

Regulation 5145.3: Nondiscrimination/Harassment

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/01/2016 | **Last Revised Date:** ~~12/07/01/2021~~2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** ~~12/07/01/2021~~2024

CSBA NOTE: The following **mandated** administrative regulation provides measures that may be implemented by a district to comply with state and federal laws and regulations prohibiting unlawful discrimination at school or in school-sponsored or school-related activities, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, of any student based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or any other legally protected category or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. 34 CFR 106.2 and 106.10, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, clarify that discrimination on the basis of sex for the purpose of Title IX includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender identity; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery; and parental, marital, and family status. Federal and state law also prohibit retaliation against those who engage in activity to protect civil rights.

5 CCR 4621 **mandates** the district to identify in its policies and procedures the person(s), position(s), or unit(s) responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs, including the receiving and investigating of complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying. ~~In addition~~ Additionally, 34 CFR 106.8 and other federal regulations mandate districts that receive federal financial assistance to adopt procedures for the "prompt and equitable" resolution of student and employee discrimination complaints, including the designation of one or more responsible employees to ensure district compliance with federal laws and regulations governing the district's educational programs.

During the Federal Program Monitoring process, California Department of Education (CDE) staff will check to ensure that the district's procedures list the specific title(s) of the employee(s) responsible for investigating complaints. The U.S. Department of Education's (~~USD OE~~) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is the agency responsible for the administrative enforcement of federal antidiscrimination laws and regulations in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance from the department. In reviewing a district's discrimination policies and procedures, OCR will examine whether the district has identified the employee(s) responsible for coordinating compliance with federal civil rights laws, including the investigation of complaints.

The following paragraph identifies the employee(s) designated to coordinate the district's efforts to comply with state and federal civil rights laws as the same person designated to ensure district compliance, and receive, investigate and resolve discrimination complaints under AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. Districts may modify the following paragraph to designate different district employees to serve these functions. Note also that a district may designate more than one

employee to coordinate compliance and/or receive and investigate complaints, although each employee designated as a coordinator/compliance officer must be properly trained.

34 CFR 106.8, as amended by 85 Fed. 30026, requires that the employee designated by the district to coordinate its responsibilities under Title IX be referred to as the Title IX Coordinator. If the district has more than one Title IX Coordinator is responsible for receiving complaints, it must designate one of sexual harassment and determining whether the complaint should be appropriately addressed through AR 1312.3 or the federal its Title IX complaint procedures pursuant to 34 CFR 106.44-106.45. The Coordinators to retain ultimate oversight over those responsibilities and ensure the district's consistent compliance with its responsibilities under Title IX. It is recommended that the Title IX Coordinator may be the same person designated below and in AR 1312.3. - Uniform Complaint Procedures, and, if the district wishes to separate out these responsibilities, for one individual to designate designees and maintain oversight. See AR 5145.7 - SexualSex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment and AR 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures.

The district designates the individual(s) identified below as the Compliance Officer(s). The employee(s) is responsible for coordinating the district's efforts to comply with applicable state and federal civil rights laws and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies. The individual(s) shall also serve as the compliance officer Compliance Officer(s) specified in AR Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures as the responsible employee to handle complaints alleging unlawful discrimination targeting a student, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or any other legally protected status or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. The coordinator/compliance officer of a student, and the Title IX Coordinator specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.7 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment as the responsible employee to handle complaints alleging unlawful sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, as permitted by law. The Compliance Officer(s) may be contacted at: (Education Code 234.1; 5 CCR 4621)

[Redacted]

(title or position)

[Redacted]

(address)

[Redacted]

(telephone number)

[Redacted]

(email)

Measures to Prevent Discrimination

To prevent unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, and bullying, of students at district schools or in school activities and to ensure equal access of all students to the educational program, the Superintendent or designee shall implement the following measures:

CSBA NOTE: As part of its responsibility to monitor district compliance with legal requirements concerning discrimination pursuant to Education Code 234.1, as amended by SB 153 (Ch. 38, Statutes of 2024), CDE is required to ensure that the district ~~posts~~ prominently and conspicuously displays its nondiscrimination policies in all ~~schools, offices~~ areas that are accessible to, and commonly frequented by, school site employees, students, and members of the public at each school site and district office, including, but not limited to, in school office lobbies, staff lounges, and student government meeting rooms, and on the district's website.

In addition, federal regulations enforced by OCR require the district to notify students, parents/guardians, and employees of its policies prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex (34 CFR 106.8; ~~106.9~~), disability (34 CFR 104.8 and 28 CFR 35.107), and age (34 CFR 110.25) and of related complaint procedures.

