

LODI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

REVISED Rule
5145.7

Students

Sexual Harassment

Title IX

Coordinator

The district designates the following individual(s) as the responsible employee(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as well as to investigate and resolve sexual harassment complaints under AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. The Title IX Coordinator(s) may be contacted at:

*Aisha Brice, School Climate Coordinator
1305 E. Vine Street, Lodi California 95240
(209) 331-7976 (209) 331-2245
abrice@lodiUSD.net*

The district shall notify students, parents/guardians, employees, bargaining units, and applicants for employment of the name or title, office address, email address, and telephone number of the district's Title IX Coordinator. (34 CFR [106.8](#))

Prohibited Conduct

Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the educational setting, ~~when made on the basis of sex and~~ under any of the following conditions:

1. Submission to that conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's academic status or progress.
2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by a student is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting the student.
3. The conduct ~~or communication~~ has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the student's academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

4. Submission to or rejection of the conduct *by the student* is used as the basis for any decision affecting *the student regarding* benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through any district program or activity.

Examples of types of conduct which are prohibited in the district and which may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome leering, sexual flirtations, or propositions
2. Unwelcome sexual slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, or sexually degrading descriptions
3. Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body or overly personal conversation
4. Sexual jokes, derogatory posters, notes, stories, cartoons, drawings, pictures, obscene gestures, or computer-generated images of a sexual nature
5. Spreading sexual rumors
6. Teasing or sexual remarks about students enrolled in a predominately single-sex class
7. Massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking, or brushing the body
8. Touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way
9. Impeding or blocking movements or any physical interference with school Activities when directed at an individual on the basis of sex
10. Displaying sexually suggestive objects
11. Sexual assault, sexual battery, or sexual coercion
12. *Electronic communications containing comments, words, or images described above*

Any prohibited conduct that occurs off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored programs or activities will be regarded as sexual harassment in violation of district policy if it has a continuing effect on or creates a hostile school environment for the complainant or victim of the conduct.

Notifications

A copy of the district's sexual harassment policy and regulation shall:

- 1. Be included in the notifications that are sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year*
- 2. Be displayed in a prominent location in the main administrative building or other area where notices of district rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted*
- 3. Be summarized on a poster which shall be prominently and conspicuously displayed in each bathroom and locker room at each school. The poster may be displayed in public areas that are accessible to and frequented by students, including, but not limited to, classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and cafeterias. The poster shall display the rules and procedures for reporting a charge of sexual harassment; the name, phone number, and email address of an appropriate school employee to contact to report a charge of sexual harassment; the rights of the reporting student, the complainant, and the respondent; and the responsibilities of the school.*
- 4. Be posted in a prominent location on the district's web site in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. This shall include the name or title, office address, email address, and telephone number of the employee(s) designated as the district's Title IX Coordinator.*
- 5. Be provided as part of any orientation program conducted for new and continuing students at the beginning of each quarter, semester, or summer session*
- 6. Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school's or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct*
- 7. Be included in any handbook provided to students, parents/guardians, employees, or employee organizations*

Reporting Complaints

A student or parent/guardian who believes that the student has been subjected to sexual harassment by another student, an employee, or a third party or who has witnessed sexual harassment is strongly encouraged to report the incident to a teacher, the principal, the district's Title IX Coordinator, or any other available school employee. Within one school day of receiving such a report, the principal or other school employee shall forward the report to the district's Title IX Coordinator. Any school employee who observes an incident of sexual harassment involving a student shall, within one school day, report the observation to the principal or Title IX Coordinator, regardless of whether the alleged victim files a formal complaint.

When a report or complaint of sexual harassment involves off-campus conduct, the Title IX Coordinator shall assess whether the conduct may create or contribute to the creation of a hostile school environment. If the Title IX Coordinator determines that a hostile environment may be created, the complaint shall be investigated and resolved in the same manner as if the prohibited conduct occurred at school.

When a verbal or informal report of sexual harassment is submitted, the Title IX Coordinator shall inform the student or parent/guardian of the right to file a formal written complaint in accordance with applicable district complaint procedures.

Complaint Procedures

All complaints of sexual harassment by and against students shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with law and district procedures. The Title IX Coordinator shall review the allegations to determine the applicable procedure for responding to the complaint. All complaints that meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with AR 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures. Other sexual harassment complaints shall be investigated and resolved pursuant to AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

School-Level Complaint Process/Grievance Procedure

~~Complaints of sexual harassment, or any behavior prohibited by the district's Nondiscrimination/Harassment policy—BP 5145.3, shall be handled in accordance with the following procedure:~~

- ~~1. **Notice and Receipt of Complaint:** Any student who believes he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment or who has witnessed sexual harassment may file a complaint with any school employee. Within 24 hours of receiving a complaint, the school employee shall report it to the district Coordinator for Nondiscrimination/Principal. In addition, any school employee who observes any incident of sexual harassment involving a student shall, within 24 hours, report this observation to the Coordinator/Principal, whether or not the victim files a complaint.~~

~~In any case of sexual harassment involving the Coordinator/Principal to whom the complaint would ordinarily be made, the employee who receives the student's report or who observes the incident shall instead report to the Superintendent or designee.~~

