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Nondiscrimination/Harassment

The Inyo County Board of Education desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the County Office's academic and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any county office school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any student based on the student's actual race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. (cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities) (cf. 5131 - Conduct) (cf. 5131.2 - Bullying) (cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

Prohibited discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying includes physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct based on one of the categories listed above that is so severe and pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

The Board also prohibits any form of retaliation against any student who files a complaint or report regarding an incident of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide age-appropriate training and information to students, parents/guardians, and employees regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including, but not limited to, the County Office's nondiscrimination policy, what constitutes prohibited behavior, how to report incidents, and to whom such reports should be made.

In providing instruction, guidance, supervision, or other services to County Office students, employees and volunteers shall carefully guard against segregating or stereotyping students. (cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance) (cf. 6145 - County Office Sponsored Activities)

The principal or designee shall develop a plan to provide students with appropriate accommodations when necessary for their protection from threatened or potentially harassing or discriminatory behavior.

Students who engage in discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or retaliation in violation of law, Board policy, or administrative regulation shall be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including counseling, suspension, and/or expulsion. Any employee who permits or engages in prohibited discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and

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including dismissal. (cf. 4119.21- Code of Ethics) (cf. 5131 - Conduct) (cf. 5144 - Discipline) (cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process) (cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities)) (cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Grievance Procedures

The following position is designated Coordinator for Nondiscrimination to handle complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and to answer inquiries regarding the County Office's nondiscrimination policies:

Deputy Superintendent

555 S. Clay Street

(760) 878-2426

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning County Office Personnel) (cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Any student who feels that he/she has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying should immediately contact the Coordinator, the principal, or any other staff member. In addition, any student who observes any such incident should report the incident to the Coordinator or principal, whether or not the victim files a complaint.

Any school employee who observes an incident of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall report the incident to the Coordinator or principal, whether or not the victim files a complaint.

In addition, the employee shall immediately intervene when safe to do so. (Education Code 234.1)

Upon receiving a complaint of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the Coordinator shall immediately investigate the complaint in accordance with the site-level grievance procedures specified in AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment. (cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

Within 30 days of receiving the County Office's report, the complainant may appeal to the Board if he/she disagrees with the resolution of the complaint. The Board shall make a decision at its next regular meeting and its decision shall be final.

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The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the student handbook clearly describes the County Office's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filing a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and the resources that are available to students who feel that they have been the victim of any such behavior. The County Office's policy shall also be posted at locations easily accessible to students.

When required pursuant to Education Code 48985, complaint forms shall be translated into the student's primary language.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination
48900.3 Suspension or expulsion for act of hate violence
48900.4 Suspension or expulsion for threats or harassment
48904 Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct
48907 Student exercise of free expression
48950 Freedom of speech
48985 Translation of notices
49020-49023 Athletic programs
51500 Prohibited instruction or activity
51501 Prohibited means of instruction
60044 Prohibited instructional materials

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parents/guardians for willful misconduct of minor

PENAL CODE

422.55 Definition of hate crime
422.6 Crimes, harassment

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 Uniform Complaint Procedures
4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000d-2000e-17 Title VI and Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended
2000h-2-2000h-6 Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

100.3 Prohibition of discrimination on basis of race, color or national origin
104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504
106.8 Designation of responsible employee for Title IX
106.9 Notification of nondiscrimination on basis of sex

COURT DECISIONS

Donovan v. Poway Unified School District, (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567

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Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District, (2003) 324 F.3d 1130

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011
Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for All Students, Policy Brief,
April 2010

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LEGAL ADVISORIES

California Student Safety and Violence Prevention - Laws and Regulations, April 2004

FIRST AMENDMENT CENTER PUBLICATIONS

Public Schools and Sexual Orientation: A First Amendment Framework for Finding
Common Ground, 2006

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Dealing with Legal Matters Surrounding Students' Sexual Orientation and Gender
Identity, 2004

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
PUBLICATIONS**

Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010

Notice of Non-Discrimination, January 1999

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Safe Schools Coalition: <http://www.casafeschools.org>

First Amendment Center: <http://www.firstamendment.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

BOARD POLICY:

Adopted: June 12, 2012