



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	Copy of DEFINITIONS
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## 0100 - **DEFINITIONS**

The bylaws of the Board of Education of this District incorporate quotations from the laws and administrative code of the State of Wisconsin. Such quotations may be substantively altered only by appropriate legislative, judicial, or administrative action.

Whenever the following items are used in these bylaws, policies, and administrative guidelines, they shall have the meaning set forth below:

### **Administrative Guideline**

A statement, based on policy, usually written, which outlines and/or describes the means by which a policy should be implemented and which provides for the management cycle of planning, action, and assessment or evaluation. The District previously referred to administrative guidelines as rules.

### **Agreement**

A collectively negotiated contract with a recognized bargaining unit.

### **Apps and Services**

Apps and services are software (i.e., computer programs) that support the interaction of personal communication devices (as defined in Bylaw 0100, above) over a network, or client-server applications in which the user interface runs in a web browser. Apps and services are used to communicate/transfer information/data that allow students to perform actions/tasks that assist them in attaining educational achievement goals/objectives, enable staff to monitor and assess their students' progress, and allow staff to perform other tasks related to their employment. Apps and services also are used to facilitate communication to, from and among and between, staff, students, and parents, Board members, and/or other stakeholders and members of the community.

### **Board**

The School Board also commonly referred to as the Board of Education. Within these bylaws and policies, the terms Board and District may be used interchangeably, depending on the context of the policy.

### **Bylaw**

Rule of the Board for its own governance.

### **Clerk**

The chief clerk of the Board. (See Bylaw 0170)

**District**

The School District. Within these bylaws and policies, the terms Board and District may be used interchangeably, depending on the context of the policy.

**District Administrator**

The administrative head of the School District of Manawa. In policy, capitalization of the term District Administrator, implies delegation of responsibilities to appropriate staff members.

**Due Process**

Procedural due process requires prior knowledge (a posted discipline code), notice of offense (accusation), and the opportunity to respond. Specific due process requirements are dependent upon the circumstances and may vary depending on such circumstances.

**Full Board**

Authorized number of voting members entitled by law to govern the District. The full Board is the total number of Board members authorized by law regardless of the number of current sitting members.

**Information Resources**

The Board defines information resources to include any data/information in electronic, audio-visual or physical form, or any hardware or software that makes possible the storage and use of data/information. This definition includes but is not limited to electronic mail, voice mail, social media, text messages, databases, CD-ROMs/DVDs, web sites, motion picture film, recorded magnetic media, photographs, digitized information, or microfilm. This also includes any equipment, computer facilities, or online services used in accessing, storing, transmitting or retrieving electronic communications.

**Law Enforcement Officer(s) or Agencies**

These terms include any local, State, or Federal law enforcement agency of competent jurisdiction and its officers acting within their legal authority.

**Legal Custodian of Records**

The School District will designate one (1) District Records Custodian (DRC) to be the legal custodian of records for the District. The DRC shall keep and preserve the public records of the District and is granted authority to render a decision and carry out duties related to those public records. [The DRC is designated in Policy 8310 - Public Records.](#)

**May**

This word is used when an action by the Board or its designee is permitted but not required.

**Medical Advisor**

The School District is required to appoint a medical advisor. The medical advisor shall be a licensed physician and will participate in the annual review of the District emergency nursing services plan. The School District may also have the medical advisor fulfill other roles. (PI 8.01(g)(3))

**Meeting**

Any gathering which is attended by or open to all of the members of the Board, held with the intent on the part of the members of the body present to discuss or act as a unit upon the specific public business of that body. Wis. Stat. 19.82(2).

**Parent**

The natural, adoptive, or surrogate parents or the party designated by the courts as the legal guardian or custodian of a student. Both parents will be considered to have equal rights unless a court of law decrees otherwise.

**Personal Communication Devices**

Personal communication devices ("PCDs") include computers, laptops, tablets, e-readers, cellular/mobile phones, smartphones, and/or other web-enabled devices of any type.

**Policy**

A general, written statement by the governing Board which defines its expectations or position on a particular matter and authorizes appropriate action that must or may be taken to establish and/or maintain those expectations.

**President**

The chief executive officer of the Board of Education. (See Bylaw 0170)

**Principal**

The educational leader and head administrator of one (1) or more District schools. In policy and administrative guidelines, implies authority to delegate responsibilities to appropriate members of his/her staff.

**Professional Staff Member**

District employees who are either certified teachers employed in a position for which certification is a requirement of employment or administrative employees who are responsible for oversight or supervision of a component or components of the District's operation, or serve as assistants to such persons, regardless of whether they hold an administrative contract or are required to have administrator certification, but excluding the District Administrator/Superintendent.

**Relative**

The mother, father, sister, brother, spouse, domestic partner, parent of spouse/domestic partner, child or step-child, grandparents, grandchild, ~~or~~-dependent or member of the immediate household.

**School Nurse**

A school nurse is a registered nurse who meets the requirements of Wis. Stat. Sec. 115.001(11). A school nurse has the authority to exclude students for signs of illness.

**School Official**

A school official is a person employed by the Board as an administrator, supervisor, teacher/instructor (including substitutes), or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board; a person or company with whom the Board has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, or medical consultant); a contractor, consultant, volunteer or other party to whom the Board has outsourced a service otherwise performed by Board employees (e.g. a therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks (including volunteers).

**Shall**

This word is used when an action by the Board or its designee is required. (The word "will" or "must" also signifies a required action.)

**Social Media**

Social media are online platforms where users engage with another and/or share information and ideas through text, video, or pictures. Social media consists of any form of online publication or presence that allows interactive communication, including, but not limited to, text messaging, instant messaging, websites, web logs ("blogs"), wikis, online forums (e.g., chat rooms), virtual worlds, and social networks. Examples of social media include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Facebook Messenger, Google Hangouts, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Flickr, Instagram, Pinterest, Skype, and Facetime. Social media does not include sending or receiving e-mail through the use of District-issued e-mail accounts. Apps and web services shall not be considered social media unless they are listed on the District's website as District-approved social media platforms/sites.

**Student**

A person who is officially enrolled in a school or program of the District.

**Superintendent**

Sometimes the administrative head of the School District is referred to as Superintendent but has the authority of the District Administrator by law. In policy, capitalization of the "S" in Superintendent implies delegation of responsibilities to appropriate staff members.

**Support Staff**

Any employee who provides support to the District's program and whose position does not require a professional certificate. This category includes special education paraprofessionals, even though it is a requirement to hold a special education program aide license issued by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) or another valid and current DPI license or permit..

**Technology Resources**

The Board defines technology resources to include computers, laptops, tablets, e-readers, cellular/mobile telephones, smartphones, web-enabled devices, video and/or audio recording equipment, SLR and DSLR cameras, projectors, software and operating systems that work on any device, copy machines, printers and scanners, information storage devices (including mobile/portable storage devices such as external hard drives, CDs/DVDs, USB thumb drives and memory chips), the computer network, Internet connection, and online educational services and apps.

**Treasurer**

The chief financial officer of the Board (See Bylaw 0170)

**Vice-President**

The Vice-President of the Board. (See Bylaw 0170)

**Voting**

A vote at a meeting of the Board. The law requires that Board members must be present in order to have their vote officially recorded in the Board minutes, and to be available for a roll call vote. A Board member's presence at a meeting includes his/her presence if attending by telephone or other manner of remote access, so long as such remote access is compliant with State law. No voting by Proxy may be recorded or counted in an official vote of the Board. Remote access during quasi-judicial functions (e.g. termination hearings, expulsions) may be permitted after consultation with legal counsel.

Citations to Wisconsin statutes are shown by the Section Number (e.g., 120.11, Wis. Stats.). Citations to the Wisconsin Administrative Code are prefaced P.I. (e.g., P.I. 11). Citations to the United States Code are noted as U.S.C., Federal Register are noted as F.R., and the Code of Federal Regulations as C.F.R.

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#### 0122 - BOARD POWERS

The power of this Board extends to those matters expressly or implicitly granted by constitution, statute, local charter or ordinance, or other law, including the power to do all things reasonable to promote the cause of education unless prohibited by Federal or State law.

The Board shall also authorize the development and promulgation of rules and guidelines by the District Administrator for the proper operation and management of the District, including the conduct of students while in school or enroute on school buses.

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Legal 118.001, Wis. Stats.  
120.13, Wis. Stats.

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#### ~~0144.2—BOARD MEMBER ETHICS~~

~~The School Board's primary responsibility is the educational welfare of the District's students. The Board serves the best interest of students and the community and its students, utilizing all available resources toward that end. The Board functions most effectively when individual Board members act responsibly, professionally and ethically. To promote such conduct, the Board has adopted the following standards for Board members.~~

~~Board members should meet the high professional responsibilities of membership in the following ways:~~

- ~~A. Comply with Federal, State and local laws and regulations.~~
- ~~B. Communicate with Federal and State legislators about the assistance needed to provide a quality, free public education for all students.~~
- ~~C. Become fully informed about the nature, value, and direction of current education issues by individual study and through participation in professional development opportunities such as those sponsored by State and National School Board Associations.~~
- ~~D. Acknowledge that the Board represents the entire school community, and refuse to surrender independent judgment to special interests or partisan political groups.~~
- ~~E. Support the employment of the best qualified school staff who will serve in the best interests of the students.~~
- ~~F. Support all District employees in the proper performance of their duties by ensuring all staff members have access to quality professional development opportunities and receive regular, impartial job performance evaluations.~~
- ~~G. Recognize that the Board is responsible for overall management and control of District affairs and property, including the development of policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the day to day administration of the educational program and school business shall be the responsibility of the District Administrator and other designated staff members.~~
- ~~H. Work continually with administration to identify the needs, goals, and priorities of the District.~~

~~Board members should respect relationships with other Board members in the following ways:~~

- ~~A. Recognize that authority rests only with the Board in properly called official meetings, and that the individual member has no legal authority outside Board meetings unless performing officer duties under State law or directed by the Board to act on its behalf.~~
- ~~B. Attend all regularly scheduled Board and committee meetings, and be prepared to contribute to the discussion of agenda items and make informed decisions.~~
- ~~C. Encourage the free and courteous exchange of ideas and opinions by all Board members.~~

- D. ~~Base all decisions on available facts and independent judgment after full discussions of issues at publicly held Board meetings.~~
- E. ~~Respect the opinions of others, and abide by rule of the majority when decisions are made by the Board.~~

~~Board members should meet responsibilities to the community in the following ways:~~

- A. ~~Maintain open communication lines with all elements of the community and inform community members about the educational needs of the District, the actions of the Board and the accomplishments of the District's educational program~~
- B. ~~Communicate to other Board members and the District Administrator expressions of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.~~
- C. ~~Refer all public concerns and complaints through the proper channels in accordance with Board policy, and act on such matters at public meetings only when not resolved through administrative actions.~~

~~Board members should adhere to the high ethical standards and personal conduct expectations:~~

- A. ~~Model integrity in all matters, especially in the performance of duties and responsibilities as a Board member, by maintaining a high level of honesty, credibility and openness.~~
- B. ~~Make no personal promises nor take private action which may compromise the Board or administration.~~
- C. ~~Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, refrain from using the Board position for personal, family, partisan or associate gain, and adhere to all other ethical standards required by law.~~
- D. ~~Shall not discuss personnel matters or any confidential information at home, at work, in public, or with school personnel who are not authorized to have access to such information.~~

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#### 0144.3 - CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Board members shall perform their official duties in an an ethical manner and free from conflict of interest pursuant to 19.59, Wis. Stats. To this end:

- A. no Board member shall use his/her position as a Board member to obtain financial gain or anything of substantial value for himself/herself, immediate family as defined in 19.42(7), Wis. Stats., or any organization with which s/he is associated;
- B. no Board member shall accept any offer of anything of value from a person either directly or indirectly, nor shall solicit or accept anything of value, if it could be reasonably expected to influence the Board member's actions;
- C. no Board member shall engage in or have a financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any activity that conflicts or raises a reasonable question of conflict with his/her duties and responsibilities in the school system and as a public officer;
- D. when a member of the Board determines that the possibility of such a personal or financial interest conflict exists, s/he should, prior to the matter being considered, disclose his/her interest (such disclosure shall become a matter of record in the minutes of the Board), and thereafter shall abstain from participation in both the discussion of the matter and the vote thereon. In the event that the potential conflict involves a program or activity in whole or in part financed through Federal grant funds, the potential conflict of interest must be disclosed to the Federal granting agency consistent with the requirements of the particular granting agency; ~~;~~
- E. Board members shall also perform their duties in a manner that does not violate criminal conflict of interest laws pursuant to 946.13, Wis. Stats. by having a private pecuniary interest in a contract with the District in an amount that exceeds \$15,000 annually or by participating in making or performing some function as a Board member with respect to a contract in which the Board member has a private pecuniary interest, unless statutory exceptions apply.

