

Personnel/Students

Sexual Harassment/Title IX

The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees (the “Board”) prohibits any form of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to substantial control by the Board. It is the policy of the Board to maintain a working environment free from harassment, insults or intimidation on the basis of an employee's sex and free from discrimination based on sex.

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that it operates, and the Board is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations (“Title IX”), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VII”), and Connecticut law not to discriminate in such a manner. Discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex includes discrimination or harassment on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. Any employee or student who engages in conduct prohibited by this Policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination or expulsion, respectively. Third parties who engage in conduct prohibited by this Policy shall be subject to other sanctions, which may include exclusion from Academy property and/or activities. Individuals who engage in acts of sex discrimination or sexual harassment may also be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

Sex discrimination occurs when an employer refuses to hire, disciplines or discharges any individual, or otherwise discriminates against an individual with respect to his or her compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment on the basis of the individual's sex. Sex discrimination also occurs when a person, because of the person's sex, is denied participation in or the benefits of any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

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

- (1) An employee of The Academy conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Board on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (*i.e., quid pro quo*);
- (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 The Academy's education programs or activities; or
- (3) “Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), “dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), “domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or “stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

Sexual harassment under Title VII and Connecticut law means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
- (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
- (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Reporting Sex Discrimination or Sexual Harassment

The Academy encourages victims of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment to report such claims. Employees are encouraged to report complaints of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment promptly in accordance with the appropriate process outlined in the handbook. All complaints are to be responded to in a prompt and equitable manner.

Individuals who engage in acts of sex discrimination or sexual harassment may also be subject to civil and criminal penalties. Retaliation against any employee with a complaint about sex discrimination or sexual harassment is prohibited under this Policy and illegal under state and federal law.

Any Academy employee with notice of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment allegations shall immediately report such information to an administrator and/or the Title IX Coordinator, or if the employee does not work in a school building, to the Title IX Coordinator.

The Academy administration (the “Administration”) shall provide training to Title IX Coordinator(s), investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The training shall include, but need not be limited to, the definition of sex discrimination and sexual harassment, how to conduct an investigation and implement the grievance process, and how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.

The Administration shall make the training materials used to provide these trainings publicly available when requested. The Administration shall also periodically provide training to all Academy employees on the topic of sex discrimination and sexual harassment under Title IX, Title VII, and Connecticut law, which shall include when reports of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment must be made. The Administration shall distribute this Policy to employees, students, parents and legal guardians and via the handbooks and the website.

The Board’s Title IX Coordinator is Assistant Head of School Amy Favreau. Any individual may make a report of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment to any Academy employee or directly to the Title IX Coordinator using any one, or multiple, points of contact.

Any Academy employee in receipt of allegations of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, or in receipt of a formal complaint, shall immediately forward such information to the Title IX Coordinator. Academy employees may also make a report of sexual harassment and/or sex discrimination to the U.S. Department of Education: Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office, U.S. Department of Education, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109-3921 (Telephone: 617-289-0111).

Employees may also make a report of sexual harassment and/or sex discrimination to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103-1835 (Telephone: 860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number: 1-800-477-5737).

Legal References:

Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(a).
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Policy Guidance on Current Issues of Sexual Harassment (N-915.050), March 19, 1990.
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681, et seq.
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 34 CFR §106, et seq.
Meritor Savings Bank, FSB v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986)
Conn. Gen. Stat. §46a-54 Commission powers Connecticut
Conn. Gen. Stat. §46a-60 Discriminatory employment practices prohibited.
Conn. Gen. Stat. §46a-81c Sexual orientation discrimination: Employment
Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-153 Discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity or expression or marital status prohibited
Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 46a-54-200 through §46a-54-207

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The Woodstock Academy
Woodstock, Academy