
110.25 Prohibition of discrimination based on age

COURT DECISIONS

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Non-Discrimination and Harassment – Board Policy 5145.3
Updated Legal Guidance: Protecting Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students Against Sex Discrimination, March 2017

CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS
Promoting a Safe and Secure Learning Environment for All: Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's K-12 Schools in Responding to Immigration Issues, April 2018

FIRST AMENDMENT CENTER PUBLICATIONS
Public Schools and Sexual Orientation: A First Amendment Framework for Finding Common Ground, 2006

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS
Dear Colleague Letter: Title IX Coordinators, April 2015
Resolution Agreement Between the Arcadia Unified School District, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, and the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, (2013) OCR 09-12-1020, DOJ 169-12C-7
Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010
Notice of Non-Discrimination, Fact Sheet, August 2010

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS
Dealing with Legal Matters Surrounding Students' Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, 2004

WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
California Safe Schools Coalition: http://www.casafeschools.org
First Amendment Center: http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr

ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARD: March 13, 2014
REVISED: September 7, 2017, December 11, 2020