

## Regulation 4119.12: Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

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Status: ADOPTED

CSBA NOTE: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681-1688; 34 CFR 106.1-106.82) prohibits discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, and mandates that the district adopt and publish complaint procedures.

Although the Title IX regulations were amended by 89 Fed.Reg. 33474, effective August 1, 2024, these amendments were vacated nationwide by the United States District Court in Tennessee v. Cardona on January 9, 2025. Following this decision, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) February 4, 2025 Dear Colleague Letter clarified that OCR will enforce Title IX based on the regulations as they existed prior to August 1, 2024. Therefore, references in this administrative regulation to Title IX and its implementing regulations are to the Title IX regulations as they existed prior to August 1, 2024.

The complaint procedures specified in the Title IX regulations (34 CFR 106.44- 106.45, as added by 85 Fed.Reg. 30026) are required to be used to address any complaint of sexual harassment, as defined in 34 CFR 106.30, based on conduct that occurred between August 14, 2020 and July 31, 2024, and after January 9, 2025. For complaints initiated between August 1, 2024 and January 9, 2025, it is recommended that districts consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel.

Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.30, allegations of sexual harassment governed by these regulations include (1) a district employee conditioning the provision of a district aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct, (2) unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the district's education program or activity, or (3) sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 20 USC 1092 and 34 USC 12291. Alleged sexual harassment that does not meet this definition should be addressed through the procedures specified in AR 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

34 CFR 106.44 requires the district, when there is actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an education program or activity, to respond promptly in a manner that is not "deliberately indifferent." 34 CFR 106.30 defines "actual knowledge" as notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment being submitted to the district's Title IX Coordinator, any official of the district who has authority to institute corrective measures, or any employee of the district. A district is "deliberately indifferent" only if its response to Title IX sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

Application of the Title IX complaint procedures to the facts of a specific complaint may implicate complicated questions about the intersection of state law, federal law, and, in cases involving employees, the applicable collective bargaining agreement. It is recommended that districts with questions about specific complaints consult with CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel.

See BP/AR 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment for information about prohibited conduct, training, required notifications, and processes for reporting sexual harassment.

The complaint procedures described in this administrative regulation shall be used to address any complaint governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 alleging that a district employee, while in an education program or activity, in which a district school exercises substantial control over the context and respondent, was subjected to one or more of the following forms of sexual harassment: (34 CFR 106.30, 106.44)

1. A district employee conditioning the provision of a district aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person's equal access to the district's education program or activity
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 20 USC 1092 or 34 USC 12291

For a complaint governed by Title IX based on conduct that occurred, in whole or in part, between August 1, 2024 and January 9, 2025, or prior to August 14, 2020, the Title IX Coordinator shall consult with district legal counsel to determine which procedures to use.

All other complaints alleging sexual harassment brought by or against employees shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment. The determination over which process shall be used to investigate and resolve a complaint shall be made by the district's Title IX Coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator shall ensure that all requirements and timelines for Administrative Regulation 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment are concurrently met while implementing the Title IX procedure.

### Basic Requirements

CSBA NOTE: 34 CFR 106.45 requires that the district's grievance procedures follow specified basic requirements, which are reflected below.

When implementing Title IX grievance procedures, the district shall: (34 CFR 106.45)

1. Treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing remedies to a complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent and by following a grievance process in accordance with 34 CFR 106.45 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures, as defined in 34 CFR 106.30, against a respondent

Remedies following a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment shall be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity, and shall be provided in accordance with "Remedies," below.

2. Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, and provide that credibility determination may not be based on a person's status as complainant, respondent, or witness
3. Ensure that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decisionmaker, any person that facilitates an information resolution process, does not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent, and that such individuals receive training in accordance with 34 CFR 106.45
4. Presume that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process
5. Include reasonably prompt timeframes for the conclusion of the grievance procedures, including reasonably prompt timeframes for filing and resolving appeals, and informal resolution processes if appropriate and offered by the district