

Sexual Harassment

The Governing Board prohibits sexual harassment of district employees and job applicants. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against district employees or other persons who complain, testify or otherwise participate in the complaint process, established pursuant to this policy and the administrative regulation.

The Long Beach Unified School District will not tolerate or condone any type of harassment. It is the policy of the District to provide a workplace and working environment in which harassment based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital status, or any other legally protected characteristic, is not permitted. It shall be the responsibility of each administrator, line manager or office supervisor to ensure the work environment is free of harassment and that all employees are aware of the Board Policy and Administrative Regulations regarding harassment. Violations of this harassment policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

According to Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidelines, sexual harassment is an act of discrimination on the basis of sex within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Sexual harassment is similarly construed within the meaning of Title IX of the Education Amendments pertaining to academic life. In accordance with Title VII and Title IX, the District defines sexual harassment including same-sex harassment as follows:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic status, (2) submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for an employment decision or academic decision affecting that person, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or learning environment.

Employees who permit or engage in such harassment may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

The Superintendent or designee shall take all actions necessary to ensure the prevention, investigation and correction of sexual harassment, including but not limited to:

1. Providing training to all staff regarding the district's sexual harassment policy in accordance with law and administrative regulation, particularly the procedures for filing complaints and employees' duty to use the district's complaint procedures.
2. Publicizing and disseminating the district's sexual harassment policy to staff.
3. Ensuring the prompt, thorough and fair investigation of complaints.

4. Taking timely and appropriate corrective/remedial actions. This may require interim separation of the complainant and the alleged harasser, and subsequent monitoring of developments.

All complaints and allegations of sexual harassment shall be kept confidential to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation or take subsequent necessary action. (5 CCR 4964)

Any district employee or job applicant who feels that he/she has been sexually harassed, or who has knowledge of any incident of sexual harassment by or against another employee, a job applicant or a student, shall immediately report the incident to his/her supervisor, the principal, district administrator or Superintendent.

A supervisor, principal or other district administrator who receives a harassment complaint shall promptly notify the Superintendent or designee.

Complaints of sexual harassment shall be filed in accordance with AR 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment. An employee may bypass his/her supervisor in filing a complaint where the supervisor is the subject of the complaint.

Any district employee who engages or participates in sexual harassment, or who aids, abets, incites, compels or coerces another to commit sexual harassment against a district employee, job applicant or student, is in violation of this policy and is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE
200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex
GOVERNMENT CODE
12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act, especially:
12940 Prohibited discrimination
12950.1 Sexual harassment training
LABOR CODE
1101 Political activities of employees
1102.1 Discrimination: sexual orientation
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2
7287.8 Retaliation
7288.0 Sexual harassment training and education
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs receiving state financial assistance
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
2000d-2000d-7 Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended
2000e-2000e-17 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended
2000h-2000h-6 Title IX, 1972 Education Act Amendments
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
106.9 Dissemination of policy
COURT DECISIONS
Department of Health Services v. Superior Court of California, (2003) 31 Cal.4th 1026

Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, (1998) 118 S.Ct. 2275
Burlington Industries v. Ellreth, (1998) 118 S.Ct. 2257
Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, (1998) 118 S.Ct. 1989
Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Serv. Inc., (1998) 118 S.Ct. 998
Juarez v. Ameritech Mobile Systems, (N.D. Ill.) 746 F.Supp. 798
Dornhecker v. Malibu Grand Prix Corp., (5th Cir. 1987) 828 F.2d. 307
Meritor Savings Bank, FSB v. Vinson et. al., (1986) 447 U.S. 57

Management Resources:

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS
GENERAL

Protecting Students from Harassment and Hate Crimes, January 1999

WEBSITES

California Department of Fair Employment and Housing: <http://www.dfeh.ca.gov>

Equal Opportunity Commission: <http://www.eeoc.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR>

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LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT