

4000 PERSONNEL

4100 ALL PERSONNEL

4141 ADULT SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT

Purpose of Policy

It is the position of the Superintendent/Governing Board of the Marin County Office of Education that sexual or gender-based harassment is unlawful and will not be tolerated. It is a violation of this policy for any employee, agent, student, or party with which the district has a cooperative agreement, to engage in sexual or gender-based harassment.

It is the policy of the Superintendent/Governing Board of the Marin County Office of Education to provide an employment environment free of sexual or gender-based harassment. To accomplish this, the policy is designed to secure, at the earliest level possible, an appropriate resolution to incidents and allegations of harassment.

This policy is intended to supplement, and not replace, any applicable state or federal laws and regulations. Complaints under these laws and regulations shall be processed through the procedures established by the appropriate state and/or federal agencies.

Definitions of Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment

For the purposes of this policy, sexual harassment is defined by Education Code Section 212.5, "Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual conduct including, advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone from or in the work or educational setting.

Gender-based harassment includes acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex, although they are not necessarily sexual in nature. Prohibited conduct includes harassment of a student for exhibiting what is perceived as a stereotypical characteristic for her or his sex, or for nonconformity with stereotypical notions of masculinity and femininity.

Sexual and/or gender-based harassment denies or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the Marin County Office of Education's school programs under any of the following conditions:

(a) Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic status, or progress.

(b) Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of employment or academic decisions affecting the individual.

(c) The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment.

(d) Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the educational institution."

Specifically, sexual or gender-based harassment may occur as a pattern of degrading sexual and gender-based speech or actions ranging from verbal or physical annoyances or distractions to deliberate intimidations and frank threats or sexual demands.

Examples of conduct which may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Suggestive or obscene letters, notes, invitations, derogatory comments, slurs, jokes, epithets, assault, touching, impeding or blocking movement, leering, gesture, display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, or cartoons, whether conducted in person or through an electronic means.
- (2) Among peers, continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome.
- (3) Within the employment environment, implying or actually withholding satisfactory evaluations or suggesting that promotion or favorable evaluations will be denied as a condition of receiving sexual favors.
- (4) Offering favors or employment benefits, such as promotions, favorable performance evaluations, favorable assignments, favorable duties or shifts, recommendations, reclassifications, etc., in exchange for sexual favors.

Examples of conduct which may constitute gender-based harassment include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Slurs, threats, derogatory comments, unwelcome jokes, or degrading descriptions related to or because of a student's gender or gender identity.
- (2) Harassment of a student because of his/her perceived effeminate/masculine mannerisms.

- (3) Harassment of a student because of his/her non-traditional choice of extracurricular activities, apparel, and personal grooming choices.
- (4) Disparaging remarks about a student because the student socializes with students of the opposite sex, or is predominately friends with students of the opposite sex.

Remedial and Corrective Actions

Where unlawful sexual or gender-based harassment is found to have occurred, the Marin County Office of Education will take appropriate remedial and/or corrective action(s), including consideration of the following: providing counseling to a targeted individual or individual(s) found to have engaged in harassment; limiting the interaction between the targeted student(s) and the individual(s) found to have engaged in the harassment; whether remedial measures are necessary to respond to the impact of the harassing conduct on witnesses or bystanders; and whether other schoolwide actions, such as education and training, are appropriate to respond to the harassing conduct and prevent a recurrence.

Administrative Regulations

The Superintendent/Governing Board shall adopt, and from time to time may revise, further procedures as may be necessary to implement this policy and provide for a means of enforcing this policy.

Training and Curriculum

To implement this policy, the Marin County Office of Education will provide appropriate training programs for staff (and students.) Employees in a supervisory capacity will be trained, as required by law, at least every two (2) years beginning January 1, 2006. Teachers are not considered to be supervisory.

Notification

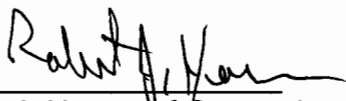
There will be adequate notification of the policy to include public posting. The policy will be published in site handbooks and/or the Marin County Office of Education Personnel Handbook.

Special Assistance

It is expected that questions may arise concerning this policy. For assistance in these matters, individuals may contact the Superintendent or designee.

Legal Reference:
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act
42 USC Section 2000-e-2(a)(1)
California Fair Employment and Housing act
Government Code section 12940
Education Code section 212.5
Government Code section 12950.1

Approved as to form:



Robert J. Henry, of Counsel

Approved by Marin County Office of Education: 6/11/13

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 4141**ADULT SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT****Reporting Procedure**

Any employee who believes he or she has been sexually harassed by an employee, agent, student or guest/vendor of the Marin County Office of Education should report the facts of the incident(s) to the site administrator or supervisor. If the site administrator or supervisor is the alleged harasser, the employee should report to the Superintendent/or designee. A written report of the alleged incident will be filed and forwarded to the Superintendent. A copy of Board policy will be provided to the employee who makes the complaint.

Employees who feel aggrieved because of unwelcome conduct that may constitute sexual or gender-based harassment are not required to inform the person that the conduct is unwanted, offensive, and must stop, but are encouraged to do so. An aggrieved individual is not required to complain to his or her supervisor if that supervisor is the individual who is harassing them.

Filing Complaints with State and Federal Agencies

Aggrieved parties may wish to file complaints with other appropriate state and federal agencies, including:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
901 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 356-5061

The State Fair Employment and Housing Commission
30 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 557-2005.

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights
50 Beale Street, Suite 7200, San Francisco, CA 94105-1813, (415) 486-5555

Confidentiality

An allegation of sexual or gender-based harassment and the results of the investigation shall be kept confidential to the extent reasonably possible under the investigation process. The site administrator will inform the employee making the report that the allegation and the results of the investigation shall be kept confidential to the extent reasonably possible under the investigation process. In addition, witnesses and those interviewed shall be informed of the confidential nature of the issue and the investigation, as well as the reason for confidentiality. The alleged harasser will also be informed as to the confidential nature of the procedure. Anyone violating confidentiality by disclosing the nature of the allegation or the investigation to others shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Retaliation is Prohibited

So long as the allegation is not brought forward in bad faith, the initiation of an allegation of sexual or gender-based harassment will not cause any reflection on the individual reporting the incident or witnesses nor will it affect such persons' future business dealings with the Marin County Office of Education, his or her employment, compensation or work assignments, or other matters pertaining to his or her status in any Marin County Office of Education programs or activities. It shall be a violation of this policy to engage in such retaliation. An allegation of retaliation shall be considered as a separate incident, shall be investigated, and shall be subject to disciplinary action as defined in this policy.

The Marin County Office of Education will take reasonable measures to prevent retaliation against any target student(s) and/or any other student(s) who provide information as witnesses, including identifying school personnel to make follow-up inquiries with the targeted student(s), witness(es) and/or their parents.

Time Limits

Allegations of sexual or gender-based harassment shall be reported as soon as reasonably possible after the conduct in question has taken place.

Disciplinary Action

Employees who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Such disciplinary action will be in accordance with applicable policies, laws, and/or collective bargaining agreements.

When disciplinary action is necessary the Superintendent/or designee will be consulted to determine what course of action is appropriate.

Investigation

The Superintendent/or designee is authorized to develop regulations by which reports of sexual or gender-based harassment shall be addressed. Such process shall include an informal resolution process, an investigation, and issuance of a summary report.

Appeal Procedure

Either the complaining party or the accused may appeal the summary report to the Superintendent/Governing Board of the Marin County Office of Education. Appeals should be made within 10 business days from the date of the issuance of the summary report. Procedures shall be set forth in the Administrative Regulations.