~~Board members shall also perform their duties in a manner that does not violate criminal conflict of interest laws pursuant to 946.13, Wis. Stats., by having a private interest in a contract with the District in an amount that exceeds \$15,000 annually.~~

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Legal 19.42(7), 19.59, 946.13, Wis. Stats





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#### 0144.5 - BOARD MEMBER BEHAVIOR AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board functions most effectively when individual Board members act ethically, professionally, and responsibly. School Board members serve as a member of the School District's governing body and do not have individual authority to represent a policy or enforce positions that are not supported by a majority of the Board as evidenced by official action of the Board (See Bylaw 0143 - Authority of Individual Board Members).

Board members accept responsibility for the well-being and positive leadership of the School District, for protecting the interests of the School District as a legal entity, and for facilitating governance for the purpose of delivering the highest quality educational and related services to all of the District's students. Conduct by Board members that compromises the legal position of the District should be avoided.

Any authority delegated to the Board President in this policy is automatically vested in the Board Vice President in the event that either the Board President is unavailable or the Board President is the Board member accused of violating this policy.

#### General Expectations of All Board Members

- A. Be familiar with and follow applicable local, State, and Federal laws and regulations.
- B. Be familiar with and comply with Board policies, including policies governing Board member conduct and ethics (~~see Bylaw 0144.2~~) and Board member ethics and conflicts of interest (see Bylaw 0144.3).
- C. Conduct themselves with integrity, honesty, and in a manner that reflects positively on the Board and on the District.
- D. Be accountable for guiding and supporting the policy decision-making process that impacts students, staff, and the community. The operation of the District is the responsibility of the administration.
- E. Establish and maintain a high level of honesty, credibility, and truthfulness in all matters dealt with by the Board.
- F. Treat others with respect and dignity at all times, and maintain decorum, and always communicate in a way that does not violate or illustrate disregard for Board policy concerning harassment or discrimination. This decency expectation applies in all communications, including while discussing sensitive, controversial, or matters involving disagreement.
- G. At all times conduct themselves in the best interest of the School District, including avoiding implicating the District in unlawful activity or supporting or encouraging efforts to harm the reputation, legal standing, or to bring other material harm to the interests of the District or the Board.
- H. Recognize that they should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings.
- I. Render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment.

- J. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members, and seek systematic communications between the Board and students, staff, and all elements of the community.
- K. Work with the other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the District to the District Administrator.
- L. Communicate to other Board members and the District Administrator expressions of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.
- M. Inform themselves about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and the National School Boards Association.
- N. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.
- O. Refrain from using their Board positions for personal partisan gain.
- P. Take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law.
- Q. Remember always that their first and greatest concern must be for the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.
- R. No Board member shall act or fail to act in his/her position as a Board member in violation of 946.12, Wis. Stats., regarding misconduct in public office.

### **Board Member Communication**

Board members are expected to refrain from engaging in communication on behalf of the Board or on behalf of the District unless authorized to do so by majority vote of the Board (See Bylaw 0143.1).

Any Board member who chooses to engage in individual communication on matters related to Board and/or District business is expected to clearly identify whether the Board member is communicating in the following capacity:

- A. On behalf of the Board: normally, this is the function of the Board President or in the President's absence, the Vice President. The Board may by majority vote delegate this responsibility to another Board member in a specific circumstance. In every case, the Board Member communicating the Board's position shall do so as determined by the Board and avoiding individual interpretation or editorializing.
- B. As an individual Board member, but not on behalf of the Board: a Board member who speaks, including online, in social media forums, or in any other public forum, on matters related to Board and/or District business, but not as an officially designated spokesperson of the Board.

Board members who fail to adhere to this expectation, or who publicly communicate false or intentionally misleading information pertaining to Board action or District policy, will be asked to correct such communication in a way that is likely to reach the same audience as the false or misleading information. The Board President is authorized to communicate such requests to the pertinent Board member.

The Board President is authorized to issue public statements on behalf of the Board in the event a Board member expresses false or misleading information, or makes statements without properly identifying whether he or she is speaking as an individual Board member. The President's communication should be limited to correcting the false or misleading statement, clarifying that the Board member was not speaking on behalf of the Board, and providing information relative to Board action if any on the subject matter.

### **Board Member Interaction with Staff**

The general expectations of Board member decorum and civility apply to interactions with employees; however, because the Board is the employer of all District staff, this responsibility is appropriate for special reference. Each Board member is an individual with authority to bring matters to the Board and to influence matters related to staff. Therefore, it is imperative that Board members treat all employees with respect and as professionals. Board members are also required to comply with Board Policies governing employee anti-harassment, non-discrimination, and threatening behavior.

No Board member has inherent authority to require any staff member to respond to the Board member regarding a specific request for information, or to direct any staff member to perform or not perform any task, except as provided by Board policy or as directed by majority vote of the Board.

Board members access to and request for School District records and information is governed by Board Bylaw 0143.2.

### **Board Member Records and Confidentiality**

Board members are expected to maintain their own public records created on resources not controlled by and thus not maintained by the School District. Each Board member is an elected official responsible for preserving all public records he/she creates, and to comply with requests to inspect such records. The District has no obligation nor responsibility to assist any Board member in fulfilling this responsibility with respect to records that are not maintained by the District.

Board members are encouraged to review Board policy defining and explaining public records, their maintenance, and public access (See Board Policy 8310).

Board members are expected to maintain and protect the privacy of District records, including student records, and communications received in closed session meetings of the Board.

### **Enforcement**

Complaints alleging violations of the Board Member Code of Conduct may be brought by any person and can be submitted to the Board President or, if the Board President is the member accused of violating this policy, to the Vice President.

The President or Vice President shall review the complaint and determine whether he/she can investigate the matter or contact the School District's legal counsel for support. Upon completion of the investigation, if the conclusion reached is that the Board member violated the policy, the investigator shall brief the Board and may recommend action to be taken.

Board members are elected officials and therefore cannot be disciplined, prevented from participating in Board meetings, or removed from office by the Board. The Board may consider the following:

- A. Formal censure by resolution passed by a majority of the Board in an open session meeting of the Board.
- B. Removal from Board committee assignments for the remainder of the year and until the following organizational meeting of the Board, at which time the President is authorized to continue to withhold committee assignment. Approval of this sanction is an adopted exception to Bylaw 0155.
- C. Restriction on Board member rights granted by policy, including requesting items for a Board meeting agenda.
- D. Referral to proceed with efforts to remove the Board member from office for cause, which means inefficiency, neglect of duty, official misconduct, or malfeasance in office.
- E. Referral to law enforcement if any alleged misconduct constitutes potentially unlawful conduct.
- F. Other efforts to pursue compliance with and adherence to the policy as determined by the Board and not prohibited by law.

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Legal                      946.12, Wis. Stats.  
                                  17.13, Wis. Stats.

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#### 0145 - ~~BOARD MEMBER ANTI-SEXUAL AND OTHER FORMS OF HARASSMENT~~

The Board is committed to an environment that is free of harassment. The Board will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate action to eliminate it.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against harassment based on race, color, national origin, age, sex (including gender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.), ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, declining to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters, or any other characteristic protected by law in its employment practices (hereinafter referred to as "Protected Classes"), and encourages those within the School District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board prohibits harassment that affects tangible job benefits, interferes unreasonably with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. ~~Harassment may occur employee-to-employee, employee-to-student, male-to-female, female-to-male, male-to-male, or female-to-female.~~

The harassment of a District staff member, student, or another Board member by a member of the Board is strictly forbidden. Any member who is found to have harassed a member of the staff, a student, or another Board member, will be subject to discipline by the Board and may be reported to law enforcement authorities. (See Policy 0144.5 - Board Member Behavior and Code of Conduct).

The Board believes that sexual or other forms of offensive speech and conduct are wholly inappropriate to the harmonious relationships necessary to the operation of the District and intolerable in an environment in which students and staff members of this District function.

Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and verbal or physical contacts of a sexual nature whenever submission to such conduct is made a condition of employment or a basis for an employment decision, or when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. (See also Policy 1422 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity, Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, Policy 3122 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity, and Policy 4122 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity)

Other forms of harassment include verbal or non-verbal expression related to race, gender, age, religion, disability, pregnancy, or sexual orientation.

Substantial interference with a person/employee's work performance or creation of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment is established when the conduct based on sex or one of the other Protected Classes referenced above, is such that a reasonable person under the same circumstances as the person/employee would consider the conduct sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to interfere substantially with the person's work performance or create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. (See also Policy 3362.01/Policy 4362.01 - Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members)

~~The harassment of a District staff member, student or another Board member by a member of the Board is strictly forbidden. Any member who is found to have harassed a member of the staff, a student, or another Board member will be subject to discipline by the Board and may be reported to law enforcement authorities.~~

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Legal                            118.13, 120.13(1) 111.36(1) Wis. Stats.  
   P.I. 9, Wis. Adm. Code  
   Title IX Education Amendments of 1972, Chapter 227

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#### 0167.3 - PUBLIC COMMENT AT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on District matters.

#### Agenda Item

Any person or group who would like to have an item put on the agenda shall submit their request to the District Administrator no later than ten (10) days prior to the meeting and include:

- A. name and address of the participant;
- B. group affiliation, if and when appropriate;
- C. topic to be addressed.

Such requests shall be subject to the recommendation of the District Administrator and the approval of Board President.

#### Public Comment Section of the Meeting

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board may provide a period for public comment at any regular or special meeting of the Board and publish rules to govern such comment in Board meetings.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public comment is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public comment shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business, at the discretion of the presiding officer, and for individuals who live or work within the District and parents/guardians of students enrolled in the District.
- B. Attendees must register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting.
- C. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name; address; and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.

- E. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- F. Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants.
- G. Participants shall address only topics within the legitimate jurisdiction of the Board.
- H. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.
- I. The presiding officer may:
  - 1. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
  - 2. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;
  - 3. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
  - 4. call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.
  - 5. waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.
- J. The portion of the meeting during which the comment of the public is invited shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes unless extended by a vote of the Board.
- K. The Board may authorize the administration to arrange for the recording, filming, photographing, broadcasting, or live streaming of open sessions of Board meetings.
- L. Signage, banners, or other material which impedes any person's view of the proceedings, including a Board member's view, shall be relocated so as not to obstruct views.

Recording, filming, or photographing the Board's open meetings by Third Parties is permitted pursuant to 19.90, Wis. Stat. Recording, filming, or photographing the Board's closed session is only permitted pursuant to Bylaw 0167.2 – Closed Session. The person operating the equipment should contact the District Administrator prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment, and must agree to abide by the following conditions:

- 1. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.
- 2. No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session.
- 3. No commentary, adjustment of equipment, or positioning of operators is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience or otherwise disrupt the meeting while the Board is in session.

Revised 11/16/2020

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Legal                      19.90, Wis. Stats.

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on September 16, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	Copy of SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT
Code	po0174.2 - DELETE - Included in Policy 2700.01
Status	
Adopted	April 25, 2016
Last Revised	April 27, 2020

~~0174.2—SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT~~

~~The Board will also publish an annual school and School District performance report including all information prescribed by statute. By January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the Board shall notify the parents of each student enrolled in the District of the right to request a school and School District performance report. Parents shall be notified that the performance report will be provided to the parent electronically unless the parent requests a written copy of the report. By May 1st, the Board shall distribute copies of the report to those who have requested the report including students enrolled in charter schools located in the District, that have requested the report.~~

~~The School and School District Performance Report will be posted on the District's website.~~

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Legal 115.38, Wis. Stats.

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on July 24, 2021





Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Code	po1130
Status	
Adopted	October 17, 2016
Last Revised	November 16, 2020

### 1130 - **ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The proper performance of school business is dependent upon the maintenance of unusually high standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality, and professional conduct by Board members, and the District's administrative employees, officers, and agents, and is essential to the Board's commitment to earn and keep the public's confidence in the School District.

