

POLICY SERVICES *ADVISORY*

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Policy Advisory No. 788	Policy ACA — Sexual Harassment
Policy Advisory No. 789	Policy ACAA — Title IX <u>Sex Discrimination</u> Sexual Harassment
	Regulation ACAA-R — Title IX <u>Sex Discrimination</u> Sexual Harassment
Policy Advisory No. 790	Policy GBK — Staff Grievances
Policy Advisory No. 791	Policy JII — Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances

POLICY ADVISORY DISCUSSION

Summary

The following policy advisories are derived from the Department of Education’s (DOE) Final Rule under Title IX, to ensure that, under Title IX, no person experiences sex discrimination or harassment in federally funded education. Effective August 1, 2024, the Final Rule protects against all sex-based harassment and discrimination for all persons, including students and employees; promotes accountability and fairness; and empowers and supports students and families.

The Final Rule requires schools to take prompt and effective action when appropriate, reaffirms the DOE’s commitment to fairness for all parties, including parents and guardians, and demonstrates its respect for complainants’ autonomy and privacy. It clarifies definitions, the scope of sex discrimination, and schools’ obligations, including but not limited to taking prompt and effective action, providing supportive measures, and communicating its nondiscrimination policies. It also provides schools with the flexibility needed to implement Title IX in differing educational communities and settings, protects students, employees and applicants from discrimination based on pregnancy or related conditions, and protects students and employees from retaliation.

Because of the extensive nature of this final rule, districts may want to consider consulting with their legal counsel regarding specific policy revisions for their unique communities.

Note: The DOE’s process is still ongoing for a Title IX regulation related to athletics.

<p><i>Note:</i> This material is written for informational purposes only, and not as legal advice. You may wish to consult an attorney for further explanation.</p>

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If you have any questions, call Policy Services at (602) 254-1100. Ask for Dr. Charlotte Patterson, Policy Analyst; Lynne Bondi, Policy Analyst or Renae Watson, Policy Technician. Our e-mail addresses are, respectively, [cpatterson@azsba.org], [lbondi@azsba.org] and [rwatson@azsba.org]. You may also fax information to (602) 254-1177.

Note: This material is written for informational purposes only, and not as legal advice. You may wish to review the policy references and consult an attorney for further explanation.

**ACA ©
SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

All individuals associated with this District, including, but not necessarily limited to, the Governing Board, the administration, the staff, and students, are expected to conduct themselves at all times so as to provide an atmosphere free from sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission defines "sexual harassment" as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is either explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of an individual's employment; or
- B. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
- C. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- A. Suggestive or obscene letters, notes, invitations, derogatory comments, slurs, jokes, epithets, assault, touching, impeding or blocking movement, leering, gestures, or display of sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or cartoons.
- B. Continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome. (Reciprocal attraction between peers is not considered sexual harassment.)
- C. Implying or withholding support for an appointment, promotion, or change of assignment; suggesting that a poor performance report will be prepared; suggesting that probation will be failed.
- D. Coercive sexual behavior used to control, influence, or affect the career, salary, and/or work environment of another employee.
- E. Offering or granting favors or employment benefits, such as promotions, favorable performance evaluations, favorable assignments, favorable duties or shifts, recommendations, reclassifications, et cetera, in exchange for sexual favors.

Anyone who is subject to sexual harassment, or who knows of the occurrence of such conduct, should inform the compliance officer, as provided in ACA-R.

A substantiated charge against a staff member in the District shall subject such staff member to disciplinary action.

All matters involving sexual harassment complaints will remain confidential to the extent practicable and allowable by law ~~possible~~.

Adopted: _____

LEGAL REF.:

A.R.S.

41-1461 *et seq.*

20 U.S.C. 1681, Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX,
as amended in 2024, Title IX

20 U.S.C. 1703, Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972

42 U.S.C. 2000, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Title VII

CROSS REF.:

AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

GBA - Equal Employment Opportunity

GCQF - Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members

GDQD - Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of Support Staff Members

KED - Public Concerns/Complaints about Facilities or Services

KFA - Public Conduct on School Property

ACAA ©
TITLE IX SEX DISCRIMINATION
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Title IX of the Federal Education Amendments Act protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex and is required by Title IX not to discriminate in such a manner. The District adheres to all conditions established by Title IX by recognizing the right of every student who attends school in the District and every employee who works in the District to do so without the fear of sex discrimination, to include unlawful sexual harassment.