For additional notification requirements ~~specifically pertaining~~ specific to ~~sexual~~ sex discrimination and sex-based harassment, see BP/AR 5145.7 - Sexual Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment.

1. Publicize the district's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures, including the ~~coordinator/compliance officer's~~ Compliance Officer's contact information, to students, parents/guardians, employees, volunteers, and the general public by posting them in prominent locations and providing easy access to them through district-supported communications

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 234.1, as amended by SB 153, and 234.6 requires a district to post its nondiscrimination policies on its ~~web site~~ website as specified below. In addition to the policies listed below, if the district has a policy in regard to the prevention and response to hate violence, it is also required to be posted, and the following item should be modified accordingly. See BP 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior.

2. Post the district's policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination, harassment, student ~~sexual~~ sex-based harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying, including a section on social media bullying that includes all of the references described in Education Code 234.6 as possible forums for social media, in a prominent location on the district's ~~web site~~ website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students (Education Code 234.1, 234.6)
3. Post the definition of sex discrimination and harassment as described in Education Code 230, including the rights set forth in Education Code 221.8, in a prominent location on the district's ~~web site~~ website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students (Education Code 234.6)

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 221.61 requires districts and public schools to post on their ~~web sites~~ websites information related to Title IX (20 USC 1681-1688). Education Code 234.6 requires districts to post the Title IX information required pursuant to 221.61 in a prominent location on the district's ~~web site~~ website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. Additionally, districts are required to provide a link to the Title IX information included on CDE's website pursuant to Education Code 221.6, in the same manner. A comprehensive list of rights based on the federal regulations implementing Title IX can be found in Education Code 221.8. A district that does not maintain a ~~web site~~ website may comply by posting the information below on

the ~~web site~~[website](#) of its county office of education. A school without a ~~web site~~[website](#) may comply by posting the information on the ~~web site~~[website](#) of the district or county office of education.

4. Post in a prominent location on the district ~~web site~~[website](#) in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students information regarding Title IX prohibitions against discrimination based on a student's sex; [sex characteristics](#); [sexual orientation](#); gender; gender identity; pregnancy, [childbirth, termination of pregnancy or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery](#); and parental, [marital, and family](#) status, including the following: (Education Code 221.6, 221.61, 234.6)
 - a. The name and contact information of the district's Title IX Coordinator, including the phone number and email address
 - b. The rights of students and the public and the responsibilities of the district under Title IX, including a list of rights as specified in Education Code 221.8 and web links to information about those rights and responsibilities located on the ~~web sites~~[websites](#) of the Office for Equal Opportunity and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
 - c. A description of how to file a complaint of noncompliance under Title IX, which shall include:
 - i. An explanation of the statute of limitations within which a complaint must be filed after an alleged incident of discrimination has occurred and how a complaint may be filed beyond the statute of limitations
 - ii. An explanation of how the complaint will be investigated and how the complainant may further pursue the complaint, including web links to this information on ~~the~~ OCR's ~~web site~~[website](#)
 - iii. A web link to the OCR complaints form and the contact information for the office, including the phone number and email address for the office
 - d. A link to the Title IX information included on the California Department of Education's ~~Education's~~[Education's](#) (CDE) ~~web site~~[website](#)

[CSBA NOTE: Item #5 is for districts that participate in the California Interscholastic Federation \(CIF\). In order to track racial discrimination, harassment, or hazing that occurs at high school sporting games or events, Education Code 33353, as amended by AB 1327 \(Ch. 366, Statutes of 2023\), requires a district that participates in CIF to post on its website, by April 1, 2025, a standardized incident form developed by CDE, including information on how to submit a completed incident form to the district. The district is required to submit information related to any completed standardized incident form to CDE, if requested.](#)

5. By April 1, 2025, post CDE's standardized incident form to track racial discrimination, harassment, or hazing that occurs at high school sporting games or events, including information on how to submit a completed incident form to the district (Education Code 33353)

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Title IX and its implementing regulation 34 CFR 106.8, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, districts are required to provide a notice of nondiscrimination on the basis of sex, as specified below.

6. Post in a prominent location on the district's website and include in each handbook, catalog, announcement, bulletin, and application form for students, parents/guardians or other authorized legal representative, and employees, the Title IX notice of nondiscrimination which includes the following: (34 CFR 106.8)

- a. The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that it operates
- b. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator and/or OCR
- c. The name or title, office and email address, and telephone number of the district's Title IX Coordinator
- d. How to locate the district's nondiscrimination policy and the district's grievance procedures for Title IX complaints
- e. How to report conduct that may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX
- f. How to make a complaint of Title IX sex discrimination

If necessary due to the format or size of any publication specified above, the district may include only the statement that the district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, that individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator, and the location of the complete notice on the district's website.