For these reasons, the Board adopts the following guidelines to that are designed to avoid the occurrence or appearance of any conflicts of interest. These guidelines apply to all administrative employees, officers, and agents, including members of the Board. These guidelines are not intended to be all inclusive, nor to substitute for good judgment on the part of all administrative employees, officers, and agents. Administrative employees are expected to perform their duties in an ethical manner and free from an actual conflict of interest or from situations that create the appearance of a conflict of interest, in a manner consistent with 19.59, Wis. Stats. The Board's interest in enforcing this policy is to assure that the decisions and actions of public employees retain the public's trust. Therefore, even a conflict relationship that can be viewed as beneficial to the District or that was intended to be beneficial to the District, may still be a violation of this policy.

- A. No administrative employee, officer, or agent shall engage in or have a personal or financial or other interest, directly or indirectly, in any activity that conflicts or raises a reasonable question of conflict with his/her duties and responsibilities in the school system. Specifically, administrative employees must perform their duties in a manner that does not violate criminal conflict of interest laws pursuant to 946.13, Wis. Stats. by having a private pecuniary interest in an amount that exceeds~~This includes not only those interests that violate state criminal law, which typically requires at least \$15,000 in financial interest,~~ but also lesser valued conflicts that nonetheless create the appearance of using one's public position to secure a private pecuniary interest and/or benefit.
- B. Administrative employees, officers, and agents shall not engage in business, private practice of their profession, the rendering of services, or anything of substantial value or the sale of goods of any type where advantage is taken of any professional relationship they may have with any employee, student, client, or parents of such students or clients in the course of their employment or professional relationship with the School District.

Included, by way of illustration rather than limitation are the following:

1. the provision of any private lessons or services for a fee, unless the provision of services is arranged outside of school and is separate from, and in addition to, regular support provided to students as part of the administrator's regular duties.
2. soliciting on school premises or under circumstances which are coercive for the private sale of goods or services to students or other employees
3. the use, sale, or improper divulging of any privileged information through his/her access to School District records, about a student or client, gained in the course of the administrative employee's, officer's or agent's employment or

professional relationship with the School District

4. the referral of any student or client for lessons or services to any private business or professional practitioner if there is any expectation of reciprocal referrals, sharing of fees, or other remuneration for such referrals
5. the requirement of employees, students or clients to purchase any private goods or services provided by an administrative employee, officer or agent or any business or professional practitioner with whom any employee, officer or agent has a financial or other relationship, as a condition of receiving any grades, credits, promotions, approvals, or recommendations

C. Should exceptions to this policy be necessary in order to provide mandatory services to students or clients of the School District, all such exceptions will be made known to the administrative employee's supervisor and will be disclosed to the District Administrator before entering into any private relationship.

D. Administrative employees, officers, and agents shall not make use of materials, equipment, or facilities of the School District for their own personal financial gain or business interest. Examples would be the use of facilities before, during, or after regular business hours for service to private practice clients, or the checking out of items from an instructional materials center for private practice.

E. Administrative employees, officers, and agents cannot participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a Federal grant/award if s/he has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer or agent, any member of his/her immediate family, his/her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties described in this section, has a financial or other interest in, or a tangible personal benefit from, a firm considered for a contract.

Administrative employees, officers, and agents may not solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts.

However, pursuant to Federal rules, the School District has set standards for when an administrative employee, officer or agent may accept a gift of an unsolicited item of nominal value. For purposes of this section, "nominal value" means that the gift has a monetary value of \$50.00 or less.

F. Administrative employees, officers, and agents must disclose any potential conflict of interest which may lead to a violation of this policy to the School District. Upon discovery of any potential conflict of interest, the School District will disclose, in writing, the potential conflict of interest to the appropriate Federal awarding agency or, if applicable, the pass-through entity.

The District will also disclose, in a timely manner, all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery or gratuity that affect a Federal award to the appropriate Federal awarding agency or, if applicable, the pass-through entity.

G. Administrative employees, officers and agents found to be in violation of this conflict of interest policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

No administrative employee may accept or engage in any employment, consulting, advising, or other professional activity with any organization other than the District, whether the administrator will receive compensation for such outside activity or not, without first providing notice to the District Administrator, or in the case of the District Administrator, such notice must be provided to the Board.

In the event that, within the course of administering a Federally funded grant program or service to the District, an administrative employee identifies a conflict of interest, a potential conflict of interest, or that the appearance of a conflict of interest may arise in the course of administering the Federal grant funds, the administrative employee must immediately notify either the Federal agency administering the grant in a manner consistent with that particular agencies rules on conflict of interests, or the District employee directly responsible for grant compliance. Such notice shall be provided at the earliest possible time.

It is a violation of this policy to take action or to refrain from taking action, or for an administrative employee to otherwise use his/her public position to obtain a financial gain or anything of substantial value for himself/herself or his/her immediate family, as defined in 19.42(7), Wis. Stats.

Revised 7/22/19

Revised 4/27/2020

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Legal                    19.59, 19.42(7), 946.13, Wis. Stats.  
                              2 C.F.R. 200.12, 2 C.F.R. 200.113, 2 C.F.R. 200.318  
                              7 C.F.R. 3016.36(b)(3) and 7 C.F.R. 3019.42

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on July 24, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	Copy of BOARD - DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR RELATIONSHIP
Code	po1210
Status	
Adopted	October 1, 2015
Last Revised	April 23, 2018

#### 1210 - BOARD - DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR RELATIONSHIP

The Board believes that, in general, it is the primary duty of the Board to establish policies and that of the District Administrator to administer such policies. Policy should not be originated or changed without the input or recommendation of the District Administrator. The District Administrator should be given the latitude to determine the best method of implementing the policies of the Board.

The District Administrator, as the chief administrative officer of the District, is the primary professional advisor to the Board. S/He is responsible for the development, supervision, and operation of the school program and facilities, including the development of administrative guidelines consistent with Policy 1230.01 - Development of Administrative Guidelines. The Board shall retain oversight of any administrative guidelines established by the District Administrator to implement Board policy.

The District Administrator and those administrators directed by the District Administrator shall attend all Board meetings, when feasible. Administrative participation shall be by professional counsel, guidance, and recommendation - as distinct from deliberation, debate, and voting of Board members.

In the interests of promoting and maintaining a healthy and productive work environment, the District Administrator shall report to the Board President any information regarding Board member conduct in violation of Policy 3362.01 - Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, Policy 4362.01 - Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, or Bylaw 0144.5 - Board Member Behavior and Code of Conduct. If such a report involves the Board President, the Board Vice-President shall be notified.

The Board is responsible for determining the success of the District Administrator in meeting the goals established by the Board through annual evaluations of the District Administrator's performance. The Board, in formulating its position with regard to the performance of the District Administrator, shall rely, whenever possible, on the objective outcomes of its evaluations rather than on subjective opinions.

Revised 6/19/17

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT - NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE
Code	po1422.02
Status	
Adopted	October 17, 2016

#### 1422.02 - **NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE**

The Board ~~of Education~~ prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, including hiring, firing, compensation, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits, or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. The Board also does not limit, segregate, or classify applicants or employees in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive them of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the status of the person as an employee ~~as an employee~~, based on genetic information. Harassment of a person because of his/her genetic information ~~is also~~ is prohibited. Likewise, retaliation against a person for identifying, objecting to, or filing a complaint concerning a violation of this policy ~~an applicant or employee for engaging in protected activity~~ is prohibited.

The identity of the Compliance Officer (see Policy 1422 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity) shall be posted throughout the District and published in any District statement regarding the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, in any staff handbooks, and in general information publications of the District as required by Federal and State law and on the District website.

In accordance with Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. 2000ff, et seq., and 29 C.F.R. Part 1635 ("GINA"), the Board shall not request, require or purchase genetic information of employees, their family members or applicants for employment. Further, in compliance with GINA ~~this Act~~, applicants and employees are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to necessary requests for medical information, with the exception that family medical history may be provided ~~acquired~~ as part of the certification process for FMLA leave, or when an employee is asking for leave to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition. Applicants for employment are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to requests for medical information as part of the District's application for employment process. Employees and applicants for employment shall not be penalized for providing genetic information in good faith in response to a request from a District employee or agent, unless that applicant or employee refuses to delete the information at the request of the employee or agent of the District.

The ~~Board~~ District recognizes that genetic information may be acquired through commercially and publicly available media including documents like newspapers, books, magazines, periodicals, television shows or the Internet. The ~~Board District~~ District prohibits, ~~however,~~ District's employees and agents including commercial background investigation agents from searching these such sources with the intent of finding or obtaining genetic information, or accessing sources from which they are likely to acquire genetic information. If genetic information about an employee or applicant is obtained in error, it shall be redacted immediately and not shared beyond the point of first receipt.

As used in this policy, "genetic information," as defined by GINA, means information about: (a) an individual's genetic tests; (b) the genetic tests of that individual's family members; (c) the manifestation of disease or disorder in family members of the individual (i.e., family medical history); (d) an individual's request for, or receipt of, genetic services, or the participation in clinical research that includes genetic services by the individual or a family member of the individual; or (e) the genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or a pregnant woman who is a family member of the individual and the genetic information of an embryo legally held by an individual or family member using assistive reproductive technology.

The term "genetic information" does not include information about the sex or age of the individual, the sex or age of family members, or information about the race or ethnicity of the individual or family member that is not derived from a genetic test.

As used in this policy, "genetic test" means an analysis of human DNA, RNA, chromosomes, proteins, or metabolites that detect genotypes, mutations, or chromosomal changes. The term includes any test of a person's DNA/RNA.

If the District's employees or agents~~District either~~ legally and/or inadvertently receives genetic information about an employee or applicant ~~for employment from the employee, applicant for employment, or a medical provider~~ it shall be treated as a confidential medical record in accordance with law.

The District's~~District Administrator shall appoint a~~ Compliance Officer (see Policy 1422 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity) ~~is who shall be~~ responsible for overseeing the Board~~District's~~ compliance with this policy and GINA and proposing revisions and additions to this policy as necessary to ensure the Board's compliance with GINA~~Federal regulations and promptly dealing with any inquiries or complaints.~~ This person shall be responsible for working with the Board's legal counsel to fully implement the requirements of GINA in all activities of the School District. The Compliance Officer~~S/He shall also shall~~ verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of GINA~~the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008~~ is provided to staff members, and that all ~~District~~ requests for health-related information (e.g., to support an employee's request for reasonable accommodation under the ADA or a request for sick leave) ~~are~~ accompanied by a written warning that directs the employee or health care provider not to collect or provide genetic information. The warning shall read as follows:

### **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) Disclosure Requirement**

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 or ("GINA") prohibits employers and other entities covered by the law~~GINA Title II~~, including the Board of Education, from requesting or requiring genetic information of an employee or applicant individual or family member of an employee or applicant the individual, except as specifically allowed by law. To comply with GINA this law, do not provide any genetic information when responding to this request for medical information (unless the request pertains to a request for FMLA leave for purposes of caring for an immediate family member with a serious health condition). "Genetic information," as defined by GINA, includes an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic test, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services or participated in clinical research that includes genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services. Questions concerning compliance with the requirements of GINA may be directed to the Compliance Officer at 920-596-5840.

The Board~~District~~ offers health services, including a wellness program. Participation in the services/program is voluntary. Genetic information (such as family medical history) may be obtained as part of an individual's participation in the service/program. If that occurs, individual genetic information may be provided to the individual receiving the services and to his/her health services providers, but only genetic information in aggregate form will be provided to the District~~Board~~ and no applicant or employee shall be identified or identifiable from the reported information.

The grievance procedure for complaints of discrimination in Policy 1422 applies to complaints of discrimination, including harassment, or retaliation prohibited by GINA and may be utilized if an employee alleges discrimination or harassment on the basis of genetic information or retaliation for identifying, objecting to, or filing a complaint concerning a violation of GINA or this policy.

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.

Title II, The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

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Legal	42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.
	Title II, The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008
	29 C.F.R. Part 1635

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on September 16, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Code	po1422
Status	
Adopted	October 17, 2016
Last Revised	July 22, 2019

#### 1422 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Board does not discriminate in the employment of administrative staff on the basis of ~~the Protected Classes of~~ race, color, national origin, age, sex (including ~~trans~~gender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.), ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, declining to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters, or any other legally protected category in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities~~characteristic protected by law in its employment practices.~~

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination and the identity of the School District's Compliance Officer(s) (see below) will be published on the District's website, posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

#### Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the District office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

Military status: refers to a person's status in the uniformed services, which includes the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service, including active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty for training, full-time National Guard duty, and performance of duty or training by a member of Wisconsin organized militia. It also includes the period of time for which a person is absent from employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any duty listed above.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the Reporting Party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

School District community means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and support staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals

[who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities \(whether on or off District property\).](#)

### District Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" ([also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators"](#)); hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

Carmen O'Brien  
Business Manager  
School District of Manawa  
800 Beech Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5840  
cobrien@manawaschools.org

Daniel Wolfgram  
High School/Middle School Principal  
School District of Manawa  
800 Beech Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5310  
dwolfgram@manawaschools.org

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the staff handbooks and on the School District's website.

