LENAPE TECHNICAL SCHOOL

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: NONDISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES

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103. NONDISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES

1. Authority
SC 1310
Title VI
Title IX
20 U.S.C.
Sec. 794
34 CFR
104.31-37
42 U.S.C.
Sec. 12101 et seq
Title 22
Sec. 4.4, 12.4

The Joint Operating Committee declares it to be the policy of this school to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the school without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability.

The Joint Operating Committee also declares it to be the policy of this school to comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. Such discrimination shall be referred to throughout this policy as Title IX sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the school may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The school is committed to the maintenance of a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination by providing all students course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment and extracurricular activities without any form of discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment. Discrimination is inconsistent with the rights of students and the educational and programmatic goals of the school and is prohibited at or, in the course of school-sponsored activities, including transportation to or from the school or school-sponsored activities.

Violations of this policy, including acts of retaliation as described in this policy, or knowingly providing false information, may result in disciplinary consequences under applicable Joint Operating Committee policy and procedures.

The Joint Operating Committee directs that the foregoing statement of Joint Operating Committee policy be included in each student and staff handbook, and that this policy and related attachments be posted to the school's website.

The Joint Operating Committee requires a notice stating that the school does not discriminate in any manner, including Title IX sexual harassment, in any school education program or activity, to be issued to all students, parents/guardians,

employment applicants, employees and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the school. All discrimination notices and information shall include the title, office address, telephone number and email address of the individual(s) designated as the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator.

Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination and Retaliation

The Joint Operating Committee encourages students and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to Title IX sexual harassment, other discrimination or retaliation to promptly report such incidents to the building administrator, even if some elements of the related incident took place or originated away from school grounds, school activities or school conveyances. A person who is not an intended victim or target of discrimination but is adversely affected by the offensive conduct may file a report of discrimination.

The student's parents/guardians or any other person with knowledge of conduct that may violate this policy is encouraged to immediately report the matter to the building administrator.

A school employee who suspects or is notified that a student has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy shall immediately report the incident to the building administrator, as well as properly making any mandatory policy or child protective services reports required by law.

If the building administrator is the subject of a complaint, the student, third party or a reporting employee shall report the incident directly to the Title IX Coordinator.

The complainant or the individual making the report may use the Discrimination/Sexual Harassment/Bullying/Hazing/Dating Violence/Retaliation Report Form attached to this policy for purposes of reporting an incident or incidents in writing; however, verbal reports of an incident or incidents shall be accepted, documented, and the procedures of this policy and the relevant attachments followed.

The building administrator shall promptly notify the Title IX Coordinator of all reports of discrimination, Title IX sexual harassment or retaliation. The Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant regarding the report to gather additional information as necessary, and to discuss the availability of supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator shall consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall conduct an assessment to determine whether the reported circumstances are most appropriately addressed through the Discrimination Complaint Procedures prescribed in Attachment 2 to this policy, or if the reported circumstances meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment and are most appropriately addressed through the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and

	Grievance Process for Formal Complaints in Attachment 3, or other Joint Operating Committee policies. The parent/guardian of the complainant and respondent (if a student) shall be notified by the building Administrator. <u>Disciplinary Procedures When Reports Allege Title IX Sexual Harassment</u> When a report alleges Title IX sexual harassment, disciplinary sanctions may not be imposed until the completion of the grievance process for formal complaints outlined in Attachment 3. The school shall presume that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination has been made at the completion of the grievance process for formal complaints. When an emergency removal, as described in Attachment 3, is warranted to address an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of an individual, and it is not feasible to continue educational services remotely or in an alternative setting, the normal procedures for suspension and expulsion shall be conducted to accomplish the removal, including specific provisions to address a student with a disability where applicable. When an emergency removal is not required, disciplinary sanctions shall be considered in the course of the Title IX grievance process for formal complaints. Following the issuance of the written determination and any applicable appeal, any disciplinary action specified in the written determination or appeal decision shall be implemented in accordance with the normal procedures for suspensions, expulsions or other disciplinary actions, including specific provisions to address a student with a disability where applicable.
2. Confidentiality	Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a report and the investigation related to any form of discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment, shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy, the attachments and the school's legal and investigative obligations.
3. Retaliation	The Joint Operating Committee prohibits retaliation by the school or any other person against any person for: Reporting or making a formal complaint of any form of discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment.

