

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff
Code	104
Status	First Reading

Authority

The Joint Operating Committee declares it to be the policy of this school to provide to all persons equal access to all categories of employment in this school, regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, **gender identity, gender expression**, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, pregnancy or handicap/disability. The school shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)

The Joint Operating Committee also declares it to be the policy of this school to comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. Such discrimination shall be referred to throughout this policy as Title IX sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the school may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both. This policy prohibits individuals from knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX complaint and/or grievance process. Any employee found to have violated this prohibition may be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal.

The Joint Operating Committee directs that the foregoing statement of Joint Operating Committee policy be included in each student and staff handbook, and that this policy and related attachments be posted to the school's website.

The Joint Operating Committee requires a notice stating that the school does not discriminate in any manner, including Title IX sexual harassment, in any school education program or activity, to be issued to all students, parents/guardians, employment applicants, employees and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the school. All discrimination notices and information shall include the title, office address, telephone number and email address of the individual(s) designated as the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator.

The attachments referenced in this Policy 104 are hereby incorporated into this Policy as if fully set forth herein.

Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination and Retaliation

The Joint Operating Committee encourages employees and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to **Title IX sexual harassment, other discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation** to promptly report such incidents to **the building administrator, other administrator, Director of Human Resources/Personnel or the Title IX Coordinator. A person who is not an intended victim or target of discrimination but is adversely affected by the offensive conduct may file a report of discrimination.**

If the building administrator or other administrator is the subject of a complaint, the complainant or the individual making the report shall submit the report of the incident directly to the Director of Human Resources/Personnel and/or the Title IX Coordinator.

The complainant or **the individual making the report may use the Discrimination/Sexual Harassment/Retaliation Report Form attached to this policy for purposes of reporting an incident or incidents in writing**; however, **verbal reports of an incident or incidents** shall be accepted, documented and the procedures of this policy and the relevant attachments followed.

If a report of Discrimination/Sexual Harassment/Retaliation under this Policy relates to a school employee, the building administrator (or any other school employee who received the report) shall promptly notify the Director of Human Resources/Personnel and Title IX Coordinator of all reports of discrimination, Title IX sexual harassment or retaliation.

If the report involves potential sexual harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant regarding the report to gather additional information as necessary, and to discuss the availability of supportive measures for the complainant. The Title IX Coordinator shall consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures.

The Title IX Coordinator shall conduct an assessment of the information supplied by the reporter and/or complainant to determine whether the reported circumstances, if presumed to be true, could constitute Title IX sexual harassment or retaliation. The Title IX Coordinator may consult with the Director of Human Resources/Personnel and/or legal counsel when making this determination. If the reported circumstances, if presumed to be true at this point in the process, meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment, they shall be addressed through the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints in Attachment 3. (Also refer to Attachment 3 on how to proceed if/when the complainant refuses to sign a Title IX formal complaint and is requesting that a formal complaint under Title IX not be filed by the Title IX Coordinator.)

If the reported circumstances, even if presumed to be true, do not meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment, they may be addressed through the Discrimination Complaint Procedures prescribed in Attachment 2 to this policy.

Disciplinary Procedures when Reports Allege Title IX Sexual Harassment

When a report alleges Title IX sexual harassment, disciplinary sanctions may not be imposed until the completion of the grievance process for formal complaints outlined in Attachment 3. The school shall presume that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination has been made at the completion of the grievance process for formal complaints.

Administrative Leave –

The school may elect to place an employee accused of discrimination, harassment, retaliation or other prohibited behavior on administrative leave pending further investigation, consistent with all rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and in accordance with state law and regulations, Joint Operating Committee policy and an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual contract.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a **report, and the investigation related to any form of discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment, shall be handled in accordance with **applicable law, regulations, this policy, the attachments** and the school's legal and investigative obligations.**[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)

Retaliation

The Joint Operating Committee prohibits retaliation by **the school** or any other person against any person for: [\[16\]](#)

1. Reporting **or making a formal complaint** of **any form of** discrimination **or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment.**
2. **Testifying, assisting,** participating **or refusing to participate** in a related investigation, **process or other proceeding** or hearing.
3. **Acting in opposition to** practices the person reasonably believes to be discriminatory.