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with the applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, retaliation, or denial of equal access. The COs shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination has been provided for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ~~Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972~~, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public. ~~A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is available upon request from the CO.~~

### Reports and Complaints of ~~Unlawful~~ Discrimination and Retaliation

Employees are ~~required to~~ ~~expected to promptly~~ report incidents of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination and/or retaliation to an administrator, supervisor, or other supervisory employees so that the Board may address the conduct. Any administrator, supervisor, or other supervisory employees who receive such a ~~report~~ ~~complaint~~ shall file it with the CO at ~~the employee's~~ ~~his/her~~ first opportunity, but no later than two (2) ~~business~~ days.

[Discrimination against an individual based on their sex \(including gender status, sexual orientation, and gender identity\) is discrimination in violation of Title VII. Specifically, discrimination on the basis of sex stereotyping/gender-nonconformity constitutes sex discrimination. This is true irrespective of the cause of the person's gender non-conforming behavior. Employment actions based upon an individual's sex could be suspect and potentially impermissible.](#)

[COs are required to investigate allegations of conduct involving the discrimination or harassment of an employee or applicant based upon his/her gender status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.](#)

[Any questions concerning whether alleged conduct might violate this prohibition should be brought to the CO's attention promptly.](#)

Employees who believe they have been ~~unlawfully~~ discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint will not adversely affect the ~~Complainant's~~ ~~complaining individual's~~ employment. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept ~~reports~~ ~~complaints~~ of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the School District community ~~or a Third Party, or receive reports that are initially filed with another Board employee (District employees, students, parent(s), and member of the Board), a resident of the District, or a visitor to the District.~~ Upon receipt of a ~~report of alleged discrimination/retaliation~~ ~~complaint, the either directly or through a school building administrator, a~~ CO will ~~contact the Complainant and begin either an informal or formal complaint process (depending on the Complainant's request and the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation) investigation, or the District Administrator will designate a specific individual to conduct the process necessary for an informal or formal investigation. the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process.~~ The CO will



provide a copy of this policy to the Complainant and the Respondent upon request.~~any person who files a complaint. All members of the School District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.~~

Any Board employee who directly observes ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO must contact the Complainant employee within two (2) business days to advise ~~him/her~~ of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

## Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Except for sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, any employee who alleges to have been~~Any employee who believes that s/he has been~~ subjected to ~~unlawful~~ discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of the his/her complaint through the procedures described below. The complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims of discrimination/retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Once the complaint process begins, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) ~~business~~ days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

## Complaint Procedure

A Complainant who alleges discrimination/retaliation~~An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant"),~~ may file a complaint, either orally or in writing; 1) with a Principal; 2) the CO; 7 or 3) to the District Administrator or other supervisory employees. Any complaint received regarding the District Administrator or a Board member shall be referred to the Board's legal counsel, who shall assume the role of the CO for such complaints. Additionally, if the complaint is regarding a CO, the complaint shall be reported to the District Administrator, who shall coordinate with the other appointed/designated~~assume the role of~~ CO or, if appropriate appoint/designate another individual to serve as CO for the complaint regarding a CO. ~~for such complaints.~~

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals are encouraged~~should make every effort~~ to file a complaint within thirty (30) ~~calendar~~ days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a Principal, District Administrator, or other supervisory employees, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO at the employee's first opportunity, but no later than~~within~~ two (2) ~~business~~ days.

Throughout the course of the process, the CO should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All complaints must include the following information to the extent known~~it is available~~: the identity of the Respondent~~individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in, the discriminatory/retaliatory conduct~~; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent~~person who allegedly engaged in the misconduct~~. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees with his/her position to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still may take whatever actions are deemed~~s/he deems~~ appropriate in consultation with the District Administrator.

Within two (2) days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate an investigation by at a minimum confirming receipt of the complaint with the Complainant and informing the Complainant of the investigation process.~~Within two (2) business days of~~

~~receiving the complaint, the CO will initiate an investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.~~

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the Respondent that a formal~~individual alleged to have engaged in the discriminatory or retaliatory conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"), that a~~ complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and upon request provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including this Policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint and the obligation to do so within five (5) ~~business~~-days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment based on a protected class or retaliation within thirty (30) days of receiving the formal complaint.~~though certain cases may require additional time, the CO will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of discrimination/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:~~

The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO shall prepare and deliver a written report to the District Administrator that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent has engaged in harassment/retaliation of the Complainant~~Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.~~ The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances. In determining if discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used.

The CO may consult with the Board's attorney during the course of the investigatory process and/or before finalizing the report to the District Administrator.

In cases where no District CO is able to investigate a complaint due to concerns regarding conflicts, bias or partiality, or for other reasons that impair the CO's ability to conduct an investigation, the CO may in consultation with the District Administrator or Board President, if the matter involves the District Administrator, engage outside legal counsel to conduct the investigation consistent with this policy.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) ~~business~~-days of receiving the report of the CO, the District Administrator either must ~~either~~ issue a written final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A summary explanation of the copy of the District Administrator's final decision will be provided~~delivered~~ to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the District Administrator requests additional investigation, the District Administrator must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) ~~business~~-days, or as quickly as possible if additional time is necessary due to the availability of necessary witness(es) or documents. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the District Administrator must issue a final written decision as described above.

If the District Administrator determines the Respondent engaged in discrimination/retaliation toward the Complainant, the District Administrator~~Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, s/he~~ must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate, effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the District Administrator may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) ~~business~~-days of the party's/his/her receipt of the District Administrator's ~~final~~ decision. The written statement of appeal must be submitted to the District Administrator, who will forward the request to the Board President.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall review the findings and may meet with the concerned parties and their

representatives within twenty (20) ~~business~~-days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) ~~business~~-days of its decision. The decision of the Board will be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation regardless of whether the ~~Complainant employee alleging the misconduct~~ pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described interviews/meetings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint ~~process~~procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The Board will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Respondents must be provided an opportunity to meaningfully respond to allegations, which may include disclosure of the Complainant's identity. ~~Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity. All Complainants will be advised that their identities may become known to the Respondent(s) through the investigation process.~~

During the course of an investigation, the CO will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that is learned or provided ~~s/he learns and/or provides~~ during the course of the investigation.

### **Remedial Action ~~Sanctions~~ and Monitoring**

~~The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law. When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter. In those cases where unlawful discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies and/or the Employee Handbook.~~

If warranted, appropriate remedial action shall be determined and implemented on behalf of the Complainant, including but not limited to counseling services, reinstatement of leave taken due to the discrimination, or other appropriate action.

The Board may appoint an individual, who may be a District employee, to follow up with the Complainant to ensure no further discrimination or retaliation has occurred and to take action to address any reported occurrences promptly.

### **Sanctions and Disciplinary Action**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct.

While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and any relevant codes of conduct.

When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the age and maturity level of any student involved. In those cases where discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies.

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior ~~disciplinary~~remedial action has been taken against ~~the Respondent~~an employee, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.

### **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation, or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy. ~~Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised their rights, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise of any right granted or protected by those laws.~~

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

### **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of ~~unlawful~~ discriminatory practices. The District Administrator shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

### **Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials**

The CO is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all ~~information,~~ documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include~~including,~~ but are not limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;
- B. narratives of all verbal reports, allegations, complaints, and statements collected;
- C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;
- D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;
- E. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;
- F. all documentary evidence;
- G. e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;
- H. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;
- I. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;
- J. dated written determinations to the parties;
- K. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;
- L. written documentation of any ~~supportive~~~~interim~~ measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent~~complainants~~, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt; and

- M. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;:-
- N. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Codes of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
- O. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;
- P. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]

**It is suggested the following records also be maintained, as appropriate.**

- Q. documentation that any rights or opportunities that the District made available to one party during the investigation were made available to the other party on equal terms;
- R. copies of any notices sent to the alleged perpetrator/responding party of the allegations constituting a potential violation of this policy;
- S. copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and the Respondent in advance of any interview, meeting, or hearing;
- T. copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and alleged perpetrator in advance of any interview or hearing;
- U. copies of any documentation or evidence used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings, including the investigation report, and any written responses submitted by the Complainant or the Respondent.

The ~~information,~~ documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The ~~information,~~ documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

Revised 11/19/18

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## Legal

111.31 et seq., Wis. Stats.  
111.335(d)(2), Wis. Stats.  
118.195, Wis. Stats.  
118.20, Wis. Stats.  
Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution  
20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974  
20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act  
29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended  
38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq., Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act  
42 U.S.C. 2000 et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964  
42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 1973 as amended  
42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975  
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended  
29 C.F.R. Part 1635, The GINA Regulations  
34 C.F.R. Part 110, The Age Discrimination Act Regulations

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on September 16, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
Code	po1623
Status	
Adopted	October 17, 2016
Last Revised	July 22, 2019

#### 1623 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

The Board prohibits discrimination against any employee or applicant based upon his/her disability. As such, the Board will not engage in employment practices or adopt policies that discriminate on the basis of disability, or otherwise discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement or discharge of employees, employee compensation, job training, or other terms, conditions and privileges of employment. The Board further will not limit, segregate or classify applicants or employees in any way that adversely affects their opportunities or status because of disability. Additionally, the Board will not participate in any contractual or other relationships that have the effect of subjecting qualified individuals with disabilities who are applicants or employees to discrimination on the basis of disability.

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the School District's Compliance Officer(s) (see below) will be published on the District's website, posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

#### **Definitions**

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

**Complainant:** is the individual who alleges or is alleged to have been subjected to discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

**Day(s):** Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the District office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

**Respondent:** is the individual who is alleged to have engaged in discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the Complainant files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

**District community:** means students, District employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and support staff), and Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

**Third Parties:** include but are not limited to guests and/or visitors on District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with or seeking to do business with the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

**"An individual with a disability"** means a person who has, ~~has had~~ a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

#### **Major Life Activities**

Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, sitting, reaching, interacting with others, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal and reproductive functions. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

### **Impairment That Substantially Limits a Major Life Activity**

~~An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.~~

The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity must be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, equipment or appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics (including limbs and devices), hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment or supplies, use of assistive technology, reasonable accommodations or "auxiliary aids or services," learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications, psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

### **Qualified Individual with a Disability**

A qualified ~~individual~~ ~~person~~ with a disability means the individual satisfies the requisite skill, experience, education and other job-related requirements of the employment position ~~the~~ ~~such~~ individual holds or desires and ~~, with or without reasonable accommodation,~~ can perform the essential functions of the job in question, with or without reasonable accommodation.

### **Reasonable Accommodation**

The Board will provide a reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual who has an actual disability or who has a record of a disability unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the ~~Board~~ ~~District's~~ program and/or activities. A reasonable accommodation is not ~~necessarily~~ required for an individual who is merely regarded as having a disability.

### **Facilities**

No qualified person with a disability will be denied the benefits of, excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/American with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities.

For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities.

### **District Compliance Officer(s)**

The Board designates the following individual(s) to serve as the District's 504 CO(s)/ADA Coordinator(s) (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

Carmen O'Brien  
Business Manager  
School District of Manawa  
800 Beech Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5840  
cobrien@manawaschools.org

Daniel Wolfgram  
High School/~~Middle~~~~Junior~~~~High~~ School Principal  
School District of Manawa  
800 Beech Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5310



The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the staff handbooks and on the School District's website.

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination/retaliation or denial of equal access. The COs also shall verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975 is provided to staff members and the general public. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based will be made available upon request from the CO. ~~Any sections of the and fulfill its responsibilities under Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended ("ADA"). A copy of Section 504 and the ADA, including copies of their implementing regulations, may be obtained from the District COs.~~

The COs will oversee the investigation of any complaints of discrimination based on disability, which may be filed pursuant to the Board's adopted internal complaint procedure, and will attempt to resolve such complaints. Any complaint received regarding the District Administrator or a Board member shall be referred to the Board's legal counsel, who shall assume the role of the CO for such complaints, as appropriate. Additionally, if the complaint is regarding a CO, the complaint shall be reported to the District Administrator, who shall coordinate with the other appointed/designated CO, or, if appropriate appoint/designate another individual to serve as CO for the complaint regarding a CO.