- ~~2. **Initiation of Investigation:** The Coordinator/Principal shall initiate an impartial investigation of an allegation of sexual harassment within five school days of receiving notice of the harassing behavior, regardless of whether a formal complaint has been filed. The district shall be considered to have "notice" of the need for an investigation upon receipt of information from a student who believes he/she has been subjected to harassment, the student's parent/guardian, any~~

~~employee who received a complaint from a student, or any employee or student who witnessed the behavior.~~

~~If the Coordinator/Principal receives an anonymous complaint or media report about alleged sexual harassment, he/she shall determine whether it is reasonable to pursue an investigation considering the specificity and reliability of the information, the seriousness of the alleged incident, and whether any individuals can be identified who were subjected to the alleged harassment.~~

~~3. **Initial Interview with student:** When a student or parent/guardian has complained or provided information about sexual harassment, the Coordinator/Principal shall describe the district's grievance procedure and discuss what actions are being sought by the student in response to the complaint. The student who is complaining shall have an opportunity to describe the incident, identify witnesses who may have relevant information, provide other evidence of the harassment, and put his/her complaint in writing. If the student requests confidentiality, he/she shall be informed that such a request may limit the district's ability to investigate.~~

~~4. **Investigation Process:** The Coordinator/Principal shall keep the complaint and allegation confidential, except as necessary to carry out the investigation or take other subsequently necessary action.~~

~~The Coordinator/Principal shall interview individuals who are relevant to the investigation, including, but not limited to, the student who is complaining, the person accused of harassment, anyone who witnessed the reported harassment, and anyone mentioned as having relevant information. The Coordinator/Principal may take other steps such as reviewing any records, notes, or statements related to the harassment or visiting the location where the harassment is alleged to have taken place.~~

~~When necessary to carry out his/her investigation or to protect student safety, the Coordinator/Principal also may discuss the complaint with the Superintendent or designee, the parent/guardian of the student who complained, the parent/guardian of the alleged harasser if the alleged harasser is a student, a teacher or staff member whose knowledge of the students involved may help in determining who is telling the truth, law enforcement and/or child protective services, and district legal counsel or the district's risk manager.~~

~~5. **Interim Measures:** The Coordinator/Principal shall determine whether interim measures are necessary during and pending the results of the investigation, such as placing students in separate classes or transferring a student to a class taught by a different teacher.~~

~~6. **Optional Mediation:** In cases of student to student harassment, when the student who complained and the alleged harasser so agree, the Coordinator/Principal may arrange for them to resolve the complaint informally with the help of a counselor,~~

~~teacher, administrator, or trained mediator. The student who complained shall never be asked to work out the problem directly with the accused person unless such help is provided and both parties agree, and he/she shall be advised of the right to end the informal process at any time.~~

~~7. **Factors in Reaching a Determination:** In reaching a decision about the complaint, the Coordinator/Principal may take into account:~~

- ~~a. Statements made by the persons identified above~~
- ~~b. The details and consistency of each person's account~~
- ~~c. Evidence of how the complaining student reacted to the incident~~
- ~~d. Evidence of any past instances of harassment by the alleged harasser~~
- ~~e. Evidence of any past harassment complaints that were found to be untrue~~

~~To judge the severity of the harassment, the Coordinator/Principal may take into consideration:~~

- ~~a. How the misconduct affected one or more students' education~~
- ~~b. The type, frequency, and duration of the misconduct~~
- ~~c. The identity, age, and sex of the harasser and the student who complained, and the relationship between them~~
- ~~d. The number of persons engaged in the harassing conduct and at who the harassment was directed~~
- ~~e. The size of the school, location of the incidents, and context in which they occurred~~
- ~~f. Other incidents at the school involving different students~~

~~8. **Written Report on Findings and Follow-Up:** No more than 30 days after receiving the complaint, the Coordinator/Principal shall conclude the investigation and prepare a written report of his/her findings. This timeline may be extended for good cause. If an extension is needed, the Coordinator/Principal shall notify the student who complained and explain the reasons for the extension.~~

~~The report shall include the decision and the reasons for the decision and shall summarize the steps taken during the investigation. If sexual harassment~~

~~occurred, the report shall also include any corrective actions that have or will be taken to address the harassment and prevent any retaliation or further harassment~~

~~This report shall be presented to the student who complained, the person accused, and the parents/guardians of the student who complained and the student who was accused, and the Superintendent or designee.~~

~~In addition, the Coordinator/Principal shall ensure that the harassed student and his/her parent/guardian are informed of the procedures for reporting any subsequent problems. The Coordinator/Principal shall also make follow-up inquiries to see if there have been any new incidents or retaliation and shall keep a record of this information.~~

Enforcement of District Policy

~~The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate actions to reinforce the district's sexual harassment policy. As needed, these actions may include any of the following:~~

- ~~1. Removing vulgar or offending graffiti~~
- ~~2. Providing training to students, staff, and parents/guardians about how to recognize harassment and to respond~~
- ~~3. Disseminating and/or summarizing the district's policy and regulation regarding sexual harassment~~
- ~~4. Consistent with the laws regarding the confidentiality of student and personnel records, communicating the school's response to parents/guardians and the community~~
- ~~5. Taking appropriate disciplinary action~~

~~In addition, disciplinary measures may be taken against any person who is found to have made a complaint of sexual harassment which he/she knew was not true.~~

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- ~~4— Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school's or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct~~
- ~~5— Be included in the student handbook~~
- ~~6— Be provided to employees and employee organizations~~

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Rule
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