The District accepts and shall employ the definition of sexual harassment as established by the Title IX regulations. Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one (1) or more of the following:

- A. An employee of the District conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- B. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, or pervasive, ~~and objectively offensive~~ that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or
- C. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).
- D. Hostile Environment Harassment.

The District also accepts and shall employ the definition of a complainant as an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment, and a respondent as an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

The District shall designate and authorize an employee as the "Title IX Coordinator" to comply with its responsibilities pertaining to sexual harassment under Title IX. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, regardless of whether the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of the reported conduct or not. A report may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or

electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address listed for the Title IX Coordinator. The District shall notify students, parents or legal guardians of students, employees, applicants for employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the District, of the name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator.

The District will respond promptly when any school employee has notice of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. Upon receipt of notice of sexual harassment, the District shall notify students, parents or legal guardians of students, employees, applicants for employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the District, of the District's grievance procedures and grievance process, including how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a ~~formal~~ complaint of sexual harassment, and how the District shall respond. The District is committed to investigating each ~~formal~~ complaint submitted and to taking appropriate action on all confirmed violations of policy. The District shall follow grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints from students and employees alleging sexual harassment.

The District ~~shall, to the extent reasonably feasible,~~ will make reasonable efforts to keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or filed a ~~formal~~ complaint of sexual harassment, ~~any complainant,~~ any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as is necessary to carry out the grievance process and as may otherwise be permitted by law.

Title IX sex discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment complaints, may include violations covered by Arizona's mandatory reporting statute, A.R.S. §13-3620. Any abuses classified by statute as "reportable offenses" must be reported as such to the authorities because not reporting a reportable offense is classified as a Class 6 Felony.

Retaliation Prohibited

Neither the District nor any person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, or because the individual has in good faith made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination or a ~~report or formal complaint~~ of sexual harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, constitutes retaliation.

Adopted: _____

LEGAL REF.:

A.R.S.

13-3620

20 U.S.C. 1092

20 U.S.C. 1681, Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX, as amended in 2024,
Title IX

34 U.S.C. 12291

CROSS REF.:

AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

JB - Equal Educational Opportunities

ACAA-R ©

REGULATION

TITLE IX SEX DISCRIMINATION
~~/SEXUAL HARASSMENT~~

Title IX Coordinator

The Superintendent shall appoint an employee as the "Title IX Coordinator." If the Title IX Coordinator is the respondent, the complaint shall be filed with the Superintendent.

Title IX Coordinator:

Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

Response to Sex Discrimination
~~Sexual Harassment~~

~~When the District has~~ A recipient with knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination ~~actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an its education program or activity must respond promptly and effectively of the District against a person in the United States, it shall respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.~~

An "education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the District exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sex discrimination occurs, and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the District.

~~A. "Actual knowledge" means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to a District's Title IX Coordinator or to any employee.~~

~~B. An "education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the District exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs, and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the District.~~

~~C. A District is "deliberately indifferent" only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.~~

The District's initial response to any report of sex discrimination ~~sexual harassment~~ must treat complainants and respondents equally by offering supportive measures to both and must follow the established grievance process before disciplining a respondent.

~~Even if no formal complaint has been filed,~~ The Title IX Coordinator shall promptly:

- A. Contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures;
- B. Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures;
- C. Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures; ~~with or without the filing of a formal complaint;~~ and
- D. Explain to the complainant the process for filing a ~~formal~~ complaint.