	Testifying, assisting, participating or refusing to participate in a related investigation, process or other proceeding or hearing. Acting in opposition to practices the person reasonably believes to be discriminatory. The school, its employees and others are prohibited from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or discriminating against anyone for actions described above. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator immediately if retaliation is believed to have occurred.
4. Definitions	Complainant shall mean an individual who is alleged to be the victim. Respondent shall mean an individual alleged to be the perpetrator of the discriminatory conduct. <u>Discrimination</u> Discrimination shall mean to treat individuals differently, or to harass or victimize based on a protected classification including race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or handicap/disability. Harassment is a form of discrimination based on the protected classifications listed in this policy consisting of unwelcome conduct such as graphic, written, electronic, verbal or nonverbal acts including offensive jokes, slurs, epithets and name-calling, ridicule or mockery, insults or put-downs, offensive objects or pictures, physical assaults or threats, intimidation, or other conduct that may be harmful or humiliating or interfere with a person's school or school-related performance when such conduct is: 1. Sufficiently sever, persistent or pervasive; and 2. A reasonable person in the complainant's position would find that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment such that it deprives or adversely interferes with or limits an individual or group of the ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or opportunities offered by the school.

	Definitions Related to Title IX Sexual Harassment Formal complaint shall mean a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Title IX sexual harassment and requesting that the school investigate the allegation under the grievance process for formal complaints. The authority for the Title IX Coordinator to sign a formal complaint does not make the Title IX Coordinator a party in the grievance process for formal complaints. The phrase "document filed by a complainant" refers to a document or electronic submission that contains the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint. Supportive measures shall mean non-disciplinary, nonpunitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed.

Supportive measures shall be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the educational program or activity without reasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the educational environment, or to deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

a. Counseling
b. Extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments.
c. Modifications of work or class schedules.
d. Campus escort services.
e. Mutual restrictions on contact between the parties.
f. Changes in work or housing locations.
g. Leaves of absence.
h. Increased security.
i. Monitoring of certain areas of the campus.
j. Assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs.
k. Assistance from community health resources including counseling resources.

Supportive measures may also include assessments or evaluations to determine eligibility for special education or related services, or the need to review an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Service Agreement based on a student's behavior. This could include, but is not limited to, a manifestation determination or functional behavioral assessment (FBA), in accordance with applicable law, regulations or Joint Operating Committee policy, and in coordination with the student's school district of residence.

Title IX sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A school employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct, commonly referred to as quid pro quo sexual harassment.
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to a school education program or activity.
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking.
    a. **Dating violence** means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and where the existence of such a relationship is determined by the following factors:
        i. Length of relationship.
        ii. Type of relationship.
        iii. Frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

	b. **Domestic violence** includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated wit the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving federal funding, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction. c. **Sexual assault** means a sexual offense under state or federal law that is classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. d. **Stalking**, under Title IX means stalking on the basis of sex, for example when the stalker desires to date a victim. Stalking means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to either: i. Fear for their safety or the safety of others. ii. Suffer substantial emotional distress. Such conduct must have taken place during a school education program or activity and against a person in the United States to qualify as sexual harassment under Title IX. An education program or activity include the locations, events or circumstances over which the school exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the harassment occurs. Title IX applies to all of a school's education programs or activities, whether such programs or activities occur on-campus or off-campus.
5. Delegation of Responsibility	In order to maintain a program of nondiscrimination practices that is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the Joint Operating Committee shall maintain a Compliance Officer and a Title IX Coordinator. The same individual may fulfill both roles. The Joint Operating Committee designates the Autumn Weleski as the school's Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator can be contacted at: Address: 2215 Chaplin Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226 Email: weleaut@lenape.k12.pa.us Phone Number: 724.763.5920 The Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator shall fulfill designated responsibilities to ensure adequate nondiscrimination procedures are in place, to