The district shall not distribute a publication stating that the district treats students, employees or applicants differently on the basis of sex, unless such treatment is permitted by Title IX.

5. 7. _____ Post a link to statewide CDE-compiled resources, including community-based organizations, that provide support to youth who have been subjected to school-based discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying and to their families. Such resources shall be posted in a prominent location on the district's web site in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. (Education Code 234.5, 234.6) (Education Code 234.5)

Such resources shall be posted in a prominent location on the district's website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students. (Education Code 234.6)

6. 8. _____ Provide to students a handbook that contains age-appropriate information that clearly describes the district's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filing a complaint, and resources available to students who feel that they have been the victim of any such behavior:

7. 9. Annually notify all students and parents/guardians of the district's nondiscrimination policy, including its responsibility to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory school environment for all students-

_____ The notice shall inform students and parents/guardians that they may request to meet with the ~~compliance officer~~ Compliance Officer to determine how best to accommodate or resolve concerns that may arise from the district's implementation of its nondiscrimination policies. The notice shall also inform all students and parents/guardians that, to the extent possible, the district will address any individual student's interests and concerns in private.

CSBA NOTE: Both federal and state laws contain requirements for translation of certain information and documents. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires school districts to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency. OCR has interpreted this to require that, whenever information is provided to parents/guardians, districts must notify limited-English-proficient (LEP) parents/guardians in a language other than English in order to be adequate. OCR enforces this requirement consistent with the Department of Justice's 2003 "Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons:" Under the Guidance, a recipient of federal funds has an obligation to provide language assistance to LEP individuals based on balancing four factors: (1) the number or proportion of LEP individuals likely to encounter or be served by the program, (2) the frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program, (3) the nature and importance of the services provided by the program, and (4) the resources available to the recipient and costs. State law is more specific than federal law. Education Code 48985 requires translation of certain information and documents if 15 percent or more of students enrolled in the school speak a single primary language other than English.

8. 10. Ensure that students and parents/guardians, including those with limited English proficiency, are notified of how to access the relevant information provided in the district's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures, notices, and forms in a language they can understand-

If 15 percent or more of students enrolled in a particular district school speak a single primary language other than English, the district's policy, regulation, forms, and notices concerning nondiscrimination shall be translated into that language in accordance with Education Code 234.1 and 48985. In all other instances, the district shall ensure meaningful access to all relevant information for parents/guardians with limited English proficiency.

9. 11. Provide to students, employees, volunteers, and parents/guardians age-appropriate training and/or information regarding the district's nondiscrimination policy; what constitutes prohibited discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying; how and to whom a report of an incident should be made; and how to guard against segregating or stereotyping students when providing instruction, guidance, supervision, or other services to them-

_____ Such training and information shall include details of guidelines the district may use to provide a discrimination-free environment for all district students-

CSBA NOTE: Item #12 applies to districts that serve students in any of grades 7-12. Pursuant to Education Code 234.1, as amended by SB 153, a district is required to provide certificated school employees serving students in any of grades 7-12 information on existing

school and community resources related to the support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) students, or related to the support of students who may face bias or bullying as specified below.

12. Provide to certificated employees serving students in grades 7-12 information on existing school and community resources related to the support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) students, or related to the support of students who may face bias or bullying on the basis of any of the actual or perceived characteristics in Penal Code 422.55, including immigration status; Education Code 220; and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics (Education Code 234.1)

CSBA NOTE: Item #13 applies to districts that serve students in any of grades 7-12. Starting in the 2025-26 school year through the 2029-2030 school year, Education Code 218.3, as added by AB 5 (Ch. 220, Statutes of 2023), requires a district serving students in any of grades 7-12 to provide at least one hour of training annually to all teachers and certificated employees serving students in grades 7-12 which incorporates CDE's online training curriculum to support LGBTQ+ cultural competency. The district is required to maintain records documenting the date that each employee completed the training and the name of the entity that provided the training.

13. For the 2025-2026 school year through the 2029-2030 school year, provide annually to certificated employees serving students in grades 7-12 at least one hour of training to support LGBTQ+ cultural competency in accordance with Education Code 218.3

- ~~10.~~ 14. At the beginning of each school year, inform school employees that any employee who witnesses any act of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, against a student is required to intervene if it is safe to do so. (Education Code 234.1)

CSBA NOTE: Item #~~11~~15 below may be revised to reflect district practice. In some situations, the district may need to provide assistance to a student to protect the student from harassment or bullying. Each situation will need to be analyzed to determine the most appropriate course of action to meet the needs of the student, based on the circumstances involved.