Supportive measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a ~~formal~~ complaint ~~or where no formal complaint has been filed~~. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter sex discrimination ~~sexual harassment~~. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, and other similar measures. The District shall maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

The District may remove a respondent from the District's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that the District undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sex discrimination ~~sexual harassment~~ justifies removal, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

~~Response to a Formal Complaint~~

Response to a Notification of Conduct

The Title IX Coordinator must take the following actions upon being notified of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination:

~~"Formal complaint" means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the District investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the District with which the formal complaint is filed. A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information listed above, and by any additional method designated by the District that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the complaint.~~

~~The District may place a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process in response to a formal complaint. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.~~

~~For the purpose of addressing formal complaints of sexual harassment, this grievance process shall comply with the following basic elements:~~

~~A. Provide written notice to all parties upon receipt of complaint, which must include:~~

- ~~1. Notice of the District's formal grievance process, including any informal resolution process;~~
- ~~2. Notice of the allegations, including sufficient details to allow respondent to prepare a response (such as the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident);~~
- ~~3. A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;~~
- ~~4. Notice that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence; and~~

~~5. Notice of any provision in the District's code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or providing false information in the grievance process.~~

~~B. Treat complainants and respondents equitably;~~

~~C. Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence;~~

~~D. Require that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision maker, or any person designated by the District to facilitate an informal resolution process, be properly trained and not have a conflict of interest against complainants and respondents generally or against the particular complainant and respondent;~~

~~E. Include a presumption that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination has been made at the conclusion of the grievance process;~~

~~F. Include reasonably prompt timeframes for the conclusion of the grievance process;~~

~~G. Describe or list the possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies that may be implemented following a determination of responsibility;~~

~~H. State that the District uses a preponderance of evidence standard to determine responsibility;~~

~~I. Include the procedures and permissible reasons for appeal by a respondent or a complainant;~~

~~J. Describe the range of supportive measures available to complainants and respondents; and~~

~~K. Not require, allow, or use evidence or questions that constitute or seek legally privileged information, unless the privilege is waived.~~

A. Treat the complainant and respondent equitably. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(i)).

B. Offer and coordinate supportive measures, as appropriate, for the complainant. If the recipient has initiated grievance procedures or offered an informal resolution process to the respondent, offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate, for the respondent. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(ii)).

C. Notify the complainant, or if the complainant is unknown, the individual who reported the conduct, of the grievance procedures and the informal resolution process, if available and appropriate. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(iii)(A)).

D. If a complaint is made, notify the respondent of the grievance procedures and the informal resolution process, if available and appropriate. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(iii)(B)).

E. In response to a complaint, initiate the recipient's grievance procedures or informal resolution process, if available and appropriate. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(iv)).

F. In the absence of a complaint or the withdrawal of any or all of the allegations in a complaint, and in the absence or termination of an informal resolution process, make a fact-specific determination by considering, at a minimum, eight (8) listed factors, and determining whether the conduct as alleged presents an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of a complainant or other person or prevents the recipient from ensuring equal access based on sex to its education program or activity such that the Title IX Coordinator may initiate a complaint. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(v)).

G. If the Title IX Coordinator initiates a complaint, notify the complainant prior to doing so and appropriately address reasonable concerns about the complainant's safety or the safety of others. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(vi)).

H. Regardless of whether a complaint is initiated, take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the recipient's education program or activity, in addition to providing remedies to an individual complainant. (§ 106.44(f)(1)(vii)).

If the conduct alleged ~~in a formal complaint~~ does not meet the Title IX definition of sex discrimination ~~sexual harassment~~ as established in Governing Board policy, did not occur in the District's education program or activity, or did not occur against a person in the United States, then the District shall dismiss the allegations for purposes of Title IX but may still address the allegations in any manner the District deems appropriate under other District policies.

The District may dismiss a ~~formal~~ complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time:

- A. The complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the ~~formal~~ complaint or any allegations therein;
- B. The respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the District; or
- C. Specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the ~~formal~~ complaint or allegations therein.

Upon dismissal of a ~~formal~~ complaint or any allegations therein, the District shall promptly send written notice of the dismissal, including the reasons for the dismissal, simultaneously to the parties.

When investigating a ~~formal~~ complaint and throughout the grievance process, the District shall:

- A. Ensure that the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence rests on the District and not on the parties, except that certain treatment records cannot be obtained without voluntary, written consent of a party;
- B. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses and evidence;
- C. Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations or to gather and present evidence;
- D. Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any meeting or grievance proceeding;
- E. Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of any meeting or grievance proceeding, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate;
- F. Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation (prior to completion of the investigative report, the investigator will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, a copy of all evidence gathered during the investigation and will allow the parties at least ten (10) days to submit a written response to any of the evidence); and
- G. Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least ten (10) days prior to a determination of responsibility, send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or hard copy, for their review and written response.

