

4000 PERSONNEL

4100 ALL PERSONNEL

4140 FREEDOM FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the intent of the Superintendent/Governing Board that the Marin County Office of Education learning and working environments shall be free from sexual harassment. It shall be a violation of this policy for any member of the school community to harass any other member through conduct or communications of a sexual nature. Members of the school community include: staff, students, Board members, contracted employees, volunteers, and visitors.

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome and repeated sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature when made by or between any member of the school community when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's education or employment, or when
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions affecting that individual, or when
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or professional performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, offensive or otherwise detrimental environment.
4. 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.

Sexual harassment, as defined above, may include, but is not limited to, unwelcome and repeated:

1. Sex-oriented verbal "kidding", abuse or harassment;
2. Pressure for sexual activity;
3. Remarks or jokes to a person, with sexual or demeaning implications;

- 4. Touching, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body;
- 5. Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, employment status or similar personal concerns;
- 6. Display of written or printed material or electronically submitted material of a sexually explicit or pornographic nature.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative regulations and procedures to implement this policy which shall include complete investigation and disposition of all complaints while protecting the rights of those involved.

Filing Complaints with State and Federal Agencies

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

U.S. Office for Civil Rights
 50 United Nations Plaza, Room 239, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 556-7000

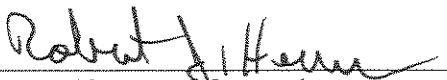
The State Fair Employment and Housing Commission
 30 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 557-2005.

Special Assistance

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

References: Education Code 200, 210-212.5

Approved as to form:



 Robert J. Henry, of Counsel

10.30.12

 Dated

Approved by
 Marin County Board of Education - 8/8/89; 6/24/97; 6/28/05

MARIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

FREEDOM FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT

(Board Policy 4140)

These administrative regulations and procedures shall not apply to a complaint which arises from the application and/or interpretation of Superintendent/Governing Board Policies 4112 and 4131 or any Collective Bargaining Agreement.

DEFINITIONS

Member of the School Community - An employee, Board member, volunteer, student or a student's parent/guardian acting on his/her behalf, contracted employee, and visitor.

Complainant - A member of the school community alleging that a violation of Policy 4140 has taken place.

Responsible Administrator/Manager - The certificated or classified manager supervising the program or department in which complainant is employed or volunteers, or the administrator of the program in which the student is enrolled.

Working Day - A day on which the Marin County Office of Education is open for business.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

The primary purpose of these procedures is to inform members of the school community and to secure, at the earliest level possible, an equitable solution to a complaint.

To the extent permitted by applicable law and policies of the Marin County Board of Education, all discussions, notes and other written documents pertaining to a complaint shall be kept confidential by all parties involved in this procedure.

In the event that the complaint is against the individual responsible for the complaint procedure at any level, the complainant may address the complaint directly to the next level.

Complainant and accused may appear with a representative, if desired, at all levels.

There shall be no reprisals of any kind against any complainant or his/her authorized representative(s) because of his/her participation in the complaint process.

In the event the complainant fails to exhaust all remedies under complaint procedures provided herewith, or to abide by the time limits with respect to each level, the complaint shall be presumed to be abandoned as to the complainant. The Marin County Office of Education reserves the right to proceed with its own review and determination. In the event any level fails to give its answer within time limits prescribed, the complainant shall have the right to proceed immediately to the next level. Any time limit may be extended by written mutual agreement of parties.

STUDENT, STAFF AND VOLUNTEER PROCEDURE

Any settlement of a complaint shall be applicable to the complaint only, and shall not be binding authority for disposition of any other complaint and shall not preclude the Marin County Office of Education from pursuing its own determination and remedies.

InformalStudent

The student or his/her parent or guardian should first discuss the issue with the teacher. If the complaint is against the teacher, complainant should discuss the issue with the program administrator.

Staff, Volunteer, Contracted Employee, Visitor

The staff member, volunteer, contracted employee, or visitor should first discuss the issue with the person to whom they are responsible. If the complaint is against that person, complainant should discuss the issue with the person next higher in line of authority over the program or department in which the complainant serves. If the complaint is against the Superintendent or a Board member, complainant should discuss the issue with the Division Deputy/Assistant Superintendent.

In the event the matter is not resolved informally within a reasonable time, the complainant may appeal to Level I.

Level I - Immediate Supervisor

1. The complaint shall be submitted in writing to the immediate supervisor and a copy given to the accused. Failure of the complainant to put the complaint into written form will forfeit further consideration of the matter.
2. Within ten (10) working days after receipt of the complaint, the immediate supervisor shall investigate the complaint, including giving the complainant and the accused a reasonable opportunity to be heard.
3. Within fifteen (15) working days after receiving the complaint, the immediate supervisor shall submit a decision in writing, together with supporting reasons, to the complainant and the accused.

Level II - Division Deputy/Assistant Superintendent

1. Within ten (10) working days after receiving the decision of the immediate supervisor, the complainant or accused may appeal the decision of Level I to the Division Deputy/Assistant Superintendent. The appeal shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by a copy of the decision at Level I.

2. Within ten (10) working days after receipt of the appeal, the Division Deputy/Assistant Superintendent shall investigate the complaint, including giving all persons who participated in Level I a reasonable opportunity to be heard.
3. Within fifteen (15) working days after receiving the appeal, the Division Deputy/Assistant Superintendent shall submit a decision in writing, together with supporting reasons, to the complainant, accused and immediate supervisor.

Level III - Superintendent/Governing Board

1. Within ten (10) working days after receiving the decision of the Deputy/Assistant Superintendent, the complainant or accused may appeal the decision of Level II to the Superintendent/Governing Board. The appeal shall be in writing, shall be accompanied by a copy of the decision of Level II and shall be delivered to the Superintendent.
2. At its next regularly scheduled meeting, in closed session, the Superintendent/Governing Board shall determine whether or not a hearing will be granted. If a hearing is granted, the date, nature and extent of the hearing shall be determined by the Superintendent/Governing Board. Unless requested otherwise by both complainant and accused, the hearing shall be held in closed session. If a hearing is not granted, the matter shall be considered settled in accordance with the last answer thereto.
3. Within twenty (20) days after the hearing, if granted, the Superintendent/Governing Board shall render its decision in writing, together with supporting reasons, to the complainant, accused and Division Deputy/Assistant Superintendent. The decision of the Superintendent/Governing Board shall be final.

DISCIPLINE

1. A substantiated charge against a Marin County Office of Education employee or volunteer will subject such employee or volunteer to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.
2. A substantiated charge against a student in Marin County Office of Education programs will subject the student to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion, consistent with student disciplinary policies.

BOARD MEMBER PROCEDURE

Level I

If the charge is against an employee, volunteer or student, the Board member should first discuss the issue with the Superintendent. If the complaint is against the Superintendent or another Board member, complainant should discuss the matter with the Board President. If the complaint is against the Board President, complainant should discuss the matter with the Board Vice President.

In the event the matter is not resolved at Level I, the complainant may appeal to Level III.