The Board will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations of Section 504/ADA. (See Complaint Procedure below.)

### **Training**

~~The COs will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Section 504 and the ADA, and are informed of the Board's policies, administrative guidelines, and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Section 504/ADA.~~

~~The Board will provide in-service training and consultation to staff responsible for the education of persons with disabilities, as necessary and appropriate.~~

### **Facilities**

~~No qualified person with a disability will, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies.~~

~~For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities.~~

### **Notice**

~~Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the COs will be posted throughout the District, and published in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.~~

### **Complaint Procedures**

If a person believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her disability, the person may utilize the following complaint procedures as a means of reaching, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of the matter.

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations ("Section 504"), employees will be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of Section 504. In addition, employees will be notified of their right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Internal complaints must be put in writing and must identify the specific circumstances or areas of dispute that have given rise to the complaint, and offer possible solutions to the dispute. The complaint must be filed with COs within the time limits specified below. The COs are available to assist individuals in filing a complaint.

### **Internal Complaint Procedure**

The following internal complaint procedure is available to employees for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination based upon disability. Use of the internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies, including the filing of a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

- A. An employee with a complaint based on alleged discrimination on the basis of disability may first discuss the problem with the CO.
- B. If the informal discussion does not resolve the matter, or if the employee skips Step A, the individual may file a formal written complaint with the CO. The written complaint must contain the name and address of the individual or representative filing the complaint, be signed by the Complainant or someone authorized to sign for the Complainant, describe the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the CO of the nature and date of the alleged violation and propose a resolution. The complaint must be filed within thirty (30) ~~calendar~~ days of the circumstances or event giving rise to the complaint unless the time for filing is extended by the CO for good cause.
- C. The CO will conduct an independent investigation of the matter (which may or may not include a hearing). This complaint procedure contemplates informal, but thorough investigations, affording all interested persons and their representatives, if any, an opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence relevant to the complaint. The CO will provide the Complainant with a written disposition of the complaint within ten (10) ~~business~~ days. If no decision is rendered within ten (10) business days, or the decision is unsatisfactory in the opinion of the Complainant, the employee may file, in writing, an appeal with the District Administrator. The CO shall maintain the District's files and records relating to the complaint.
- D. The District Administrator will, within ten (10) ~~business~~ days of receiving the written appeal, conduct a hearing with all parties involved in an attempt to resolve the complaint.  
  
The District Administrator will render his/her decision within ten (10) ~~business~~ days of the hearing.
- E. The employee may be represented, at his/her own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.
- F. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the filing of a court case. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

If it is determined that the Complainant was subjected to ~~unlawful~~ discrimination, the CO must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

### **OCR Complaint**

At any time, if an employee believes that s/he has been subjected to discrimination based upon his/her disability in violation of Section 504 or the ADA, the individual may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"). The OCR can be reached at:

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights Citigroup Center  
500 W. Madison Street Suite 1475  
Chicago, IL 60661  
(312) 730-1560  
FAX: (312) 730-1576  
TDD: (877) 521-2172  
E-mail: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov

### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the District's legal obligations to investigate, take appropriate action, and conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

## **Remedial Action and Monitoring**

If warranted, appropriate remedial action shall be determined and implemented on behalf of the Complainant, including but not limited to counseling services, reinstatement of leave taken due to the discrimination or other appropriate action.

The Board may appoint an individual, who may be a District employee, to follow up with the Complainant to ensure no further discrimination or retaliation has occurred and to take action to address any reported occurrences promptly.

## **Sanctions and Disciplinary Action**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct.

While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and any relevant codes of conduct.

When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the age and maturity level of any student involved. In those cases where discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies.

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior disciplinary action has been taken against the Respondent, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.

## **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation, or participates as a witness in an investigation, is prohibited. ~~Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce. Specifically, the Board will not discriminate/retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten~~ or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made ~~unlawful~~ by Section 504 or the ADA, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint charge, testified, assisted or participated, or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

## **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of discriminatory practices. The District Administrator shall provide appropriate information to all members of the District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training and information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination, in general, will be age and content-appropriate.

## **Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials**

The CO is responsible for overseeing the retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but are not limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;

- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities related to the investigation and/or the District's response to the alleged violation of this policy;
- D. written witness statements;
- E. narratives, notes from, and audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;
- F. e-mails, texts, and social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);
- G. notes and summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is otherwise memorialized in other documents;
- H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;
- I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;
- J. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and the Respondent, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;
- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;
- L. copies of the Board policy and procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Codes of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;
- N. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy including, but not limited to notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conduct an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; **[REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time, and location of the training, the name and title (or credentials) of the presenter, and a copy of the materials reviewed or presented during the training.]**

**It is suggested the following records also be maintained, as appropriate.**

- O. documentation that any rights or opportunities that the District made available to one party during the investigation were made available to the other party on equal terms;
- P. copies of any notices sent to the Respondent of the allegations constituting a potential violation of this policy;
- Q. copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and the Respondent in advance of any interview or meeting;
- R. copies of any documentation or evidence used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings, including the investigation report and any written responses submitted by the Complainant or the Respondent.

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal (e.g., FERPA, ADA) and/or State law, such as student records and confidential medical records.

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years and longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

Legal

29 U.S.C. 794, Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

29 C.F.R. Part 1630

34 C.F.R. Part 104

Last Modified by Melanie Oppor on October 8, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT - EMPLOYEE ANTI-HARASSMENT
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## 1662 - EMPLOYEE ANTI-HARASSMENT

### Prohibited Harassment

The Board is committed to a work environment that is free of harassment of any form. The Board will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate action to eliminate it. Any member of the School District community who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Additionally, appropriate action will be taken to stop and otherwise deal with any third party who engages in harassment against our employees.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment based on race, color, national origin, age, sex (including ~~trans~~gender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.), ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, declining to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters (collectively, "Protected Classes"), or any other characteristic protected by law in its employment practices (hereinafter referred to as "harassment"~~"Protected Classes Characteristics"~~), and encourages those within the School District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board prohibits harassment that affects tangible job benefits, interferes unreasonably with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Harassment may occur employee-to-employee, employee-to-student, male-to-female, female-to-male, male-to-male, or female-to-female.

The Board will investigate all allegations of harassment and, in those cases where harassment is substantiated, ~~the Board will~~ take immediate steps ~~calculated~~ to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and, ~~if applicable~~, remedy its effects.

Individuals who are found to have engaged in harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

~~For purposes of this policy, "School District community" means individuals subject to the control and supervision of the Board including, but not limited to, students, teachers, staff, volunteers, and Board members, agents, contractors, or other persons.~~

~~For purposes of this policy, "third parties" include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with the District, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off School District property).~~

### Notice

Notice of the Board's policy on anti-harassment related to employment practices and the identity of the District's Compliance Officers will be posted throughout the District and published in any District statement regarding the availability of employment, staff handbooks, and general information publications of the District as required by Federal and State law and this policy.

### Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

**Complainant:** is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to harassment, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

**Day(s):** Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the District office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

**Respondent:** is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in harassment, regardless of whether the Reporting Party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

**School District community:** means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and support staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

**Third Parties:** include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

### Bullying

Bullying rises to the level of harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school or work performance or participation; and may involve:

- A. teasing;
- B. threats;
- C. intimidation;
- D. stalking;
- E. cyberstalking;
- F. cyberbullying;
- G. physical violence;
- H. theft;
- I. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;
- J. public humiliation; or
- K. destruction of property.

~~"Harassment" means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a school employee on the basis of the employee's Protected Classes Characteristics that:~~

- ~~A. places a school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;~~
- ~~B. is sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent so as to create a hostile working environment which materially alters the employee's working conditions from the perspective of a reasonable person similarly situated;~~
- ~~C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school or any other aspect of the District's operations.~~

"Harassment" also includes "hate speech"—the use of language, behavior, or images/symbols that express prejudice against a particular group or groups on the basis of any protected characteristic(s).

Examples are:

- A. making statements that promote violence toward a racial or ethnic group;
- B. drawing, displaying, or posting images or symbols of prejudice (e.g., swastikas).

## **Sexual Harassment**

For purposes of this policy and consistent with Pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ~~and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972,~~ "sexual harassment" is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other physical, verbal, or visual conduct based on sex constitutes sexual harassment when:

- A. a supervisory employee engages in harassing behavior towards a subordinate employee, regardless of whether such conduct creates a hostile work environment;
- B. acquiescence in or submission to such conduct is an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment;
- C. an individual's acquiescence in, submission to, or rejection of such conduct becomes the basis for employment decisions affecting that individual;
- D. such conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment;
- E. consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism results in an adverse employment action for another employee or otherwise creates a hostile work environment;
- F. inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the District into a student's personal space and personal life.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of anyeither gender against a person of the same or anotheropposite gender.

Sexual Harassment covered by Policy 2266/AG 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, i.e., sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX, is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266/AG 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities.

Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment under this policy may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- A. unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations;
- B. unwanted physical and/or sexual contactassault;
- C. threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, promotion, assignments, or other conditions of employment may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances;
- D. unwelcome verbal expressions ~~of a sexual nature~~, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls, text messages, or social media postings;
- E. sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videosvideotapes, posters, audio recordings, or literature; placed in the work ~~or educational~~ environment that reasonably may embarrass or offend individuals; ~~remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history;~~
- F. unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures;



- G. asking or telling about sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities;
- H. speculation about a person's sexual activities or sexual history or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history;
- I. giving unwelcome personal gifts, such as lingerie, that suggest the desire for a romantic relationship;
- J. leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin;
- K. consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment; ~~and~~
- L. inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life; and
- M. verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Sexual relationships between staff members, where one staff member has supervisory responsibilities over the other, are discouraged as a matter of Board policy. Such relationships have an inherent possibility of being construed as sexual harassment because the consensual aspect of the relationship may be the result of implicit or explicit duress caused by uncertainty regarding the consequences of non-compliance.

Romantic or sexual relationships between District staff (teachers, aides, administrators, coaches or other school authorities) and a student is expressly prohibited. Any school staff member who engages in sexual conduct with a student may also be guilty of a crime and any information regarding such instances will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

### **Boundary Invasions**

Boundary invasions may be appropriate or inappropriate. Appropriate boundary invasions make medical or educational sense. For example, a teacher or aide assisting a kindergartner after a toileting accident or a coach touching a student during wrestling or football can be appropriate. However, other behaviors might be going too far, are inappropriate and may be signs of sexual grooming. Inappropriate boundary invasions may include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. hugging, kissing, or other physical contact with a student;
- B. telling sexual jokes to students;
- C. engaging in talk containing sexual innuendo or banter with students;
- D. talking about sexual topics that are not related to curriculum;
- E. showing pornography to a student;
- F. taking an undue interest in a student (i.e. having a "special friend" or a "special relationship");
- G. initiating or extending contact with students beyond the school day for personal purposes;
- H. using e-mail, text messaging, or websites to discuss personal topics or interests with students;
- I. giving students rides in the staff member's personal vehicle or taking students on personal outings without administrative approval;
- J. invading a student's privacy (e.g. walking in on the student in the bathroom, locker-room, asking about bra sizes or previous sexual experiences);
- K. going to a student's home for non-educational purposes;
- L. inviting students to the staff member's home without proper chaperones (i.e. another staff member or parent of student);
- M. giving gifts or money to a student for no legitimate educational purpose;
- N. accepting gifts or money from a student for no legitimate educational purpose;

- O. being overly "touchy" with students;
- P. favoring certain students by inviting them to come to the classroom at non-class times;
- Q. getting a student out of class to visit with the staff member;
- R. providing advice to or counseling a student regarding a personal problem (i.e. problems related to sexual behavior, substance abuse, mental or physical health, and/or family relationships, etc.), unless properly licensed and authorized to do so;
- S. talking to a student about problems that would normally be discussed with adults (i.e. marital issues);
- T. being alone with a student behind closed doors without a legitimate educational purpose;
- U. telling a student "secrets" and having "secrets" with a student;
- V. other similar activities or behavior.

Inappropriate boundary invasions are prohibited and must be reported promptly to one of the District Compliance Officers, as designated in this policy, the Building Principal or the District Administrator.

### **Religious (Creed) Harassment**

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

### **National Origin/Ancestry Harassment**

Prohibited national origin/ancestry harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's national origin or ancestry, and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin or ancestry, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

### **Age Harassment**

Prohibited age-based harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's age, being over age forty (40), and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

### **Race/Color Harassment**

Prohibited race/color based harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race and/or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references regarding racial customs.

