

NON-DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

The Governing Board desires to provide a welcoming, safe and supportive school environment that allows all students equal access to and opportunities in the district's academic, extracurricular, and other educational support programs, services, and activities.

This policy shall apply to all acts constituting unlawful discrimination or harassment related to district activity or attendance, to acts which occur off campus or outside of district-related or district-sponsored activities but which may have an impact or create a hostile environment at school, and to all acts of the Board and the Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the District.

The Board prohibits, at any District school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, against an individual or group based on any protected characteristic(s), which include, but may not be limited to, race or ethnicity; ancestry; color; ethnic group identification; nationality; national origin; immigration status; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender expression; or genetic information; pregnancy, false pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or related conditions or recovery; and parental, marital, and family status; a perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. (Education Code 200, 210.1, 210.2, 212, 212.1, 220, 221.51, 230, 260; Government Code 11135, 12926; 20 USC 1681-1688, 42 USC 2000d-2000d-7)

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 district programs or activities or the provision or receipt of educational benefits or services.

Because unlawful discrimination could occur when disciplining students, including suspension and expulsion, the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent shall ensure that staff enforce discipline rules fairly, consistently and in a non-discriminatory manner, as specified in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144 - Discipline, Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process, and Administrative Regulation 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities).

The Board also prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who reports or participates in the reporting of unlawful discrimination, files or participates in the filing of a complaint, or investigates, participates, or refuses to participate in the investigation of a complaint or report alleging unlawful discrimination. Retaliation complaints shall be investigated and resolved in the same manner as a discrimination complaint.

The Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent shall facilitate students' access to the educational program by publicizing the district's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures to students, parents/guardians, and employees. In addition, the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent shall post the district's policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying and other required information on the district's website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students, in accordance with law and the accompanying Administrative Regulation. (Education Code 234.1, 234.6; 34 CFR 106.8)

The Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent shall provide training and/or information on the scope and use of the policy complaint procedures and take other measures designed to increase understanding of the requirements of law related to discrimination. The Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent shall regularly review the implementation of the district's nondiscrimination policies and practices and, as necessary, shall take action to remove any identified barrier to student access to or participation in the district's educational program. The Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent shall report the findings and recommendations to the Board 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.

When a student has been suspended, or other means of correction have been implemented against the student for an incident of racist bullying, harassment, or intimidation, the principal or designee may engage both the victim and perpetrator in a restorative justice practice suitable to the needs of the students. The principal or designee may also require the perpetrator to engage in a culturally sensitive program that promotes racial justice and equity and combats racism and ignorance and regularly check on the victim to ensure that the victim is not in danger of suffering from any long-lasting mental health issues. (Education Code 48900.5)

When appropriate based on the severity or pervasiveness of the bullying, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of victims and perpetrators and may contact law enforcement.

Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination in district programs and activities shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, when required by law. However, complaints alleging sexual harassment under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures.

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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.

Record-Keeping

The Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent shall maintain a record of all reported cases of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive prohibited behavior in district school.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Grievance Procedures

The following position is designated Coordinator for Non-discrimination to handle complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies:

Matthew La Belle
Assistant Superintendent Human Resources
Title IX; 504 Plans
1800 Solar Drive Oxnard, CA 93030
805-385-2500

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees) (cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

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Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Original Adopted: 04/11/2001

Revised/Approved: 10/15/2025