- ~~11.~~ 15. At the beginning of each school year, inform each principal or designee of the district's responsibility to provide appropriate assistance or resources to protect students from threatened or potentially discriminatory behavior and ensure their privacy rights.

Enforcement of District Policy

The Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate actions to reinforce BP 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment. As needed, these actions may include any of the following:

- ~~1.~~ Removing vulgar or offending graffiti
- ~~2.~~ Providing training to students, staff, and parents/guardians about how to recognize unlawful discrimination, how to report it or file a complaint, and how to respond
- ~~3.~~ Disseminating and/or summarizing the district's policy and regulation regarding unlawful discrimination

4. Consistent with laws regarding the confidentiality of student and personnel records, communicating to students, parents/guardians, and the community the school's response plan to unlawful discrimination or harassment
5. Taking appropriate disciplinary action against students, employees, and anyone determined to have engaged in wrongdoing in violation of district policy, including any student who is found to have filed a complaint of discrimination that the student knew was not true

Process for Initiating and Responding to Complaints

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 234.1 requires that districts adopt a process for receiving and investigating complaints of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, and bullying. Such a process, which is required to be consistent with the uniform complaint procedures (UCP) specified in 5 CCR 4600-4670, must include (1) a requirement that school personnel who witness an act take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so, (2) a timeline for investigating and resolving complaints, (3) an appeal process, and (4) translation of forms when required by Education Code 48985. In addition, federal regulations require districts to adopt procedures providing for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of discrimination on the basis of sex (34 CFR 106.8), disability (34 CFR 104.7 and 28 CFR 35.107), and age (34 CFR 110.25). OCR guidance on federal civil rights requirements notes that districts may have a responsibility to respond to notice of discrimination whether or not a formal complaint is filed.

Complaints of sexual harassment must be addressed through the federal Title IX complaint procedures established pursuant to 34 CFR 106.44-106.45, as added by 85 Fed. Reg. 30026, if the alleged conduct meets the federal definition of sexual harassment. Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.30, sexual harassment includes (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. Allegations that do not meet this definition should be addressed through the district's UCP. See BP/AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment and AR 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures.

Students who feel that they have been subjected to unlawful discrimination described above or in district policy are strongly encouraged to immediately contact the compliance officer **Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator**, principal, or any other staff member. In addition, students who observe any such incident are strongly encouraged to report the incident to the compliance officer **Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator**, or principal, **regardless of** whether or not the alleged victim files a complaint.

CSBA NOTE: The following paragraph related to employee reporting of unlawful discrimination should be revised to reflect the district's timeline.

Any school employee who observes an incident of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, or to whom such an incident is reported shall report the incident to the compliance officer **Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator**, or principal within a school day, **one workday, regardless of** whether or not the alleged victim files a complaint.

Any school employee who witnesses an incident of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, shall immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so. (Education Code 234.1)

CSBA NOTE: Though a formal complaint must be in writing pursuant to 5 CCR 4600, the district's obligation to provide a safe school environment for its students overrides the need to comply with formalities. Thus, once the district receives notice of an incident, whether verbally or in writing, it is good practice to begin the investigation of the report and to take steps to stop any prohibited conduct and address any effect on students. The following paragraph reflects such practice.

Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.11 and is consistent 106.44, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, a district with OCR recommendation knowledge of alleged conduct, which occurs in a district program or activity on or after August 1, 2024, that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, is required to follow Title IX grievance procedures when investigating and resolving a complaint based on the alleged conduct. As such a complaint may also fall within the scope of the UCP, it is unclear whether districts would additionally be required to follow the UCP. Due to this uncertainty, districts are advised to consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel prior to utilizing the UCP for this purpose. For more information regarding the Title IX grievance procedures, see AR 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

When a report of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, is made to or received by the principal, Compliance Officer, or ~~compliance officer~~, Title IX Coordinator, the principal, Compliance officer, or ~~compliance officer~~ Title IX Coordinator shall notify the student or parent/guardian of the right to file a formal complaint in accordance with AR Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures or, for complaints of ~~sexual~~ sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment that meet the federal right to initiate the Title IX definition, AR grievance procedures as specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures. Once notified verbally or in writing, the ~~compliance officer~~ Compliance Officer or Title IX Coordinator shall begin the investigation and shall implement immediate measures necessary to stop the discrimination and ensure that all students have access to the educational program and a safe school environment. Any interim measures adopted to address unlawful discrimination shall, to the extent possible, not disadvantage the complainant or a student who is the victim of the alleged unlawful discrimination.

