

Harassment/Sexual Harassment

The Board is committed to providing a positive and productive learning environment and prohibits hazing, harassment, intimidation, menacing or bullying by students, staff or third parties.

“District” includes district facilities, district premises and nondistrict property if there is any district-sponsored, district-approved or district-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the control of the district or where an employee is engaged in district business.

“Third parties” include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors or others engaged in district business, such as employees of businesses or organizations participating in cooperative work programs with the district and others not directly subject to district control at interdistrict and intradistrict athletic competitions or other school events.

“Hazing” includes, but is not limited to, any act that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or as a condition or precondition of attaining membership in, or affiliation with, any district-sponsored activity or grade level attainment, (i.e., personal servitude, sexual stimulation/sexual assault, forced consumption of any drink, alcoholic beverage, drug or controlled substance, forced exposure to the elements, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, sleep deprivation or any other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of a student); requires, encourages, authorizes or permits another to be subject to wearing or carrying any obscene or physically burdensome article,; assignment of pranks to be performed or other such activities intended to degrade or humiliate.

“Harassment” includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written or physical nature on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, source of income, familial status, cultural background or geographic location.

“Harassment, intimidation or bullying” means any act that substantially interferes with a student’s educational benefits, opportunities or performance that takes place on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation or at any official bus stop, having the effect of:

1. Physically harming a student or damaging a student’s/staff’s property;
2. Knowingly placing student/staff in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student/staff or damage to the student’s/staff’s property;

3. Creating a hostile educational/work environment including interfering with the psychological well being of the student/staff.

Examples of harassment may include, but not be limited to, intimidation (physical, verbal, written) jokes, stories, pictures or objects that are offensive, tend to alarm, annoy, abuse or demean certain protected individuals and groups.

Harassment by Board members, employees, parents, students, vendors and others doing business with the district is prohibited. Employees or students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to the investigation procedure which may result in discipline, up to and including dismissal or expulsion. Other individuals whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the superintendent or Board.

Administrators and supervisors are responsible for their conduct and for their employees' conduct and will be proactive in making the district's policy known by staff and in taking other steps to stop harassment by subordinates when observed or brought to their attention, including warning or disciplining the offending employee. Any employee who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this policy or feels he/she is a victim of harassment must immediately report his/her concerns to the building principal, their supervisor or superintendent who have overall responsibility for all investigations. Complaints involving violations of this policy by the superintendent shall be filed directly with the Board chair.

The superintendent will establish a process of reporting for those employees experiencing or observing acts of harassment. There will be no retaliation by the district against any person who, in good faith, reports harassment. False charges shall also be considered a serious offense and will result in disciplinary action or other appropriate sanctions.

The Board is committed to the elimination of sexual harassment in district schools and activities. Sexual harassment is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated. This includes sexual harassment of students, or staff or third parties by other students, staff, Board members or third parties. "Third parties" include, but are not limited to, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors or others engaged in district business, such as employees of businesses or organizations participating in cooperative work programs with the district and others not directly subject to district control at interdistrict and intradistrict athletic competitions or other school events. "District" includes: district facilities; district premises and nondistrict property if the student or employee is at any district-sponsored, district-approved or district-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events, where students are under the control of the district; or where the employee is engaged in district business. The prohibition also includes off duty conduct which is incompatible with district job responsibilities.

Sexual harassment of students and staff shall include, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. The conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of demanding sexual favors in exchange for benefits;
2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct or communication is used as the basis for educational decisions affecting a student or employment or assignment of staff;

3. The conduct or communication is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's educational performance or with an employee's ability to perform his/her job; or creates an intimidating, offensive or hostile educational or working environment. Relevant factors to be considered will include, but not be limited to, did the individual view the environment as hostile; was it reasonable to view the environment as hostile; the nature of the conduct; how often the conduct occurred and how long it continued; age and sex of the complainant; whether the alleged harasser was in a position of power over the student or staff member subjected to the harassment; number of individuals involved; age of the alleged harasser; where the harassment occurred; and other incidents of sexual harassment at the school involving the same or other students or staff.

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but not be limited to, physical touching or graffiti of a sexual nature; displaying or distributing of sexually explicit drawings; pictures and written materials; sexual gestures or obscene jokes; touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexuality in front of others; or spreading rumors about or rating other students or others as to appearance, sexual activity or performance.

All complaints about behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. Any student or employee who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this policy or feels he/she is a victim of sexual harassment must immediately report his/her concerns to the principal, compliance officer or superintendent, who has overall responsibility for all investigations. A student may also report concerns to a teacher, counselor or school nurse, who will promptly notify the appropriate district official. The student and the student's parents or staff member who initiated the complaint shall be notified of the findings of the investigation and, if appropriate, that remedial action has been taken.

The initiation of a complaint in good faith about behavior that may violate this policy shall not adversely affect the educational assignments or study environment of a student complainant or any terms or conditions of employment or work environment of the staff complainant. There shall be no retaliation by the district against any person who, in good faith, reports, files a complaint or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry of sexual harassment.

It is the intent of the Board that appropriate corrective action will be taken by the district to stop the sexual harassment, prevent its recurrence and address negative consequences. Students in violation of this policy shall be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion and/or counseling or sexual harassment awareness training, as appropriate. The age and maturity of the student(s) involved and other relevant factors will be considered in determining appropriate action. Employees in violation of this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal and/or additional sexual harassment awareness training, as appropriate. Other individuals whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the superintendent or Board.

Additionally, the district may report individuals in violation of this policy to law enforcement officials. Licensed staff, staff registered with the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) and those participating in practicum programs, as specified by Oregon Administrative Rules, shall be reported to TSPC.

The superintendent shall ensure appropriate periodic sexual harassment awareness training or information is provided to all supervisors, staff and students and that annually, the name and position of district officials responsible for accepting and managing sexual harassment complaints, business phone numbers,

addresses or other necessary contact information is readily available. This policy as well as the complaint procedure will be made available to all students, parents of students and staff in student/parent and staff handbooks. The district's policy shall be posted in all grade 6 through 12 schools. Such posting shall be by a sign of at least 8 ½" by 11".

The superintendent will establish a process of reporting incidents of sexual harassment.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 243.706](#)

[ORS 342.700](#)

[ORS 342.704](#)

[ORS 342.708](#)

[ORS 342.850](#)

[ORS 342.865](#)

[ORS 659.850](#)

[ORS 659A.006](#)

[ORS 659A.029](#)

[ORS 659A.030](#)

[OAR 581-021-0038](#)

[OAR 584-020-0040](#)

[OAR 584-020-0041](#)

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (2006).

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e (2006).

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683 (2006); Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (2006).

Bartsch v. Elkton School District, FDA-13-011 (March 27, 2014).

Cross Reference(s):

GBNA - Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Menacing - Staff

JBA/GBN - Harassment/Sexual Harassment

JFCF - Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Cyberbullying/Teen Dating Violence - Student