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Regulation 4119.11: Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Sexual Harassment

Status: ADOPTED

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CSBA NOTE: The following administrative regulation is mandated pursuant to Education Code 231.5 and includes reasonable steps for preventing the occurrence of discrimination and harassment as required pursuant to Government Code 12940 (California Fair Employment and Housing Act). The focus of this administrative regulation is on sex discrimination and sex-based harassment by and of employees. Pursuant to Government Code 12940 and 2 CCR 11009, interns, volunteers, and job applicants are entitled to the same protection against sex-based harassment as applicable to employees.

For information regarding steps the district is required to take to prevent sex discrimination related to lactation, see BP 4033 – Lactation Accommodation.

For information related to sex discrimination and sex-based harassment involving students, see BP/AR 5145.7 – Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment and AR 5145.71 – Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures. For information regarding steps the district is required to take to prevent sex discrimination related to a student's pregnancy or related condition pursuant to Title IX (20 USC 1681-1688) and its implementing regulation 34 CFR 106.40, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, see BP 5146 – Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students.

CSBA NOTE: The following administrative regulation is mandated pursuant to Education Code 231.5 and includes reasonable steps for preventing the occurrence of discrimination and harassment as required pursuant to Government Code 12940 (California Fair Employment and Housing Act). The focus of this administrative regulation is on sexual harassment by and of employees. Pursuant to Government Code 12940 and 2 CCR 11009, interns, volunteers, and job applicants are entitled to the same protection against sexual harassment as applicable to employees.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681-1688) prohibits discrimination based on sex in district programs and activities. Although the Title IX regulations were amended by 89 Fed.Reg. 33474, effective August 1, 2024, these amendments were vacated nationwide by the United States District Court in *Tennessee v. Cardona* on January 9, 2025. Following this decision, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) February 4, 2025 Dear Colleague Letter clarified that OCR will enforce Title IX based on the regulations as they existed prior to August 1, 2024. Therefore, references in this administrative regulation to Title IX and its implementing regulations are to the Title IX regulations as they existed prior to August 1, 2024.

For information related to sexual harassment involving students, see BP/AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment and AR 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures.

The district 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. Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, is prohibited in district education programs and activities.

The following administrative regulation shall apply to all allegations of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment by and against district employees, interns, volunteers, and job applicants, but shall not be used to resolve any complaint by a student.

Definitions

CSBA NOTE: The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission describes sex discrimination as treating someone differently because of that person's sex. Additionally, 34 CFR 106.2 and 106.10, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, clarify that sex discrimination for the purpose of Title IX includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; gender identity; sexual orientation; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery; and, parental, marital, and family status.

CSBA NOTE: Government Code 12920 and 12926, as amended by SB 1137 (Ch. 779, Statutes of 2024), provide that prohibited discrimination or harassment includes discrimination or harassment not just because of one protected class under state law, but also because of the combination of two or more protected bases.

Education Code 212.5 defines sexual harassment as any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone in the educational setting.

Sex discrimination includes treating an employee differently based on the employee's sex, which includes differential treatment based on sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions and recovery; parental, family, or marital status; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct and occurs when prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's term or condition of employment; or otherwise adversely affects an employee's employment opportunities.

CSBA NOTE: A Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.2, sex-based harassment includes (1) a district employee, agent, or other individual authorized by the district to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the district's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of a district aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct, (2)

"hostile environment harassment," defined as unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstance, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the district's education program or activity; or (3) sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, as defined in 34 CFR 106.2. Conduct that meets the definition of Title IX sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, requires investigation and resolution through the Title IX grievance procedures; see AR 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

Education Code 212.5 defines sexual harassment as any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone in the educational setting.

34 CFR 106.2 and 106.10, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, clarify that sex-based harassment for the purpose of Title IX includes harassment on the basis of sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; gender identity; sexual orientation; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related conditions; and, parental, marital, and family status. Additionally, in *Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services, Inc.*, the U.S. Supreme Court held that same-sex harassment could be actionable under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000e-2000e-17).

Sex-based harassment is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, or other bases specified above. Conduct will constitute sex-based harassment when it takes the form of: (34 CFR 106.2, 106.11) *Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of one, or a combination of two or more protected characteristics, which include, but may not be limited to, sex; gender; gender identity; gender expression; sexual orientation; sex stereotypes; pregnancy, false pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions or recovery; reproductive health decision-making; breastfeeding or related medical conditions; and parental, marital, and family status. (Government Code 11135, 12920, 12926, 12940; 20 USC 1681-1688)*

- 1.—Quid pro quo harassment: A district employee, agent, or other individual authorized by the district to provide an aid, benefit, or service in the district's education program or activity conditioning the provision of district aid, benefit, or service on a student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.11, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, Title IX grievance procedures are required for Title IX sex discrimination complaints, including sex-based harassment complaints, for conduct which occurs on or after August 1, 2024 under the district's education program or activity, which includes conduct alleged to be contributing to a hostile environment that occurred outside the district's education program or activity or outside the United States. Item #2 below reflects "hostile environment harassment" as defined by 34 CFR 106.2, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474.

- 2.—Hostile environment harassment: Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the district's