Any report or complaint alleging unlawful discrimination by the principal, ~~compliance officer~~ Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator, or any other person to whom a report would ordinarily be made or complaint filed shall instead be made to or filed with the Superintendent or designee who shall determine how the complaint will be investigated.

Issues Unique to Intersex, Nonbinary, Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students

CSBA NOTE: The terms and definitions used below are consistent with California law, case law, and generally accepted terms within academia and in publications issued by state and federal agencies such as CDE and OCR, including provisions in the California Gender Recognition Act that recognize three gender options, female, male, and nonbinary, and define "nonbinary" and other

related terms such as "intersex" and "transgender". In addition to consistency with the above, the definition of "gender identity" below is consistent with the Resolution Agreement between the Arcadia Unified School District, OCR, and the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, which defines "gender identity" as "one's internal sense of gender, which may be different from one's assigned sex, and which is consistently and uniformly asserted, or for which there is other evidence that the gender identity is sincerely held as part of the student's core identity."

The following section is also consistent with OCR's fact sheet "Supporting Intersex Students: A Resource for Students, Families, and Educators," issued in October 2021 and CDE's "Update FLASH #158, Guidance for Changing a Student's Gender in CALPADS," which provides guidance on changing a student's gender and/or legal name on the student's mandatory permanent record.

Gender identity of a student means the student's gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior as determined from the student's internal sense, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the student's physiology or assigned sex at birth.

Gender expression means a student's gender-related appearance and behavior, whether stereotypically associated with the student's assigned sex at birth. (Education Code 210.7)

Gender transition refers to the process in which a student changes from living and identifying as the sex assigned to the student at birth to living and identifying as the sex that corresponds to the student's gender identity.

Gender-nonconforming student means a student whose gender expression differs from stereotypical expectations.

Intersex student means a student with natural bodily variations in anatomy, hormones, chromosomes, and other traits that differ from expectations generally associated with female and male bodies.

Nonbinary student means a student whose gender identity falls outside of the traditional conception of strictly either female or male, regardless of whether or not the student identifies as transgender, was born with intersex traits, uses gender-neutral pronouns, or uses agender, genderqueer, pangender, gender nonconforming, gender variant, or such other more specific term to describe their gender.

Transgender student means a student whose gender identity is different from the gender assigned at birth.

The district prohibits acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility that are based on sex, gender identity, or gender expression, or that have the purpose or effect of producing a negative impact on the student's academic performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment, regardless of whether the acts are sexual in nature. Examples of the types of conduct which are prohibited in the district and which may constitute gender-based harassment include, but are not limited to:

- 1.—Refusing to address a student by a name and the pronouns consistent with the student's gender identity
- 2.—Disciplining or disparaging a student or excluding the student from participating in activities, for behavior or appearance that is consistent with the student's gender identity or that does not conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity, as applicable
- 3.—Blocking a student's entry to the restroom that corresponds to the student's gender identity
- 4.—Taunting a student because the student participates in an athletic activity more typically favored by a student of the other sex
- 5.—Revealing a student's gender identity to individuals who do not have a legitimate need for the information, without the student's consent
- 6.—Using gender-specific slurs
- 7.—Physically assaulting a student motivated by hostility toward the student because of the student's gender, gender identity, or gender expression

The district's uniform complaint procedures (AR 1312.3) or Title IX sexual harassment procedures (AR 5145.71), as applicable, shall be used to report and resolve complaints alleging discrimination against intersex, nonbinary, transgender, and gender-nonconforming students.

Examples of bases for complaints include, but are not limited to, the above list, as well as improper rejection by the district of a student's asserted gender identity, denial of access to facilities that correspond with a student's gender identity, improper disclosure of a student's gender identity, discriminatory enforcement of a dress code, and other instances of gender-based harassment.

To ensure that intersex, nonbinary, transgender, and gender-nonconforming students are afforded the same rights, benefits, and protections provided to all students by law and Board policy, the district shall address each situation on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the following guidelines:

CSBA NOTE: Timelines included in items #1-2 below may be modified to reflect district practice.

Pursuant to state and federal law, a district has the responsibility to ensure a safe, nondiscriminatory school environment for all students and equal access to the educational program for intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender non-conforming students. As part of its obligation, the district must keep a student's private information, including a student's gender, gender identity, or gender expression, confidential. CDE's "School Success and Opportunity Act (Assembly Bill 1266) Frequently Asked Questions," references a transgender student's informational privacy right under Article I, Section 1 of the California Constitution as protecting the student's gender identity from disclosure. However, CDE specifies that, pursuant to 34 CFR 99.36, disclosure of such information to appropriate parties is permitted in connection with an emergency, as necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. Therefore, a district is required to take measures such as those specified in the following paragraph, to prevent unintentional release of students' private information and should contact legal counsel before disclosing a student's gender identity without the student's consent.

