

Board Policy

Nondiscrimination In Employment

BP 4030

Personnel

The Board of Trustees is determined to provide district employees, interns, volunteers, and job applicants a safe, positive environment where they are assured of full and equal employment access and opportunities, protection from harassment or intimidation, and freedom from any fear of reprisal or retribution for asserting their employment rights in accordance with law. This policy shall apply to all district employees and, to the extent required by law, to interns, volunteers, and job applicants.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 4111/4211/4311 - Recruitment and Selection)

No district employee shall be discriminated against or harassed by any coworker, supervisor, manager, or other person with whom the employee comes in contact in the course of employment, on the basis of the employee's actual or perceived race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, military and veteran status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sex, or sexual orientation or his/her association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

Discrimination in employment based on the characteristics listed above is prohibited in all areas of employment and in all employment-related practices, including the following:

1. Discrimination in hiring, compensation, terms, conditions, and other privileges of employment
2. Taking of an adverse employment action, such as termination or the denial of employment, promotion, job assignment, or training

(cf. 4151/4251/4351 - Employee Compensation)

(cf. 4154/4254/4354 - Health and Welfare Benefits)

3. Unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is so severe or pervasive as to adversely affect an employee's employment opportunities, or that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment
4. Actions and practices identified as unlawful or discriminatory pursuant to Government Code 12940 or 2 CCR 11006-11086, such as:

- a. Sex discrimination based on an employee's pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or any related medical condition or on an employee's gender, gender expression, or gender identity, including transgender status

(cf. 4033 - Lactation Accommodation)

(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)

- b. Religious creed discrimination based on an employee's religious belief or observance, including his/her religious dress or grooming practices, or based on the district's failure or refusal to use reasonable means to accommodate an employee's religious belief, observance, or practice which conflicts with an employment requirement.
- c. Disability discrimination based on a district requirement for a medical or psychological examination of a job applicant, or an inquiry into whether a job applicant has a mental or physical disability or a medical condition or as to the severity of any such disability or condition, without the showing of a job-related need or business necessity

(cf. 4119.41/4219.41/4319.41 - Employees with Infectious Disease)

- d. Disability discrimination based on the district's failure to make reasonable accommodation for the known physical or mental disability of an employee or to engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with an employee, to determine effective reasonable accommodations for the employee, when he/she has requested reasonable accommodation for a known physical or mental disability or medical condition

(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

The Board also prohibits retaliation against any district employee who opposes any discriminatory employment practice by the district or its employees, agents, or representatives or who complains, testifies, assists, or in any way participates in the district's complaint process pursuant to this policy. No employee who requests an accommodation for any protected characteristic listed in this policy shall be subjected to any punishment or sanction, regardless of whether the request was granted. (Government Code 12940)

Complaints concerning employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation shall immediately be investigated in accordance with procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Any supervisory or management employee who observes or has knowledge of an incident of prohibited discrimination or harassment shall report the incident to the Superintendent or designated district coordinator as soon as practical after the incident. All other employees are encouraged to report such incidents to their supervisor immediately. The district shall protect any employee who reports such incidents from retaliation.

The Superintendent or designee shall use all appropriate means to reinforce the district's nondiscrimination policy. He/she shall provide training and information to employees about how to recognize harassment, discrimination, or other related conduct, how to respond appropriately, and components of the district's policies and regulations regarding discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the district's employment practices and, as necessary, shall take action to ensure district compliance with the nondiscrimination laws.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall post, in a conspicuous place on district premises, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing publication on workplace discrimination and harassment issued pursuant to 2 CCR 11013.

Any district employee who engages in prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation or who aids, abets, incites, compels, or coerces another to engage or attempt to engage in such behavior in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

CIVIL CODE

51.7 Freedom from violence or intimidation

GOVERNMENT CODE

11135 Unlawful discrimination

11138 Rules and regulations

12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act

PENAL CODE

422.56 Definitions, hate crimes

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

11006-11086 Discrimination in employment

11013 Recordkeeping

11019 Terms, conditions and privileges of employment

11023 Harassment and discrimination prevention and correction

11024 Sexual harassment training and education

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

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 29

621-634 Age Discrimination in Employment Act

794 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000d-2000d-7 Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended

2000e-2000e-17 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended

2000ff-2000ff-11 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

2000h-2-2000h-6 Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

6101-6107 Age discrimination in federally assisted programs

12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.101-35.190 Americans with Disabilities Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

100.6 Compliance information

104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504

104.8 Notice

106.8 Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievance procedures

106.9 Dissemination of policy

110.1-110.39 Nondiscrimination on the basis of age

COURT DECISIONS

Thompson v. North American Stainless LP, (2011) 131 S.Ct. 863

Shepard v. Loyola Marymount, (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 837

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING PUBLICATIONS

California Law Prohibits Workplace Discrimination and Harassment, December 2014

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

Notice of Non-Discrimination, August 2010

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

Questions and Answers: Religious Discrimination in the Workplace, 2008

New Compliance Manual Section 15: Race and Color Discrimination, April 2006

Enforcement Guidance: Vicarious Employer Liability for Unlawful Harassment by Supervisors, June 1999

