

*[Note: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]*

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that equal educational opportunity is provided for all students of the school district.

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The policy of the school district is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students. The school district does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or age. The school district also makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities.

*[Note: Part of the definition of “sexual orientation” within the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA) is “having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one’s biological maleness or femaleness,” which is how gender identity and expression gain protection under the MHRA. Minn. Stat. § 363A.03, Subd. 44.]*

B. The school district prohibits the harassment of any individual for any of the categories listed above. For information about the types of conduct that constitute violation of the school district’s policy on harassment and violence and the school district’s procedures for addressing such complaints, refer to the school district’s policy on harassment and violence.

C. The school district prohibits discrimination of students with a disability, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”), who need services, accommodations, or programs in order to receive a free appropriate public education. For information as to protections that may apply pursuant to Section 504 and the school district’s corresponding procedures for addressing disability discrimination complaints, refer to the school district’s policy on student disability nondiscrimination (Policy 536).

D. The school district prohibits sexual harassment discrimination of any individual on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities. For information as to the protections that apply pursuant to Title IX and school district’s corresponding procedures and processes for addressing sexual harassment and discrimination, refer to the school district’s policy on Title IX sex nondiscrimination (Policy 510).

E. This policy applies to all areas of education including academics, coursework, co-curricular and extracurricular activities, or other rights or privileges of enrollment.

- F Every school district employee shall be responsible for complying with this policy conscientiously.
- G. Any student, parent or guardian having a question regarding this policy should discuss it with the Director of Administration & Human Resources or the Director of Special Education. In the absence of a specific designee, an inquiry or a complaint should be referred to the Superintendent.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 121A.03, Subd. 2 (Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.* (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)  
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)

**Cross References:** Disability Nondiscrimination Policy 432  
Harassment and Violence Policy 425  
Student Disability Nondiscrimination Policy 536  
Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process Policy 510

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