After the District has sent the investigative report to the parties and before reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker(s) shall afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence are offered to prove consent.

Decision-maker(s) must not have bias or conflict of interest. A decision-maker may be the Title IX Coordinator or investigator as long as there is no bias or conflict or interest.

The decision-maker(s), ~~who cannot be the same person(s) as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s)~~, shall apply the District's established standard of evidence and shall issue a written determination regarding responsibility that includes:

- A. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sex discrimination ~~sexual harassment~~;
- B. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the ~~formal~~ complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
- C. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
- D. Conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct to the facts;
- E. A statement of and rationale for the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the District imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity shall be provided by the District to the complainant; and
- F. The District's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

The District shall provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

The District shall offer both parties the right to appeal from a determination regarding responsibility and from a dismissal of a ~~formal~~ complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

- A. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- B. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
- C. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-makers(s) had a conflict of interest or bias ~~for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affect the outcome of the matter.~~

As to all appeals, the District shall:

- A. Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;

- B. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator;
- C. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal does not have a conflict of interest or bias ~~for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent~~;
- D. Give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;
- E. Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and
- F. Provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

The District may not require as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, waiver of the right to an investigation and adjudication of ~~formal~~ complaints of sex discrimination ~~sexual harassment~~. ~~Similarly, the District may not require the parties to participate in an informal resolution process and may not offer an informal resolution process unless a formal complaint is filed.~~ However, at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility during a ~~formal~~ complaint process, the District may facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication, provided that the District:

- A. Provides to the parties a written notice disclosing:
 - 1. The allegations;
 - 2. The requirements of the informal resolution process, ~~including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations~~, provided, ~~however~~, that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and ~~resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint~~; and
 - 3. Any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that shall be maintained or could be shared;
- B. Obtains the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process; and
- C. Does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

The District shall maintain for a period of seven (7) years records of:

- A. Each sex discrimination ~~sexual harassment~~ investigation including:
 - 1. Any determination regarding responsibility;
 - 2. Any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent; and
 - 3. Any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity.
- B. Any appeal and the result therefrom;
- C. Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
- D. All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The District shall make these training materials publicly available on its website, or if the District does not maintain a website the District shall make these materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public.

The District shall create and maintain for a period of seven (7) years, records of any actions, including supportive measures taken in response to a report or ~~formal~~ complaint of sex discrimination ~~sexual harassment~~. In each instance, the District shall document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity. If a District does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the District shall document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the District in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

**GBK ©
STAFF GRIEVANCES**

Effective communication between District employees, the administrative staff, and the Board is essential for proper operation of the schools. The Governing Board, therefore, authorizes the Superintendent to establish a grievance procedure for employees as the prescribed means of resolving grievances at the earliest date and the lowest possible administrative level. In cases of alleged sex discrimination, this grievance procedure should provide supportive measures to complainants and respondents affected by the alleged sex discrimination conduct, must require adequate notice, must provide an equal opportunity to present and access evidence, and provide a reasonable opportunity for response by each party.

Such procedure shall provide for an appeal to the Board for review of any grievance that cannot be resolved at the administrative level. In such instances, ~~the affected individual may request that the Governing Board review the situation. Such~~ request shall be in writing and shall contain the basis for the appeal, including the act or acts out of which the grievance arose, identification of the Board policies and/or administrative regulations involved, and the remedy sought. Within five (5) working days following notification of the Superintendent's decision, any written request for appeal shall be submitted to the Superintendent for transmittal to the Board. The Governing Board, at a time of its choosing, shall review the grievance and issue a response within fifteen (15) working days following such review.

The decision of the Governing Board is final.

Adopted: _____

LEGAL REF.:

A.R.S.