WEB SITES

California Department of Fair Employment and Housing: <http://www.dfeh.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: <http://www.eeoc.gov>

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Administrative Regulation

Nondiscrimination In Employment

AR 4030

Personnel

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 11138 and 2 CCR 11023, as added by Register 2015, No. 50, districts are mandated to adopt rules and regulations to ensure that district programs and activities are free from unlawful discriminatory practices. Pursuant to 2 CCR 11009, as amended by Register 2015, No. 50, it is unlawful to discriminate against any person who serves in an unpaid internship or other limited-duration program to gain unpaid work experience, on any basis protected by Government Code 12940.

All allegations of discrimination in employment, including those involving an intern, volunteer, or job applicant, shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with procedures specified in this administrative regulation.

Note: Many nondiscrimination laws and regulations require identification of an employee who will be responsible for compliance with the nondiscrimination laws. For example, pursuant to 34 CFR 104.7, 106.8, and 110.25, the district is required to designate the person(s) responsible for the overall implementation of the requirements of federal laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, sex, and age, i.e., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681-1688), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (29 USC 621-634). The district should fill in the blanks below to designate the responsible employee and his/her contact information.

The district designates the position identified below as its coordinator for nondiscrimination in employment (coordinator) to coordinate the district's efforts to comply with state and federal nondiscrimination laws and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies. The coordinator may be contacted at:

(position title)

(address)

(telephone number)

(email)

Measures to Prevent Discrimination

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 12940 and 2 CCR 11023, as added by Register 2015, No. 50, the district is required to take all reasonable steps to prevent unlawful discrimination and harassment. 2 CCR 11023, as added, specifies certain requirements to be included in the district's policy. The following section reflects the requirements of 2 CCR 11023 and other applicable laws or regulations, as indicated.

To prevent unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation in district employment, the Superintendent or designee shall implement the following measures:

1. Publicize the district's nondiscrimination policy and regulation, including the complaint procedures and the coordinator's contact information, by: (5 CCR 4960; 34 CFR 100.6, 106.9)

a. Including them in each announcement, bulletin, or application form that is used in employee recruitment

b. Posting them in all district schools and offices, including staff lounges and other prominent locations

c. Posting them on the district's web site and providing easy access to them through district-supported social media, when available

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)

2. Disseminate the district's nondiscrimination policy to all employees by one or more of the following methods: (2 CCR 11023)

a. Printing and providing a copy of the policy to all employees, with an acknowledgment form for each employee to sign and return

b. Sending the policy via email with an acknowledgment return form

c. Posting the policy on the district intranet with a tracking system ensuring all employees have read and acknowledged receipt of the policies

d. Discussing the policy with employees upon hire and/or during a new hire orientation session

e. Any other way that ensures employees receive and understand the policy

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

3. Provide to employees a handbook that contains information that clearly describes the district's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filing a complaint, and resources available to anyone who feels that he/she has been the victim of any discriminatory or harassing behavior

4. Provide training to employees, volunteers, and interns regarding the district's nondiscrimination policy, including what constitutes unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and how and to whom a report of an incident should be made

Note: Pursuant to 2 CCR 11023, as added by Register 2015, No. 50, if the district has 50 or more employees, its sexual harassment prevention training must include instruction for its supervisors as specified in the following paragraph.

Training for supervisors shall include the requirement to report any complaint of misconduct to a designated representative, such as the coordinator, human resources manager, or Superintendent or designee as a topic in the sexual harassment prevention training required pursuant to 2 CCR 11024 (2 CCR 11023)

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

5. Periodically review the district's recruitment, hiring, and promotion processes and regularly monitor the terms, conditions, and privileges of employment to ensure district compliance with law

6. For any district facility where 10 percent of employees have a language other than English as their spoken language, translate the policy into every language spoken by at least 10 percent of the workforce

Complaint Procedure

Note: 2 CCR 11023, as added by Register 2015, No. 50, mandates that a district's policy include a complaint process with specified requirements. Some of the requirements of 2 CCR 11023 are similar to those required under existing case law.

Note: Courts have held that an employer may mitigate liability for hostile environment employment discrimination when (1) the employer took reasonable care to prevent and promptly correct the discriminatory or harassing conduct (i.e., provided a complaint procedure) and (2) the aggrieved employee unreasonably failed to take advantage of corrective opportunities offered by the employer (i.e., failure to file a complaint). In its June 1999 Enforcement Guidance: Vicarious Employer Liability for Unlawful Harassment by Supervisors, EEOC outlines the elements of an effective complaint procedure to include (1) a clear explanation of the process; (2) protection against retaliation; (3) designation of multiple individuals authorized to receive complaints; (4) a mechanism for prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation; (5) assurance of immediate and appropriate corrective action; and (6) information about time frames for filing charges with the EEOC or the DFEH.