The school, its employees and others are prohibited from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or discriminating against anyone for actions described above. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator immediately if they believe retaliation has occurred.

Definitions

Complainant shall mean an individual who is alleged to be the victim.

Respondent shall mean an individual alleged to be the perpetrator of the discriminatory conduct.

Discrimination

Discrimination shall mean to treat individuals differently, or to harass or victimize based on a protected classification including race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, **gender identity, gender expression, genetic information,** ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, **or** handicap/disability.

Harassment is a form of discrimination based on the protected classifications listed in this policy consisting of unwelcome conduct such as graphic, written, electronic, verbal or nonverbal acts including offensive jokes, slurs, epithets and name-calling, ridicule or mockery, insults or put-downs, offensive objects or pictures, physical assaults or threats, intimidation, or other conduct that may be harmful or humiliating or interfere with a person's school or school-related work performance, including when: [\[9\]](#)

1. Submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an employee's status; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment-related decisions affecting an employee; or
3. Such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that a reasonable person in the complainant's position would find that it unreasonably interferes with the complainant's performance at work or otherwise creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment such that it alters the complainant's working conditions.

Definitions Related to Title IX Sexual Harassment

Formal complaint shall mean a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Title IX sexual harassment and requesting that the school investigate the allegation under the grievance process for formal complaints. The authority for the Title IX Coordinator to sign a formal complaint does not make the Title IX Coordinator a party in the grievance process for formal complaints. The phrase "document filed by a complainant" refers to a document or electronic submission that contains the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint. [\[15\]](#)[\[18\]](#)

Supportive measures shall mean nondisciplinary, nonpunitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed.[\[18\]](#)

Supportive measures shall be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the educational program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the educational environment, or to deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:[\[18\]](#)

1. Counseling or Employee Assistance Program.
2. Extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments.
3. Modifications of work or class schedules.
4. Campus escort services.
5. Mutual restrictions on contact between the parties.
6. Changes in work locations.
7. Leaves of absence.
8. Increased security.
9. Monitoring of certain areas of the campus.
10. Assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs.
11. Assistance from community health resources including counseling resources.

Title IX sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:[\[18\]](#)

1. A school employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct, commonly referred to as *quid pro quo sexual harassment*.
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 a school education program or activity.
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking.
 - a. **Dating violence** means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and where the existence of such a relationship is determined by the following factors:[\[19\]](#)
 - i. Length of relationship.
 - ii. Type of relationship.
 - iii. Frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
 - b. **Domestic violence** includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with

or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving federal funding, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.[\[19\]](#)

- c. **Sexual assault** means a sexual offense under state or federal law that is classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.[\[20\]](#)
- d. **Stalking**, under Title IX means stalking on the basis of sex, for example when the stalker desires to date a victim. Stalking means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to either:[\[19\]](#)

- i. **Fear for their safety or the safety of others.**

- ii. **Suffer substantial emotional distress.**

Such conduct must have taken place during a school education program or activity and against a person in the United States to qualify as sexual harassment under Title IX. An education program or activity includes the locations, events or circumstances over which the school exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the harassment occurs. Title IX applies to all of a school's education programs or activities, whether such programs or activities occur on-campus or off-campus.[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[18\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

In order to maintain a program of nondiscrimination practices that is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the Joint Operating Committee designates the **Administrative Services/Human Resources Coordinator as the school's Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator for staff. The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator for staff can be contacted at:** [\[21\]](#)

Address: 8500 Oliver Road, Erie, PA 16509

Email: stafftitleixcoordinator@ects.org

Phone Number: 814-464-8660

The Compliance Officer **and Title IX Coordinator** shall **fulfill designated responsibilities** to ensure adequate nondiscrimination procedures are in place, to recommend new procedures or modifications to procedures and to monitor the implementation of **the school's** nondiscrimination procedures in the following areas, **as appropriate**:

1. Review - Review of personnel practices and actions for discriminatory bias and compliance with laws against discrimination to include monitoring and recommending corrective measures when appropriate to written position qualifications, job descriptions and essential job functions; recruitment materials and practices; procedures for screening applicants; application and interviewing practices for hiring and promotions; school designed performance evaluations; review of planned employee demotions, non-renewal of contracts, and proposed employee disciplinary actions up to and including termination.
2. Training - **Provide** training for supervisors and staff to prevent, identify and alleviate problems of employment discrimination.