	recommend new procedures or modifications to procedures and to monitor the implementation of the school's nondiscrimination procedures in the following areas, as appropriate: 1. Curriculum and Materials - Review of curriculum guides, textbooks and supplemental materials for discriminatory bias. 2. Training – Provide training for students and staff to prevent, identify and alleviate problems of discrimination. 3. Resources – Maintain and provide information to staff on resources available to complainants in addition to the complaint procedure or Title IX procedures, such as making reports to the police, available supportive measures such as assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs and community health resources including counseling resources.
Title 22 Sec. 4.27	4. Student Access - Review of programs, activities and practices to ensure that all students have equal access and are not segregated except when permissible by law or regulation. 5. School Support - Assure that like aspects of the school programs and activities receive like support as to staff size and compensation, facilities, equipment and related matters. 6. Student Evaluation - Review of assessments, procedures, and guidance and counseling materials for stereotyping and discrimination. 7. Reports/Formal Complaints – Monitor and provide technical assistance to individuals involved in managing informal reports or formal complaints.
1. Guidelines	<u>Title IX Sexual Harassment Training Requirements</u> The Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or any individual designated to facilitate an informal resolution process related to Title IX sexual harassment shall receive the following training, as required or appropriate to their specific role: a. Definition of sexual harassment. b. Scope of the school's education program or activity, as it pertains to what is subject to Title IX regulations. c. How to conduct an investigation and grievance process for formal complaints, including examination of evidence, conducting hearings (if applicable), drafting written determinations, handling appeals and informal resolution processes, as applicable. d. How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest and bias. e. Use of relevant technology.

f. Issues of relevance including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.
g. Issues of relevance, weight of evidence and application of standard of proof and drafting investigative reports that fairly summarize relevant evidence.
h. How to address complaints when the alleged conduct does not qualify as Title IX sexual harassment but could be addressed under another complaint process or Joint Operating Committee policy.

All training materials shall promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of Title IX sexual harassment without relying on sex stereotypes.

All training materials shall be posted on the school's website.

Disciplinary Consequences

A student who is determined to be responsible for violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include but is not limited to:

a. Loss of school privileges.
b. Permanent transfer to another building, classroom or bus.
c. Exclusion from school sponsored activities.
d. Detention.
e. Suspension.
f. Expulsion.
g. Referral to law enforcement officials.

An employee who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with applicable Joint Operating Committee policy, collective bargaining agreement and individual contract, up to and including dismissal and/or referral to law enforcement officials.

Reports of Discrimination

Any reports of discrimination that are reviewed by the Title IX Coordinator and do not meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment but are based on race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability shall follow the Discrimination Complaint Procedures in Attachment 2 of this policy.

Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment

Any reports deemed by the Title IX Coordinator to meet the definition of sexual harassment under the Title IX shall follow the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints in Attachment 3 to this policy.

Legal References

1. 22 PA Code 12.1
2. 22 PA Code 12.4
3. 22 PA Code 15.1 et seq
4. 22 PA Code 4.4
5. 24 P.S. 1301-A
6. 24 P.S. 1310
7. 24 P.S. 1601-C et seq
8. 24 P.S. 5004
9. 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq
10. 29 U.S.C. 794
11. 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq
12. 42 U.S.C. 1981 et seq
13. 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq
14. 43 P.S. 951 et seq
15. Pol. 103.1
16. Pol. 218
17. Pol. 247

Pol. 249
U.S. Const. Amend. XIV, Equal Protection Clause
29 CFR 1604.11
29 CFR 1606.8
Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, 526 U.S. 629 (1999)
Franklin v. Gwinnett County Public Schools, 503 U.S. 60 (1992)
Office for Civil Rights – Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students or Third Parties (January 2001)
Office for Civil Rights - Guidance on Schools' Obligations to Protect Students from Student-on-Student Harassment on the Basis of Sex; Race, Color and National Origin; and Disability (Oct. 26, 2010)
Pol. 806
18 Pa. C.S.A. 2709
Pol. 815
28 CFR Part 35
28 CFR Part 41
34 CFR Part 100
34 CFR Part 104
34 CFR Part 106
34 CFR Part 110
Pol. 122
Pol. 123
Pol. 70