Note: While the EEOC's guidance recommends a "prompt" investigation, neither the law nor the EEOC delineates a specific time frame for resolution. The EEOC's guidance acknowledges that whether an investigation is considered "prompt" may vary depending on the seriousness and complexity of the circumstances and that intermediate measures may be necessary to prevent further harassment during the investigation.

Note: The following section, including the listed timelines, is consistent with the EEOC's guidance and should be modified to reflect district practice.

Any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination or harassment shall be addressed in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Notice and Receipt of Complaint: A complainant may inform his/her direct supervisor, another supervisor, the coordinator, the Superintendent or, if available, a complaint hotline or an ombudsman.

The complainant may file a written complaint in accordance with this procedure, or if he/she is an employee, may first attempt to resolve the situation informally with his/her supervisor.

A supervisor or manager who has received information about an incident of discrimination or harassment, or has observed such an incident, shall report it to the coordinator, whether or not the complainant files a written complaint.

The written complaint should contain the complainant's name, the name of the individual who allegedly committed the act, a description of the incident, the date and location where the incident occurred, any witnesses who may have relevant information, other evidence of the discrimination or harassment, and any other pertinent information which may assist in investigating and resolving the complaint.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

2. Investigation Process: The coordinator shall initiate an impartial investigation of an allegation of discrimination or harassment within five business days of receiving notice of the alleged discriminatory or harassing behavior, regardless of whether a written complaint has been filed or whether the written complaint is complete.

The coordinator shall meet with the complainant to describe the district's complaint procedure and discuss the actions being sought by the complainant in response to the allegation. The coordinator shall inform the complainant that the investigation of the allegations will be fair, timely, and thorough and will be conducted in a manner that provides all parties due process and reaches reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected. He/she shall also inform the parties that the investigation will be kept confidential to the extent possible, but that some information may be revealed as necessary to conduct an effective investigation.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

If the coordinator determines that a detailed fact-finding investigation is necessary, he/she shall begin the investigation immediately. As part of this investigation, the coordinator should interview the complainant, the person accused, and other persons who could be expected to have relevant information.

The coordinator shall track and document the progress of the investigation to ensure reasonable progress and shall inform the parties as necessary.

When necessary to carry out his/her investigation or to protect employee safety, the coordinator may discuss the complaint with the Superintendent or designee, district legal counsel, or the district's risk manager.

The coordinator also shall determine whether interim measures, such as scheduling changes, transfers, or leaves, need to be taken before the investigation is completed to ensure that further incidents are prevented. The coordinator shall ensure that such interim measures do not constitute retaliation.

3. **Written Report on Findings and Remedial/Corrective Action:** No more than 20 business days after receiving the complaint, the coordinator 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 shall notify the parties 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 a determination has been made that discrimination or harassment occurred, the report also shall include any corrective action(s) that have been or will be taken to address the behavior, provide appropriate options for remedial actions and resolutions for the complainant, and ensure that retaliation or further discrimination or harassment is prevented.

The report shall be presented to the complainant, the person accused, and the Superintendent or designee.

4. **Appeal to the Governing Board:** The complainant or the person accused may appeal any findings to the Board within 10 business days of receiving the written report of the coordinator's findings. The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with all information presented during the investigation. Upon receiving an appeal, the Board shall schedule a hearing as soon as practicable. Any complaint against a district employee shall be addressed in closed session in accordance with law. The Board shall render its decision within 10 business days.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

Other Remedies

Note: Items #1-3 below state the time limits within which employees must file their complaints. The EEOC's guidance states that it is important for employers' nondiscrimination policies to contain information about time frames for filing charges of unlawful discrimination or harassment with the EEOC or DFEH. Employees should be informed that the deadline for filing charges starts to run from the last date of the unlawful act, not from the conclusion of the employer's complaint investigation. Pursuant to DFEH procedures, DFEH will automatically forward any complaint it has accepted for investigation to the EEOC when the matter falls within the EEOC's jurisdiction.

In addition to filing a discrimination or harassment complaint with the district, a person may file a complaint with either the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The time limits for filing such complaints are as follows:

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 12960, an employee has one year to file a complaint with DFEH, although that period may be extended under certain circumstances, such as when a person obtains knowledge of the unlawful practice after the expiration of the one-year period.

1. To file a valid complaint with DFEH, within one year of the alleged discriminatory act(s), unless an exception exists pursuant to Government Code 12960

Note: 42 USC 2000e-5 specifies that a person must file a discrimination complaint with the EEOC within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. Pursuant to 42 USC 2000e-5, the 180-day timeline for compensation discrimination starts when the discriminatory paycheck is received and that each discriminatory paycheck restarts the timeline for the filing of a complaint.

2. To file a valid complaint directly with EEOC, within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act(s) (42 USC 2000e-5)

3. To file a valid complaint with EEOC after first filing a complaint with DFEH, within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory act(s) or within 30 days after the termination of proceedings by DFEH, whichever is earlier (42 USC 2000e-5)