- 1.—Right to privacy: A student's intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming status is the student's private information. The district shall develop strategies to prevent unauthorized disclosure of students' private information. Such strategies may include, but are not limited to, collecting or maintaining information about student gender only when relevant to the educational program or activity, protecting or revealing a student's gender identity as necessary to protect the health or safety of the student, and keeping a student's unofficial record separate from the official record.

The district shall only disclose the information to others with the student's prior written consent, except when the disclosure is otherwise required by law or when the district has compelling evidence that disclosure is necessary to preserve the student's physical or mental well-being. In any case, the district shall only allow disclosure of a student's personally identifiable information to employees with a legitimate educational interest as determined by the district pursuant to 34 CFR 99.31. Any district employee to whom a student's intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming status is disclosed shall keep the student's information confidential. When disclosure of a student's gender identity is made to a district employee by a student, the employee shall seek the student's permission to notify the compliance officer. If the student refuses to give permission, the employee shall keep the student's information confidential, unless the employee is required to disclose or report the student's information pursuant to this administrative regulation, and shall inform the student that honoring the student's request may limit the district's ability to meet the student's needs related to the student's status as an intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming student. If the student permits the employee to notify the compliance officer, the employee shall do so within three school days.

As appropriate given the student's need for support, the compliance officer may discuss with the student any need to disclose the student's intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconformity status or gender identity or gender expression to the student's parents/guardians and/or others, including other students, teacher(s), or other adults on campus. The district shall offer support services, such as counseling, to students who wish to inform their parents/guardians of their status and desire assistance in doing so.

- 2.—Determining a Student's Gender Identity: The compliance officer shall accept the student's assertion of gender identity and begin to treat the student consistent with that gender identity unless district personnel present a credible and supportable basis for believing that the student's assertion is for an improper purpose.
- 3.—Addressing a Student's Transition Needs: The compliance officer shall arrange a meeting with the student and, if appropriate, the student's parents/guardians to identify and develop strategies for ensuring that the student's access to educational programs and activities is maintained. The meeting shall discuss the intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming student's rights and how those rights may affect and be affected by the rights of other students and shall address specific subjects related to the student's access to facilities and to academic or educational support programs, services, or activities, including, but not limited to, sports and other competitive endeavors. In addition, the compliance officer shall identify specific school site employee(s) to whom the student may report any problem related to the student's status as an intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming individual, so that prompt action can be taken to address it. Alternatively, if appropriate and desired by the student, the school may form a support team for the student that will meet periodically to assess whether the arrangements for the student are meeting the student's educational needs and providing equal access to programs and activities, educate appropriate staff about the student's transition, and serve as a resource to the student to better protect the student from gender-based discrimination.

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 221.5, a district is required to permit a student to use facilities and participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities consistent with the student's gender identity, regardless of the gender listed on the student's educational records. In implementing state law, districts may review recommended practices in the USDOE's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students. For more information on the rights of transgender students, see CSBA's Updated Legal Guidance: Protecting Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students Against Discrimination.

- 4.—Accessibility to Sex-Segregated Facilities, Programs, and Activities: When the district maintains sex-segregated facilities, such as restrooms and locker rooms, or offers sex-segregated programs and activities, such as physical education classes, intermural sports, and interscholastic athletic programs, students shall be permitted to access facilities and participate in programs and activities consistent with their gender identity. To address any student's privacy concerns in using sex-segregated facilities, the district shall offer available options such as a gender-neutral or single-use restroom or changing area, a bathroom stall with a door, an area in the locker room separated by a curtain or screen, or use of the locker room before or after the other students. However, the district shall not require a student to utilize these options because the student is intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming. In addition, a student shall be permitted to participate in accordance with the student's gender identity in other circumstances where students are separated by gender, such as for class discussions, yearbook pictures, and field trips. A student's right to participate in a sex-segregated activity in accordance with the student's gender identity shall not render invalid or inapplicable any other eligibility rule established for participation in the activity.

