County Board Policy 5145.7: Sexual Harassment

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/18/2024 | **Last Revised Date:** 09/17/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/17/2025

The county office of education (COE) does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its programs or activities and complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations.

The COE is committed to maintaining a welcoming, safe, and supportive school environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. Sexual harassment, as defined in the accompanying exhibit, targeted at any student, is prohibited.

Additionally, retaliatory behavior or action against any person who reports, files a complaint, testifies about, assists with, or otherwise supports a complainant in alleging sexual harassment, or otherwise participates or refuses to participate in the complaint process established for the purpose of this policy is prohibited. (Education Code 220.1, 221.8; 34 CFR 106.71)

Students who feel that they are being or have experienced sexual harassment, on COE grounds or at a COE-sponsored or COE-related activity, or off-campus when the conduct has a continuing effect on campus, are strongly encouraged to immediately contact their teacher, the principal or program administrator, the COE's Title IX Coordinator, or any other available school employee.

Any employee who receives a report or observes an incident of sexual harassment by or against a student in a COE education program or activity shall report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator within one workday.

Once notified, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure that the complaint alleging sexual harassment is addressed through Exhibit (1) 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures or County Board Policy/Exhibit (1) 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, as applicable. Additionally, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure that any implementation of Exhibit (1) 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures concurrently meets the requirements of County Board Policy/Exhibit (1) 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall offer and coordinate supportive measures to the complainant and respondent, as deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed of this policy in the manner specified in the accompanying exhibit.

All COE staff shall be trained regarding this policy, and that employees required to receive training related to their duties under Title IX receive training as specified in 34 CFR 106.45. (Government Code 12950.1; 2 CCR 11023, 11024; 34 CFR 106.45)

Instruction/Information

All COE students shall receive age-appropriate information on sexual harassment. Such instruction and information shall include:

1. What acts and behavior constitute sexual harassment, including the fact that sexual harassment could occur between people of the same sex and could involve sexual violence

2. A clear message that students do not have to endure sexual harassment under any circumstance

3. Encouragement to report observed incidents of sexual harassment even when the alleged victim of the harassment has not complained

4. A clear message that student safety is the COE's primary concern, and that any separate rule violation involving an alleged victim or any other person reporting a sexual harassment incident will be addressed separately and will not affect the manner in which the sexual harassment complaint will be received, investigated, or resolved

5. A clear message that, regardless of a complainant's noncompliance with the writing, timeline, or other formal filing requirements, every sexual harassment allegation that involves a student, whether as the complainant, respondent, or victim of the harassment, shall be investigated and action shall be taken to respond to the harassment, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students

6. Information about the COE's procedures for investigating complaints and the person(s) to whom a report of sexual harassment should be made

7. Information about the rights of students and parents/guardians to file a civil or criminal complaint, as applicable, including the right to file a civil or criminal complaint while the COE investigation of a sexual harassment complaint continues

8. A clear message that, when needed, the COE will implement supportive measures to ensure a safe school environment for a student who is the complainant or victim of sexual harassment and/or other students during an investigation

Disciplinary Actions

Upon completion of an investigation of sexual harassment, any student found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual violence in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4-12, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion pursuant to Education Code 48900.2, provided that, in imposing such discipline, the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account.

Record-Keeping

Records shall be maintained in accordance with law, including in accordance with Exhibit (1) 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures, and COE policies and regulations, of all reported cases of sexual harassment to enable the COE to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in COE schools.