### **Disability Harassment**

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability, perceived disability, or record of disability, and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's current or past ~~disability~~disabling condition or a perceived condition, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like. Such harassment may further occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.

### **Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers**

The following individual(s) shall serve as the District's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer(s) (hereinafter, "the Compliance Officer(s)" or "CO" "COs"):

Carmen O'Brien  
Business Manager  
School District of Manawa  
800 Beech Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5840  
cobrien@manawaschools.org

Daniel Wolfram  
High School/Middle School Principal  
School District of Manawa  
800 Beech Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5310  
wolfram@manawaschools.org

The Compliance Officer(s) are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding harassment.

### **Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct**

The Compliance Officer(s) will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to harassment, to assist students, other members of the District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

Compliance Officers shall accept reports of harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a Third Party or receive reports that are initially filed with an administrator, supervisor, or other District-level official. Upon receipt of a report of alleged harassment, the Compliance Officer(s) will contact the Complainant and begin either an informal or formal complaint process (depending on the request of the Complainant or the nature of the alleged harassment), or the District Administrator will designate a specific individual to conduct the process necessary for an informal or formal investigation. The Compliance Officer(s) will provide a copy of this policy to the Complainant and Respondent. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer(s) will prepare recommendations for the District Administrator or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All Board employees must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer within two (2) days of learning of the incident.

Any Board employee who directly observes harassment is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to the Compliance Officer(s) within two (2) days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of harassment is expected to intervene to stop the harassment, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the harassment. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer(s) or designee must contact the Complainant, if age eighteen (18) or older, or Complainant's parents/guardians if the Complainant is under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) days to advise of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

Members of the School District community ~~and third parties, which includes all staff,~~ and Third Parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of harassing conduct to an administrator, supervisor or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any administrator, supervisor, or other District official who receives such a ~~report/complaint~~ shall file it with the ~~District's~~ Compliance Officer within two (2) days of receiving the report of harassment at his/her first opportunity.

Members of the School District community ~~or third parties~~ and Third Parties who believe they have been harassed by another member of the School District community or a ~~Third Party~~ Third Party are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the ~~Complainant's/complaining individual's~~ Complainant's employment unless the complaining individual makes the complaint maliciously or with the knowledge that it is false.

Reporting procedures are as follows:

- A. Any employee who believes s/he has been the victim of harassment prohibited under this policy is encouraged to report the alleged harassment to the appropriate school official as identified in D below.
- B. Teachers, administrators, and other District officials who have knowledge of or receive notice that an employee has or may have been the victim of harassment prohibited under this policy shall immediately report the alleged harassment to the appropriate school official as defined in D below.

C. Any other person with knowledge or belief that an employee has or may have been the victim of harassment prohibited by this policy shall be encouraged to immediately report the alleged acts to an appropriate school official as identified in D below.

D. Appropriate District officials are as follows:

1. Any complaint under this policy shall be reported to the District's Compliance Officer unless the complaint is regarding the Compliance Officer. In such cases, the complaints shall be reported to the District Administrator, who will coordinate with the other appointed/designated CO, or, if appropriate appoint/designate another individual to serve as CO for the complaint regarding a CO.~~for such complaints.~~
2. Any complaint under this policy regarding the District Administrator or Board Member that is received by the District Compliance Officer shall be referred to the Board's legal counsel, who shall assume the role of the District Compliance Officer for such complaints.

E. The reporting party or Complainant shall be encouraged to use a report form available from the Principal of each building or available from the District office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Use of formal reporting forms shall not be mandated. However, all oral complaints shall be reduced to writing. Further, nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment directly to the District Administrator or other supervisory employee.

F. To provide individuals with options for reporting harassment to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable, the District shall designate both a male and a female District Compliance Officer.

If during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior, and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 - Bullying, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal shall report the act of bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment to the Compliance Officer(s) who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. If the alleged harassment involves Sexual Harassment as defined by Policy 2266, the matter will be investigated in accordance with the grievance process and procedures outlined in Policy 2266. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, or the matter is being addressed pursuant to Policy 2266, the Principal shall suspend the Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report or the determination of responsibility pursuant to Policy 2266. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the Policy 1662 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report. Likewise, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the Principal with the determination of responsibility that results from the Policy 2266 grievance process.

~~A CO will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to harassment, to assist students, other members of the School District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct.~~

~~The COs are assigned to accept complaints of harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District or to receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, a CO will begin either an investigation or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will prepare recommendations or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations. All members of the School District community should report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident.~~

## **Investigation and Complaint Procedure**

Except for sexual harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Program or Activities, aAny employee or other member of the School District community or Third Party (e.g., visitor to the District) who believes that they have/he has been subjected to harassment or has witnessed harassment of another may seek resolution of the his/her complaint through the procedures ~~as~~ described below. The complaint process involves an investigation of the Complainant's claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated. ~~Further, a process for investigating claims of harassment and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of harassment was substantiated are set forth below.~~

~~Once the complaint process begins, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).~~

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of harassment or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division, and/or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"). The Chicago Office of the OCR can be reached at John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn Street, 37th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604; Telephone: 312-730-1560; FAX: 312-730-1576; TDD: 800-877-8339; Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov; Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

## Complaint Procedure

A Complainant ~~An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to harassment hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant," who alleges harassment based on a protected class or retaliation~~ may file a complaint, either orally or in writing: 1) with a teacher, Principal; 2) directly to one of the 7 COs; or 3) to the District Administrator, or other supervisory employee. As noted above, any complaint received regarding the District Administrator or a Board member shall be referred to the Board's legal counsel, who shall assume the role of the CO for such complaints. Additionally, if the complaint is regarding a CO, the complaint shall be reported to the District Administrator, who ~~may will consult, in consultation~~ with the other appointed/designated CO, if any, and if necessary, appoint/designate another individual to serve in the role of CO ~~assume the role of the CO~~ for ~~such a~~ complaint regarding a CO.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of harassment and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) ~~calendar~~ days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a Principal, District Administrator, or other supervisory employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) ~~business~~ days.

Throughout the course of the process as described herein, the CO should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All written complaints must include the following information to the extent known it is available: the identity of the Respondent ~~individual believed to have engaged in, or be actively engaging in, harassment~~; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); ~~and~~ a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further harassment or retaliation including but not limited to a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent ~~alleged harasser~~. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees with his/her position to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions deemed/s/he deems appropriate in consultation with the District Administrator. No temporary arrangements shall be disciplinary to either the Complainant or Respondent.

Within two (2) ~~business~~ days of receiving a complaint, the CO will inform the Respondent ~~individual alleged to have engaged in the harassing or retaliatory conduct, hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"~~, that a complaint has been received.

The Respondent is not entitled to receive a copy of any written complaint unless the CO determines it is appropriate to do so; however, the Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations. The CO shall inform the Respondent of the requirements of this policy, which may include providing the Respondent with a copy of this policy or information about where to find it. Respondent shall be afforded the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint. The CO shall inform the Respondent of the Respondent's deadline to provide the CO with the written response to the allegations in the complaint.

Within five (5) days of receiving the complaint, the CO will initiate an investigation by at a minimum confirming receipt of the complaint with the Complainant and informing the Complainant of the investigation process.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment based on a protected class or retaliation within thirty (30) days of receiving the formal complaint.

~~Within five (5) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subject to offensive conduct/harassment.~~

~~Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the formal complaint.~~ The investigation will include:

- A. interview(s) with the Complainant;
- B. interview(s) with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who ~~may~~ reasonably may be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO;

D. consideration of any documentation or other evidence presented by the Complainant, ~~R~~espondent, or any other witness which is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the District Administrator that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of harassment as provided in this policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent engaged in harassment of or retaliation toward the Complainant~~Complainant has been subjected to harassment~~. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used.

The CO may consult with the Board's attorney during the course of the investigatory process and/or before finalizing the report to the District Administrator.

In cases where no District CO is able to investigate a complaint due to concerns regarding conflicts, bias or partiality, or for other reasons that impair the CO's ability to conduct an investigation, the CO may in consultation with the District Administrator or Board President, if the matter involves the District Administrator engage outside legal counsel to conduct the investigation consistent with this policy.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) ~~business~~ days of receiving the report of the CO, the District Administrator must either issue a written final decision regarding whether or not the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the District Administrator's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the ~~R~~espondent.

If the District Administrator requests additional investigation, the District Administrator must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) ~~business~~ days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the District Administrator must issue a final written decision as described above.

If the District Administrator determines the Respondent engaged in harassment of or retaliation toward the Complainant, the District Administrator must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the harassment or retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate, effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

The decision of the District Administrator shall be final. If the investigation results in disciplinary action, the employee subject to discipline is entitled to file a grievance pursuant to Board Policy 3340. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prevent an employee from bringing a complaint before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of harassment regardless of whether the member of the School District community or ~~T~~hird ~~P~~arty alleging the harassment pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

All timelines pertinent to the investigation process are intended to be guidelines to assure that the investigation proceeds with all deliberate efficiency. Failure of the CO to meet any specific timeline does not invalidate the investigation or provide a defense to the allegations.

### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The ~~School~~District will employ reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and all the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligation in an investigation of harassment. The School District will respect the privacy of the Complainant, the ~~R~~espondent, and all witnesses in a manner consistent with the School District's legal obligations under State and Federal law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided with the Complainant's identity.~~All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process should be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the respondent.~~

During the course of an investigation, the CO will determine whether confidentiality during the investigation process is necessary to protect the interests and reputations of those involved and/or to protect the integrity of the investigation and if so, shall instruct all members of the School District community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that is learned or provided~~s/he learns or that s/he provides~~ during the course of the investigation.

## Directives During Investigation

The CO may recommend to the District Administrator placing any employee involved in an investigation under this Policy on administrative leave pending resolution of the matter. If the District Administrator is the Respondent, the CO shall make such recommendation to the Board. Administrative leave may be appropriate in situations in which protecting the safety of any individual or the integrity of the investigation necessitates such action.

The CO shall determine whether any witnesses in the course of an investigation should be provided a *Garrity* warning apprising the person of his/her obligations to answer questions truthfully and honestly while preserving the right against self-incrimination in the context of any resulting criminal investigation or prosecution.

Every employee interviewed in the course of an investigation is required to provide truthful responses to all questions. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

## Remedial Action ~~Sanctions~~ and Monitoring

~~The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against harassment by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment and prevent further such harassment.~~

If warranted, appropriate remedial action shall be determined and implemented on behalf of the Complainant, including but not limited to counseling services, reinstatement of leave taken due to because of the discrimination, or other appropriate action.

The Board may appoint an individual, who may be an employee, to follow up with the Complainant to ensure no further discrimination or retaliation has occurred and to take action to address any reported occurrences promptly.

## Sanctions and Disciplinary Action

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against harassment/retaliation by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment and prevent further misconduct.

While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable law.

When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances. In those cases where harassment is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies.

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior disciplinary action has been taken against the Respondent, all<sup>AA</sup> subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

## Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging harassment/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

## Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct

If the CO has reason to believe that the Complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct, such knowledge should be reported to local law enforcement. After such report has been made, the District Administrator shall be advised that local law enforcement was notified.

If the Complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct and the accused is the District Administrator, such knowledge should be reported by the CO to local law enforcement. After such report has been made, the Board President shall be advised that local law enforcement was notified.

Any reports made to local law enforcement shall not terminate the COs obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the COs may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, the harassment investigation shall not be stopped due to the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the District Administrator.

### **Reprisal**

Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment will not affect the Complainant's or reporter's work status or work environment. However, the Board also recognizes that false or fraudulent claims of harassment or false or fraudulent information about such claims may be filed. The Board reserves the right to discipline any person filing a false or fraudulent claim of harassment or false or fraudulent information about such a claim.

The District will discipline or take appropriate action against any member of the School District community who retaliates against any person who reports an incident of harassment prohibited by this policy or participates in a proceeding, investigation, or hearing relating to such harassment. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment.

### **Miscellaneous**

The District shall conspicuously post a notice including this policy against harassment in each school in a place accessible to the School District community and members of the public. This notice shall also include the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the COs, the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the State agency responsible for investigating allegations of discrimination in educational employment, and the mailing address and telephone number of the United States Equal Opportunity Employment Commission.

A link to this policy and any related administrative guidelines shall appear in the employee handbook and a copy shall be made available upon request of employees and other interested parties.