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 49062.5 and 49070 require districts to update a former student's records to change the student's name and/or gender as specified below. See AR 5125 - Student Records. Pursuant to 5 CCR 432, a district is required to maintain for each student a mandatory permanent student record that includes the student's legal name, sex, and other specified details. While 5 CCR 4910 refers to "sex" as the "biological condition or quality of being a female or male human being," it also defines "gender" to mean "sex," which includes "a person's gender identity and gender related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth." When responding to a request to change the gender or legal name of intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender non-conforming students, districts should be mindful of laws prohibiting gender-based discrimination. In CALPADS' "Update FLASH #158, Guidance for Changing a Student's Gender in CALPADS", CDE distinguishes the process for updating a student's legal name from the process for updating a student's gender. According to CDE, a district must receive formal documentation that a student's name has been legally changed before the student's recorded legal name may be changed in the student's mandatory permanent student record (official record). When documentation is not provided, CDE states the district should nonetheless update all other school records (unofficial records such as attendance sheets, report cards, and school identification) to reflect the name change. On the other hand, to change a student's gender in the student's official records, CDE states that there is no specific requirement regarding formal documentation or process that a district should review or require in determining the gender to be recorded in the official records. Pursuant to Education Code 49061, only a parent/guardian may authorize a change to a student's gender in the student's official record. The district should consult legal counsel in developing a policy in this regard.

5.—**Student Records:** Upon each student’s enrollment, the district is required to maintain a mandatory permanent student record (official record) that includes the student’s gender and legal name.

A student’s legal name as entered on the mandatory student record required pursuant to 5 CCR 432 shall only be changed with proper documentation. A student’s gender as entered on the student’s official record required pursuant to 5 CCR 432 shall only be changed with written authorization of a parent/guardian having legal custody of the student. (Education Code 49061)

However, when proper documentation or authorization, as applicable, is not submitted with a request to change a student’s legal name or gender, any change to the student’s record shall be limited to the student’s unofficial records such as attendance sheets, report cards, and school identification.

6.—**Names and Pronouns:** If a student so chooses, district personnel shall be required to address the student by a name and the pronoun(s) consistent with the student’s gender identity, without the necessity of a court order or a change to the student’s official district record. However, inadvertent slips or honest mistakes by district personnel in the use of the student’s name and/or consistent pronouns will, in general, not constitute a violation of this administrative regulation or the accompanying district policy.

7.—**Uniforms/Dress Code:** A student has the right to dress in a manner consistent with the student’s gender identity, subject to any dress code adopted on a school site.

Policy Reference UPDATE Service

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Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 432	Student records
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
5 CCR 4900-4965	Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary educational programs receiving state or federal financial assistance
Civ. Code 1714.1	Liability of parent or guardian for act of willful misconduct by a minor
Ed. Code 17585	School modernization project; all-gender restroom
Ed. Code 200-262.4	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 33353	California Interscholastic Federation; standardized incident form
Ed. Code 35292.5	School restrooms; all-gender restrooms
Ed. Code 48900.3	Suspension or expulsion for act of hate violence

Ed. Code 48900.4	Suspension or expulsion for harassment, threats, or intimidation
<u>Ed. Code 48900.5</u>	<u>Suspension; other means of correction</u>
Ed. Code 48904	Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct
Ed. Code 48907	Exercise of free expression; time, place, and manner rules and regulations
Ed. Code 48950	Speech and other communication
Ed. Code 48985	Notices to parents in language other than English
Ed. Code 49020-49023	Athletic programs
Ed. Code 49060-49079	Student records
Ed. Code 51204.5	Social sciences instruction; contributions of specified groups
Ed. Code 51500	Prohibited instruction or activity
Ed. Code 51501	Nondiscriminatory subject matter
Ed. Code 60010	Instructional materials; definition
Ed. Code 60040-60052	Requirements for instructional materials
Gov. Code 11135	Prohibition of discrimination
Pen. Code 422.55	Definition of hate crime
Pen. Code 422.6	Crimes; harassment
Federal	Description
20 USC 1681-1688	Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination based on sex
28 CFR 35.107	Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints
29 USC 794	Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Section 504
34 CFR 100.3	Prohibition of discrimination on basis of race, color or national origin
34 CFR 104.7	Section 504; Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievances procedures
34 CFR 104.8	Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap
34 CFR 106.45	Grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment
34 CFR 106.81-106.82	Designation of coordinator; dissemination of policy, and adoption of grievance procedures <u>Discrimination on the basis of sex; effectuating Title IX</u>
34 CFR 110.25	Prohibition of discrimination based on age
34 CFR 99.31	Disclosure of personally identifiable information