38-532

20 U.S.C. 1681, Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX,
as amended in 2024, Title IX

**JII ©
STUDENT CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS,
AND GRIEVANCES**

The Superintendent is directed to establish procedures whereby students with sufficient concern may present a complaint or grievance regarding a violation of their constitutional rights, equal access to programs, discrimination, or personal safety provided that:

- A. The topic is not the subject of disciplinary or other proceedings under other policies and regulations of the District, and
- B. The procedure shall not apply to any matter for which the method of review is prescribed by law, or the Governing Board is without authority to act.

A complaint or grievance may be raised regarding any ~~one (1) or more~~ of the following:

- A. Violation of the student's constitutional rights.
- B. Denial of an equal opportunity to participate in any program or activity for which the student qualifies, not related to the student's individual capabilities.
- C. Discriminatory treatment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

In cases of alleged sex discrimination, this grievance procedure should provide supportive measures to complainants and respondents affected by the alleged sex discrimination conduct, must require adequate notice, must provide an equal opportunity to present and access evidence, and provide a reasonable opportunity for response by each party.

- D. Concern for the student's personal safety.

Refer to Board Policy JICK for procedures applying to a complaint or grievance that alleges incidences of student violence, harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

The complaint or grievance ~~accusation~~ must be made within thirty (30) calendar days of the time the student knew or should have known that there were grounds for the complaint or grievance. The initial complaint or grievance should be made using form JII-EA; however, a verbal complaint or grievance may be made to any school staff member. The receiving staff member shall immediately inform an administrator of the complaint or grievance.

When the initial complaint or grievance is submitted in a manner other than on the prescribed form, the administrator shall obtain from the student the particulars of the accusation and complete form JII-EA immediately thereafter. The administrator shall especially note all student-provided particulars determined by the Superintendent to be necessary for the complaint or grievance to be investigated. Any question concerning whether a complaint or grievance falls within this policy shall be determined by the Superintendent.

If the receiving school administrator is included in the allegation, the complaint or grievance shall be transmitted to the next higher administrative supervisor. Failure by the staff member to timely inform a school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor of a student's allegation may subject the staff member to disciplinary action. The staff member shall preserve the confidentiality of the subject, disclosing it only to the appropriate school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor or as otherwise required by law.

A student or student's parent or guardian may initiate the complaint process by completing Exhibit JII-EA.

A complaint or grievance may be withdrawn at any time. Once withdrawn, the process cannot be reopened if the resubmission is longer than thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the occurrence of the alleged incident.

Retaliatory or intimidating acts against any student who has made a complaint under this policy and its corresponding regulations, or against a student who has testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation relating to a complaint or grievance, are specifically prohibited and constitute grounds for a separate complaint.

To assure that students and staff are aware of its content and intent, a notice of this policy and procedure shall be posted conspicuously in each school building and shall be made a part of the rights and responsibilities section of the student handbook. Forms for submitting complaints are to be available to students, staff and parents or guardians in the school offices.

Disposition of all complaints or grievances shall be reported to the Superintendent and the compliance officer for discrimination if other than the Superintendent. The Superintendent will determine if the policies of the District have been appropriately implemented and will make such reports and/or referrals to the Board as may be necessary.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the maintenance and confidentiality of documentation related to the receipt of a student's complaint or grievance, findings of the investigation, and disposition of the matter. The documentation shall not be used to impose disciplinary action unless the appropriate school official has investigated and determined there was an actual occurrence of the alleged incident.

Knowingly submitting a false report under this policy shall subject the student to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion. Where disciplinary action is necessary pursuant to any part of this policy, relevant District policies shall be followed.

When District officials have a reasonable belief or an investigation reveals that a reported incident may constitute an unlawful act, law enforcement authorities will be informed.

Adopted: <-- z2AdoptionDate -->

LEGAL REF.:

A.R.S.

15-341

20 U.S.C. 1681, Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX,
as amended in 2024, Title IX

CROSS REF.:

AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

ACA - Sexual Harassment

GBEB - Staff Conduct

JB - Equal Educational Opportunities

JIC - Student Conduct

JICFA - Hazing

JICK - Student Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation

JK - Student Discipline

JKD - Student Suspension

JKE - Expulsion of Students

KE - Public Concerns and Complaints