3. **Resources** - Maintain and provide information to staff on resources available to alleged victims in addition to the complaint procedure **or Title IX procedures**, such as making reports to the police, and available **supportive measures such as** assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs, and community health resources including counseling resources.
4. **Reports/Formal Complaints** - Monitor and provide technical assistance to **individuals involved in managing informal reports and formal** complaints.

Guidelines

Title IX Sexual Harassment Training Requirements

The Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or any individual designated to facilitate an informal resolution process related to Title IX sexual harassment shall receive the following training, as required or appropriate to their specific role:

1. **Definition of sexual harassment.**
2. **Scope of the school's education program or activity, as it pertains to what is subject to Title IX regulations.**
3. **How to conduct an investigation and grievance process for formal complaints, including examination of evidence, conducting hearings (if applicable), drafting written determinations, handling appeals and informal resolution processes, as applicable.**
4. **How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest and bias.**
5. **Use of relevant technology.**
6. **Issues of relevance including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.**
7. **Issues of relevance, weight of evidence and application of standard of proof and drafting investigative reports that fairly summarize relevant evidence.**
8. **How to address complaints when the alleged conduct does not qualify as Title IX sexual harassment but could be addressed under another complaint process or Joint Operating Committee policy.**

All training materials shall promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of Title IX sexual harassment without relying on sex stereotypes.

All training materials shall be posted on the school's website.

Disciplinary Consequences

An employee who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the applicable Joint Operating Committee policy, collective bargaining agreement and individual contract, up to and including dismissal and/or referral to law enforcement officials.[22][23][24]

Reports of Discrimination

Any reports of discrimination that are reviewed by the Title IX Coordinator and do not meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment but are based on race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, genetic information, national origin, marital

status, pregnancy or handicap/disability shall follow the Discrimination Complaint Procedures in Attachment 2 to this policy.

Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment

Any reports deemed by the Title IX Coordinator to meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX shall follow the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints in Attachment 3 to this policy.

Legal

1. 43 P.S. 336.3
2. 43 P.S. 951 et seq
3. 34 CFR Part 106
4. 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq
5. 29 U.S.C. 206
6. 29 U.S.C. 621 et seq
7. 29 U.S.C. 794
8. 42 U.S.C. 1981 et seq
9. 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq
10. 42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq
11. 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq
12. U.S. Const. Amend. XIV, Equal Protection Clause
13. 20 U.S.C. 1232g
14. 34 CFR 106.44
15. 34 CFR 106.45
16. 34 CFR 106.71
17. 34 CFR Part 99
18. 34 CFR 106.30
19. 34 U.S.C. 12291
20. 20 U.S.C. 1092
21. 34 CFR 106.8
22. Pol. 317
23. Pol. 317.1
24. Pol. 806
- 16 PA Code 44.1 et seq
- 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2709
- 28 CFR 35.140
- 28 CFR Part 41
- 29 CFR Parts 1600-1691
- EEOC Enforcement Guidance on Harris v. Forklift Sys., Inc., November 9, 1993
- EEOC Enforcement Guidance on Vicarious Employer Liability for Unlawful Harassment by Supervisors, June 18, 1999
- EEOC Policy Guidance on Current Issues of Sexual Harassment, March 19, 1990
- Burlington Industries, Inc. v. Ellerth, 524 U.S. 742 (1998)
- Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, 524 U.S. 775 (1998)
- Pol. 320
- Pol. 815

Policy 104_Attachment 1 Report Form.DOCX (42 KB)

104-Attach 2 Discrimination.DOCX (44 KB)

Policy104-Attach_3_Title_IX.DOCX (75 KB)