42 USC 12101-12213	Americans with Disabilities Act
42 USC 2000d-2000e-17	Title VI and Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended
42 USC 2000h-2-2000h-6	Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
42 USC 6101-6107	Age Discrimination Act of 1975
Management Resources	Description
34 CFR 106.30	Discrimination on the basis of sex; definitions
CA Office of the Attorney General Publication	Promoting a Safe and Secure Learning Environment for All: Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's K-12 Schools in Responding to Immigration Issues, April 2018
<u>CA Office of the Attorney General Publication</u>	<u>Guidance to School Officials re: Legal Requirements for Providing Inclusive Curricula and Books, January 2024 (https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press- docs/Legal%20Alert%20Re%20Inclusive%20Curricula.1.9.24. 1157CLEAN.pdf)</u>
<u>CSBA Publication</u>	<u>Instructional Materials Adoptions: State and local governing board processes, roles, and responsibilities, February 2024 (https://www.csba.org/- /media/CSBA/Files/GovernanceResources/GovernanceBriefs/ /2024-REPD-instructional-materials- brief.ashx?la=en&rev=9880900e6d334c81a7f64d637e40dc 56)</u>
<u>CSBA Publication</u>	<u>Fact Sheet: Instructional Materials Adoption: Local governing board responsibilities, February 2024 (https://www.csba.org/- /media/CSBA/Files/GovernanceResources/GovernanceBriefs/ /2024-REPD- IM- LocalRoles.ashx?la=en&rev=94453dc92df043379995b0758 9a4d558)</u>
<u>CSBA Publication</u>	<u>Reference: State Roles, Responsibilities, and Process for Instructional Materials Adoption, February 2024 (https://www.csba.org/- /media/CSBA/Files/GovernanceResources/GovernanceBriefs/ /2024-REPD- IM- StateRoles.ashx?la=en&rev=f00baf9bd1af4844b94f99135ca 65588)</u>
California Department of Education Publication	California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Update FLASH #158: Guidance for Changing a Student's Gender in CALPADS, July 2019
Court Decision	Donovan v. Poway Unified School District (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567
Court Decision	Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District (2003, 9th Cir.) 324 F.3d 1130

<u>Federal Register</u>	<u>Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, April 29, 2024, Vol. 89, No. 83, pages 33474-33896</u> <u>https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/29/2024-07915/nondiscrimination-on-the-basis-of-sex-in-education-programs-or-activities-receiving-federal</u>
CSBA Publication	Legal Guidance on Rights of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students in Schools, October 2022
U.S DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Resolution Agreement Between the Arcadia USD, US Dept of Ed, OCR, & the US DOJ, CRD (2013) OCR 09-12-1020, DOJ 169-12C-70
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, May 2023
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Publication	Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, August 2013
<u>U.S. DOE Publication</u>	<u>Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, May 2023</u> <u>https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer_guidance.html</u>
<u>U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication</u>	<u>Dear Colleague Letter: Protecting Students from Discrimination, such as Harassment, Based on Race, Color, or National Origin, Including Shared Ancestry or Ethnic Characteristics, May 2024</u> <u>https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-202405-shared-ancestry.pdf</u>
<u>U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication</u>	<u>Dear Colleague Letter: Discrimination, including Harassment, Based on Shared Ancestry or Ethnic Characteristics, November 2023</u> <u>https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-202311-discrimination-harassment-shared-ancestry.pdf</u>
U.S. DOE & U.S. DOJ Civil Rights Divisions Pub	Dear Colleague Letter: Resource on Confronting Racial Discrimination in Student Discipline, May 2023
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Enforcement of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 With Respect to Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Light of Bostock v. Clayton County, June 2021
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Dear Colleague Letter: Addressing Discrimination Against Jewish Students, May 2023

U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	U.S. Department of Education Toolkit: Creating Inclusive and Nondiscriminatory School Environments for LGBTQI+ Students, June 2023
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Questions and Answers on the Title IX Regulations on Sexual Harassment, June 2022
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Supporting Students with Disabilities and Avoiding the Discriminatory Use of Student Discipline under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Dear Colleague Letter: Race and School Programming, August 2023
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students, May 2016
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	First Amendment Center
Website	California Interscholastic Federation (https://www.cifstate.org/landing/index)
Website	California Office of the Attorney General
Website	California Safe Schools Coalition
Website	CSBA
Website	California Department of Education
Website	U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights

Cross References

Code	Description
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0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
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1114	District-Sponsored Social Media
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1240	Volunteer Assistance
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1312.1	Complaints Concerning District Employees

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1312.4-E(1)	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
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3530	Risk Management/Insurance
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3580	District Records
3580	District Records
4112.6	Personnel Files
4112.9	Employee Notifications
4112.9-E(1)	Employee Notifications
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4118	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action
<u>4119.11</u>	<u>Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment</u>
4119.21	Professional Standards
4119.21-E(1)	Professional Standards
4119.23	Unauthorized Release Of Confidential/Privileged Information
4131	Staff Development

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4218	Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action
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5145.71	Title IX Sexual <u>Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based</u> Harassment Complaint Procedures
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