Established 1915
BROWARD
County Public Schools

STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

WHAT IS HARASSMENT?

Harassment is unwelcome behavior about a student's age, color, disability, gender, national origin, gender identification, marital status, race, religion, or sexual orientation that interferes with the student's ability to learn, study, achieve, or participate in school activities. This behavior can be verbal, written, or physical.

Some people think that harassment is just part of growing up or playing around, but harassment is against the law, School Board Policy and the Principles of Character Education. It makes a student feel humiliated, scared, confused, and angry. Harassment because of a person's age, color, disability, gender, national origin, marital status, race, religion, or sexual orientation shows lack of respect for fellow students and should not be ignored or accepted. The law and School Board policy applies to everyone. Teachers, administrators, coaches, volunteers, cafeteria staff, and students as well as others, are all prohibited from harassing students. You and/or your parents should tell school officials that you are being harassed, so that appropriate action can be taken.

EXAMPLES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

Examples of Sexual Harassment include but are not limited to:

- Unwanted touching, such as pinching, patting, grabbing, poking, or rubbing against a student's body.
- Displaying or distributing sexually explicit drawings, pictures, and written material.
- Making a student participate in sexual conduct as a condition of taking part in school activities or getting an education.
- Telling or passing around sexual or "dirty" jokes.

  Touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activities in front of others.

OTHER FORMS OF HARASSMENT:

Examples of other forms of harassment include:

- Derogatory comments or insults pertaining to a student's age, color, disability, gender, national origin, gender identification, marital status, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Slurs, slang, jokes, or other negative labels that have been attached to the student relating to his/her age, color, disability, gender, national origin, marital status, race, religion, orsexual orientation.
- Derogatory pictures or material.
- Mocking an accent or speech impairment.
- Making fun of a mental or physical impairment.
- Using school computers and e-mail to transmit, store, download, or display material that is obscene, discriminatory, or offensive. "Bullying" (verbal or physical threats/assault) another student because of his/her age, color, disability, gender, national origin, marital status, race, religion, or sexual orientation. Pressure to try drugs and sexting or texting inappropriate pictures, jokes, material, etc.

HOW TO STOP IT?

TELL (IN WRITING OR ORALLY) THE PERSON WHO IS HARASSING YOU TO STOP

It's important to let the person know that you do not like what he/she is doing. The person may not realize how hurtful the behavior is and may need a clear message from you about how it makes you feel.

TALK TO A FRIEND OR SOMEONE YOU TRUST ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AND HOW YOU ARE FEELING

Discussing it with a friend can make you feel better and give you ideas on how to stop the harassment.

TELL YOUR PARENTS OR AN ADULT YOU CAN TRUST ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING.

Sometimes you will need to involve your parents or another adult to get the harassment to stop. Don't keep what's happening a secret from the people who can help you.

TELL YOUR TEACHER OR PRINCIPAL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING

You and/or your parents should tell school officials that you are being harassed, so that appropriate action can be taken.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP?

Students who have experienced harassment or have witnessed others being harassed must contact their Principal or the following resources, and/or agencies for assistance:

Wladimir G. Alvarez
Assistant Director, Equal Educational Opportunities/ ADA Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
754-321-2150
Office for Civil Rights
800-368-1019
Broward County Schools Police
754-321-0725
Equal Educational
Opportunities/ADA Compliance
600 SE 3rd Avenue, 14th Floor
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Phone: (754) 321-2150 Fax: (754) 321-2714

If you believe you are being harassed, you have the right to file a complaint and expect it to be fully investigated in a timely manner.
The right of confidentiality, of both the complainant and the accused, will be protected in accordance with federal and state laws.

Refer to your Code of Student Conduct Handbook and Policy 4001.1 for additional information on Harassment.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. The School Board also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Director, Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department & District's Equity Coordinator/Title IX Coordinator at 754-321-2150.
Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, (ADAAA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities/ ADA Compliance Department at 754-321-2150.
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