### **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of harassment. The District Administrator shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District staff at such times as the Board in consultation with the District Administrator determines is necessary or appropriate.

The Board will respect the privacy of the Complainant, the individuals against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as practicable, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery, disclosure, or other legal obligations.

### **Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials**

The CO(s) is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all ~~information,~~ documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include~~including,~~ but are not limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;
- B. narratives of all verbal reports, allegations, complaints, and statements collected;
- C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;
- D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;
- E. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;
- F. all documentary evidence;
- G. e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;



- H. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;
- I. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;
- J. dated written determinations to the parties;
- K. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;
- L. written documentation of any ~~supportive~~~~interim~~ measures offered and/or provided to Complainant and/or the Respondent~~Complainants~~, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt; and
- M. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects.
- N. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
- O. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;
- P. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]

**It is suggested the following records also be maintained, as appropriate.**

- Q. documentation that any rights or opportunities that the District made available to one party during the investigation were made available to the other party on equal terms;
- R. copies of any notices sent to the alleged perpetrator/responding party of the allegations constituting a potential violation of this policy;
- S. copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and the Respondent in advance of any interview, meeting, or hearing;
- T. copies of any documentation or evidence used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings, including the investigation report, and any written responses submitted by the Complainant or the Respondent.

The ~~information~~, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The ~~information~~, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

Revised 12/18/17

Revised 7/22/19

Revised 11/18/19

Legal

111.31, 118.195, 118.20, Wis. Stats.

29 U.S.C. 621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967

29 U.S.C. 794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973

42 U.S.C. 1983

42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

National School Boards Association Inquiry and Analysis - May 2008

Last Modified by Melanie Oppor on October 8, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	Copy of CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN THE CLASSROOM
Code	po2240
Status	
Adopted	October 17, 2016

#### 2240 - **CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN THE CLASSROOM**

The Board believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the district.

Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions. In addition, the opportunity can lead students to learn about how to use critical thinking and problem solving skills, to study and analyze relevant issues, evaluate different sources of information, make intelligent decisions regarding issues and how to appreciate the value of differing viewpoints.

For purposes of this policy, a controversial issue is a topic on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion and/or are likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community. These issues may range across a wide spectrum of political, social, economic and religious topics.

The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program:

- A. is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the students;
- B. does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view;
- C. encourages open-mindedness and is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry.
- D. does not cause a substantial disruption in the school environment.

Controversial issues related to the program may be initiated by the students themselves provided they are presented in the ordinary course of classroom instruction, relate to the topic of instruction, and do not cause substantial disruption to the school environment and it is not disruptive to the educational setting.

Controversial issues may not be initiated by a source outside the schools unless prior approval has been given by the principal. Issues pertaining to human growth and development, as defined by statute, are subject to 118.019, Wis. Stats.

In the discussion of any controversial issue in the classroom or in the course of professional duties, a teacher may express a personal opinion, but shall identify it as such, and must not express such an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view and may only express a personal opinion after the teacher has confirmed that student discussion has concluded.

Teachers should be mindful that this does not permit them to offer opinions on topics that would not be the subject of discussion in the classroom due to their appropriateness for the age(s) of the students involved. As always, teachers are expected to serve as exemplars for their students by demonstrating good judgment as professionals when discussing controversial issues and expressing

personal opinions in the classroom.

The classroom should not be used as a forum for the discussion of District employment issues.

The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either content or activities conflicts with his/her religious beliefs or value system, the school will honor a written request for his/her child to be excused from particular classes for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course or activities mandated by the State and will be provided alternative learning activities during times of parent-requested absences.

~~The District Administrator shall develop administrative guidelines for dealing with controversial issues.~~

(See also Policy 3310 – Freedom of Speech in Noninstructional Settings)

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Legal

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 126 S. Ct. 1951 (2006)

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on September 16, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY
Code	po2260.01
Status	
Adopted	October 17, 2016
Last Revised	November 16, 2020

#### 2260.01 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended ("ADA"), and the implementing regulations (collectively "Section 504/ADA"), no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, ~~solely by reason of his/her disability~~, be excluded from participation in, ~~be~~ denied the benefits of, or ~~be~~ subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance solely by reason of disability. The Board does not discriminate in admission or access to, ~~or~~ participation in, ~~or~~ treatment in its programs or activities. As such, the Board's policies and practices will not discriminate against students with disabilities and the Board will make its facilities, programs, and activities accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities ~~will make accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities its facilities, programs, and activities~~. No discrimination will be knowingly permitted against any individual with a disability on the sole basis of that disability in any of the programs, activities, policies, and/or practices in the District.

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the School District's Compliance Officer(s) (see below) will be published on the District's website, posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

#### Free Appropriate Public Education

The Board is committed to identifying, evaluating, and providing a free appropriate public education ("FAPE") to students with disabilities within its jurisdiction who are determined eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") or Section 504, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities.

If a student has a physical or mental impairment that significantly limits one or more major life activities (see Definitions below), the Board shall provide the student a FAPE. An appropriate education may include regular or special education and related aids and services to accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities. For students with disabilities who are not eligible for specially designed instruction under the IDEA, the related aids and services (including accommodations/modifications/interventions) they need in order to have their needs met as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met shall be delineated, along with their placement, in a Section 504 Plan (Form 2260.01A F13). Parents/guardians/custodians ("parents") are invited and encouraged to participate fully in the evaluation process and development of a Section 504 Plan. The quality of education services provided to students with disabilities shall be equal to the quality of services provided to students without disabilities.

The Board is committed to educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified student with a disability within its jurisdiction with students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate. Generally, the District will place a student with a disability in the general education environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the student in the general education environment, even with the use of supplementary aids and services, cannot be achieved satisfactorily. If the District places a student in a setting other than the general education environment, it shall take into account the proximity of the alternate setting to the student's home. If the Board operates a separate class or facility that is identified as being provided for students with disabilities, the facility, program, and activities and services must be comparable to the facilities, programs, and activities and services offered to students without disabilities.

The District will provide non-academic extra-curricular services and activities in such a manner as is necessary to afford qualified students with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in such services and activities. Nonacademic and extra-curricular services and activities may include counseling services, athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interests groups or clubs sponsored by the District, referrals to agencies that provide assistance to individuals with disabilities, and employment of students. In providing or arranging for the provision of meals and recess periods and nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities, including those listed above, the District will verify that students with disabilities participate with students without disabilities in such services and activities to the maximum extent appropriate.

In accordance with Section 504, parents and students shall be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of Section 504. In addition, students and their parents shall be notified of their right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"). Finally, students and parents shall be advised of their right to request a due process hearing before an Impartial Hearing Officer ("IHO") regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of persons with disabilities, and their right to examine relevant education records. (See also AG 2260.01B - Section 504/ADA - Complaint and Due Process Procedures)

## **Definitions**

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

**Complainant:** is the individual who alleges or is alleged to have been subjected to discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

**Respondent:** is the individual who is alleged to have engaged in discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the Complainant files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

**District community:** means students, District employees (i.e., administrators and professional and support staff), and Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

**Third Parties:** include but are not limited to guests and/or visitors on District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with or seeking to do business with the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

**Day(s):** Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the District office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

**Individual**"An individual with a disability" means a person who has, ~~has had~~ a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

## **Major Life Activities**

Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, sitting, reaching, interacting with others, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal and reproductive functions. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

## **Impairment That Substantially Limits a Major Life Activity**

~~An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.~~

The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity must be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, equipment or appliances, low-vision devices (not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics (including limbs and devices), hearing aids and cochlear implants or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment or supplies, assistive technology, reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids or services, or learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications.

An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

## **Qualified Individual with a Disability**

With respect to public preschool, elementary, and secondary educational services, a qualified individual person with a disability means a student with a disability~~disabled person~~:

- A. who is of an age during which ~~nondisabled~~ persons without disabilities are provided educational services;
- B. who is of any age during which it is mandatory under Wisconsin law to provide educational services to ~~disabled~~ persons with disabilities; or
- C. to whom the State is required to provide a free appropriate public education pursuant to the IDEA~~Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA)~~.

With respect to vocational education services, a qualified individual person with a disability means a student~~disabled person~~ with a disability who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the vocational program or activity. The Board will not deny a student with disability access to its vocational education programs or courses due to architectural and/or equipment barriers, or because the student needs related aids or services to receive an appropriate education.

With respect to employment, a qualified individual with a disability means the individual satisfies the requisite skill, experience, education and other job-related requirements of the employment position the individual holds or desires and can perform the essential functions of the job in question, with or without reasonable accommodation.

### **Reasonable Accommodation**

With respect to employment, the Board will provide a reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual who has an actual disability or who has a record of a disability, unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the Board's program and/or activities. A reasonable accommodation is not required for an individual who is merely regarded as having a disability.

### **Facilities**

No qualified person with a disability will be denied the benefits of, excluded from participation in, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities.

For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities.

### **District Compliance Officers (hereinafter referred to as the "COs")**

The following person(s) is/are designated as the District Section 504 Compliance Officer(s)/ADA Coordinator(s):

Carmen O'Brien  
 Director of Curriculum & Assessment  
 School District of Manawa  
 800 Beech Street  
 Manawa, WI 54949  
 920-596-5840  
 cobrien@manawa.k12.wi.us

Daniel Wolfgram  
 High School/Middle School Principal  
 School District of Manawa  
 800 Beech Street  
 Manawa, WI 54949  
 920-596-5310  
 dwolfgram@manawa.k12.wi.us

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the staff and student handbooks and on the School District's web site.

The COs ~~are~~ responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination/retaliation or denial of equal access. The COs also shall verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the

Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975 is provided to staff members and the general public. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based will be made available upon request from the CO and fulfill its responsibilities under Section 504 and Title II of the ADA. A copy of Section 504 and the ADA, including copies of their implementing regulations, may be obtained from the CO.

~~The CO will oversee the investigation of any complaints of discrimination based on disability, which may be filed pursuant to the Board's adopted internal complaint procedure, and will attempt to resolve such complaints.~~

The Board will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations of Section 504/ADA. (See below.) The Board ~~will~~ further will establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards in accordance with Section 504, including the right to an impartial due process hearing, for parents of students with disabilities. Finally, students and parents will be advised of their right to request a due process hearing before an Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of persons with disabilities, including the right to participation by the student's parents and representation of counsel, and their right to examine relevant education records.

### **Training**

~~The CO will also oversee the training of employees of the Board so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Section 504 and the ADA, and are informed of the Board's policies, administrative guidelines, and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Section 504/ADA.~~

~~The Board will provide in-service training and consultation to staff responsible for the education of persons with disabilities, as necessary and appropriate.~~

### **Facilities**

~~No qualified person with a disability will, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies.~~

~~For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, providing accommodations to parents with disabilities who desire access to their child's educational program or meetings pertinent thereto. Programs and activities will be designed and scheduled so that the location and nature of the facility or area will not deny a student with a disability the opportunity to participate on the same basis as students without disabilities.~~

### **Education**

~~The Board is committed to identifying, evaluating, and providing a free appropriate public education ("FAPE") to students within its jurisdiction who are disabled within the definition of Section 504, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities.~~

~~If a student has a physical or mental impairment that significantly limits one or more major life activities, the Board will provide the student with a free appropriate public education ("FAPE"). An appropriate education may include regular or special education and related aids and services to accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities. For disabled students who are not eligible for specially designed instruction under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act ("IDEIA"), the related aids and services (including accommodations/modifications/interventions) they need in order to have their needs met as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met, shall be delineated, along with their placement, in a Section 504 Plan (Form 2260-01A F13). Parents/guardians/custodians ("parents") are invited and encouraged to participate fully in the evaluation process and development of a Section 504 Plan.~~

~~The Board is committed to educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified person with a disability who resides within the District with persons who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Generally, the District will place a person with a disability in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the person in the regular environment even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. If the District places a person in a setting other than the regular educational environment, it shall take into account the proximity of the alternate setting to the person's home.~~

~~The Board will provide non-academic extracurricular services and activities in such a manner as is necessary to afford qualified persons with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in such services and activities. Nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities may include counseling services, physical recreational athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interests groups or clubs sponsored by the District, referrals to agencies that provide assistance to persons with disabilities, and employment of students. In providing or arranging for the provision of meals and recess periods, and nonacademic~~



~~and extracurricular services and activities, including those listed above, the District will verify that persons with disabilities participate with persons without disabilities in such services and activities to the maximum extent appropriate.~~

### **Reports and Complaints of Discrimination and Retaliation**

Students and District employees are required, and all other members of the District community and Third Parties are encouraged, to promptly report incidents of discrimination and/or retaliation to an administrator, supervisor, or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the CO within two (2) days. [NOTE: While students are advised to report discrimination/retaliation to administrators, supervisors, or other District officials, the Board recognizes that some students may report discrimination/retaliation to a teacher. When a teacher receives such a report, the teacher must file it with the CO as indicated above.]

Members of the District community, which includes students or Third Parties, who believe they have been discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

A student and/or parent may initiate the internal complaint procedure when they believe that a violation, misapplication or misinterpretation of Section 504 has occurred. Additionally, the following procedure may be used for any disagreement with respect to actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational program or placement of students who are identified as having a disability or believed to have a disability pursuant to Section 504 and are not eligible under the IDEA, except in the case of disciplinary actions where the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct apply. Use of the internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies, including the filing of a complaint with the OCR or requesting an impartial due process hearing.

If during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 - Bullying, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may constitute discrimination based on a Protected Class, the Principal shall report the act to one of the COs, who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the CO investigates the allegation, the Principal shall suspend the Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the CO's written report. The CO shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the Policy 2260 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept reports of discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the District community or a Third Party and reports that initially are made to another District employee. Upon receipt of a report of alleged discrimination/retaliation, the CO will contact the Complainant and begin either an informal or formal complaint process (depending on the Complainant's request and the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation) or designate a specific individual to conduct such a process.

The CO will provide a copy of this policy to the Complainant and the Respondent. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the District Administrator or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) days of learning of the incident/conduct.

Any District employee who directly observes discrimination/retaliation of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) days. Additionally, any District employee who observes an act of discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other District employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO/designee must contact the Complainant if age eighteen (18) or older or the Complainant's parents/guardians if the student is under the age eighteen (18) within two (2) days to advise of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

### **Investigation and Complaint Procedure**

The CO shall investigate any complaints brought under this policy. Throughout the course of the process as described herein, the CO should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All complaints must include the following information to the extent known it is available: a description of the alleged violation, the identity of the Respondent individual(s) believed to have engaged in, or to be actively engaging in, conduct in violation of this policy, if any; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); ~~and~~ a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the report by signing the document.

Upon receiving a complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken during the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further ~~discrimination or retaliation~~~~loss of educational opportunity~~, including but not limited to a change of ~~work assignment or~~ class schedule for the Complainant ~~and/or the Respondent~~, ~~tentative enrollment in a program, or other appropriate action~~. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees with the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO still may take whatever actions are deemed appropriate in consultation with the District Administrator~~prior to any action being taken. The Complainant should be notified of any proposed action prior to such action being taken.~~

As soon as appropriate in the investigation process, the CO will inform any individual named by the Complainant in connection with an alleged violation of this policy, that a complaint has been received. The person(s) must also be provided an opportunity to respond to the complaint.

Within five (5) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO will initiate an investigation by at a minimum confirming receipt of the complaint with the complainant and informing the complainant of the investigation process.

~~Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment based on a protected class or retaliation within thirty (30) days of receiving the formal complaint. Investigations shall be completed promptly. What constitutes promptness will depend on the complexity of the issues, the number of incidents or factual elements, the number of witnesses and documents to be consulted, and the availability of witnesses and other evidence. The CO shall keep the Complainant reasonably informed of the investigation's progress.~~

The investigation will include:

- A. interview(s) with the Complainant;
- B. interview(s) with the Respondent~~any persons named in the complaint~~;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who reasonably may ~~reasonably~~ be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other information~~evidence~~ presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness which is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the District Administrator which summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent has engaged in harassment/retaliation of the Complainant~~definitions in this Policy, as well as in State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been denied access to educational opportunities on the basis of one of the protected classifications, based on a preponderance of evidence standard~~. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, ~~including the ages and maturity levels of those involved~~. In determining if discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used.

The CO may consult with the Board's attorney during the course of the investigatory process and/or before finalizing the report to the District Administrator.

In cases where no District CO is able to investigate a complaint due to concerns regarding conflicts, bias or partiality, or for other reasons that impair the CO's ability to conduct an investigation, the CO may in consultation with the District Administrator or Board President, if the matter involves the District Administrator, engage outside legal counsel to conduct the investigation consistent with this policy.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within ~~five (5) ten (10) business~~ days of receiving the report of the CO or designee, the District Administrator must either issue a final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated~~the complaint~~ or request further investigation. A copy of the District Administrator's final decision will be delivered to the Complainant and to the Respondent. The District Administrator may redact information from the decision in the event the release of information raises concerns regarding the integrity of the complaint or investigation process. The Board authorizes the District Administrator to consult with legal counsel to determine the extent to which information in an investigation report must be provided to either the Complainant or Respondent.

If the District Administrator requests additional investigation, the District Administrator must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within ~~five (5) ten (10) business~~ days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the District Administrator must issue a final written decision as described above. The decision of the District Administrator will be reviewed by the Board upon request.

If the Complainant feels that the decision does not adequately address the complaint s/he may appeal the decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint, or report of, discrimination/retaliation regardless of whether the Complainant pursues ~~member of the School District community or third party chooses to pursue~~ the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy, or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described interviews/meetings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the OCR or ICRC, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

### **Additional School District Action**

If the evidence suggests that any conduct at issue violates any other policies of the Board, is a crime, or requires mandatory reporting under the Children's Code (Sec. 48.981, Wis. Stat.), the CO or District Administrator shall take additional such actions as necessary and appropriate under the circumstances, which may include a report to the appropriate social service and/or law enforcement agency charged with responsibility for handling such investigations.

### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The District will employ all ~~make~~ reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the District's legal obligations to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations ~~privacy of any individuals involved in the investigation process~~. Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, however. All Complainants proceeding through the investigation process should be advised that as a result of the investigation, allegations against individuals may become known to those individuals, including the Complainant's identity.

All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of an investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person ~~all members of the School District community and third parties~~ who is/are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that is learned or provided ~~s/he learns or that s/he provides~~ during the course of the investigation.

### **Remedial Action and Monitoring**

If warranted, appropriate remedial action shall be determined and implemented on behalf of the Complainant, including but not limited to counseling services, reinstatement of leave taken due to the discrimination, the opportunity to complete assignments missed due to absences related to the discrimination, or other appropriate action.

The Board may appoint an individual, who may be a District employee, to follow up with the Complainant to ensure no further discrimination or retaliation has occurred and to take action to address any reported occurrences promptly.

### **Sanctions and Disciplinary Action**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct.

While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of any relevant code of conduct.

When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the age and maturity level of any student involved. In those cases where discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies.

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior disciplinary action has been taken against the Respondent, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.

### **Impartial Due Process Hearing**

A student and/or parent may request an impartial due process hearing regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of a student with a disability. The student and/or parent may but are not required to first exhaust the above complaint procedure before requesting an impartial due process hearing. The parent of a student with a disability and a student over eighteen (18) years old (if not under guardianship) or an emancipated student has the right to: (1) examine records or documents that the school relied on in making its decision about the student; (2) request an impartial due process hearing that provides the parent and/or student with an opportunity to participate and permits representation by an attorney; and (3) have an opportunity for review of the decision made at the hearing.

A request for an impartial due process hearing should be made as soon as possible following a dispute in order to ensure that witnesses are available but no more than two years following the date of the matter in dispute. A request for an impartial due process hearing must be put in writing, identify the specific circumstances or areas of dispute that have given rise to the request for a hearing, and offer possible solutions to the dispute. The request for due process hearing must be filed with a District CO within the time limits specified above. The CO is available to assist individuals in filing a request for an impartial due process hearing.

When a request for an impartial due process hearing is received, the aggrieved party will have the opportunity to receive a hearing conducted by an IHO (i.e., by a person not employed by the District, not involved in the education or care of the child, and not having a personal or professional interest that would conflict with the IHO's objectivity in the hearing). The District will maintain a list of trained IHOs that may include IDEA/Article 7 hearing officers, attorneys, and Directors of Special Education outside the District. The District CO will appoint an IHO from that list, and the District will bear the costs of the hearing. The appointment of an IHO will be made within fifteen (15) days after the request for an impartial due process hearing is received.

A party to an impartial due process hearing has the right to:

- A. be accompanied and advised by legal counsel and individuals with special knowledge or training with respect to the problems of students with disabilities at the party's own cost;
- B. present evidence and confront, cross-examine and compel the attendance of witnesses;
- C. a written or electronic verbatim record of the hearing; and
- D. written findings of fact and conclusions of law setting forth the reasons for the decision.

The IHO shall conduct the impartial due process hearing within a reasonable period of time (i.e., not to exceed ninety (90) days from the request for a hearing, unless this time-frame is mutually waived by the parties or is determined by the IHO to be impossible to comply with due to extenuating circumstances). The IHO will give the parent and/or student written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing. Notice will be given no less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the hearing, unless otherwise agreed to by the parent and/or student. The notice shall include:

- A. a statement of the time, place and nature of the hearing;
- B. a statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is being held;
- C. a reference to the particular section(s) of the statutes and rules involved;
- D. a statement of the availability of relevant records for examination;
- E. a short and plain statement of the matters asserted; and
- F. a statement of the right to be represented by counsel.

The IHO shall conduct the hearing in a manner that will afford all parties a full and fair opportunity to present evidence and otherwise to be heard. The parent and/or student may be represented by another person of the parent or student's choice, including an attorney. The IHO shall make a full and complete record of the proceedings.

The IHO shall render a decision in writing to the parties within thirty (30) days following the conclusion of the hearing. The decision will be based solely on the testimony and demonstrative evidence presented at the hearing and include a summary of the evidence (i.e., findings of fact) and the reason for the decision (conclusions of law). The IHO's decision shall include a statement that either party may appeal the decision.

Appeal of the IHO's decision may be made to a Federal court of competent jurisdiction.

### **OCR Complaint**

At any time, if a student or parent believes that the student has been subjected to discrimination based upon disability in violation of Section 504 or the ADA, the student or parent may file a complaint with the OCR. The OCR can be reached at:

U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
Chicago Office  
John C. Kluczynski Federal Building  
230 S. Dearborn Street, 37th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Telephone: 312-730-1560  
FAX: 312-730-1576  
TDD: 800-877-8339  
E-mail: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)  
Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

Except in extraordinary circumstances, the OCR does not review the result of individual placement and other educational decisions, so long as the District complies with the "process" requirements of Subpart D of Section 504.

### **Notice**

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in education practices and the identity of the COs will be published on the District's website and posted throughout the District, and included~~published~~ in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

### **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging discrimination/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made by any Federal or State civil rights law, made a report/formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated, or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

### **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of discriminatory practices. The District Administrator shall provide appropriate information to all members of the District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training and information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general will be age and content appropriate.

### **Retention of ~~Public Records, Student Records, and~~ Investigatory Records and Materials**

The CO is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation, including but not limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;
- B. narratives of all verbal reports, allegations, complaints, and statements collected;
- C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;
- D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;

- E. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;
  - F. all documentary evidence;
  - G. e-mails, texts, or social media posts related to the investigation;
  - H. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;
  - I. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;
  - J. dated written determinations to the parties;
  - K. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;
  - L. written documentation of any supportive interim measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent/Complainants, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt; and
  - M. documentation of all actions, both individual and systemic, taken to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects.
  - N. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Codes of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
  - O. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;
  - P. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]
- It is suggested the following records also be maintained, as appropriate.**
- Q. documentation that any rights or opportunities that the District made available to one party during the investigation were made available to the other party on equal terms;
  - R. copies of any notices sent to the alleged perpetrator/responding party of the allegations constituting a potential violation of this policy;
  - S. copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and the Respondent in advance of any interview, meeting, or hearing;
  - T. copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and alleged perpetrator in advance of any interview or hearing;
  - U. copies of any documentation or evidence used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings, including the investigation report, and any written responses submitted by the Complainant or the Respondent.

Additionally, the CO shall retain copies of any written request for an impartial due process hearing, the IHO's notices to the parties, the evidence entered in the hearing, any transcript of the hearing, and the IHO's decision.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

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Legal                      29 C.F.R. Part 1630  
                                  34 C.F.R. Part 104  
                                  42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
Code	po2260
Status	

## 2260 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The Board is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students in the District.

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities. This policy is intended to support and promote nondiscriminatory practices in all District and school activities, particularly in the following areas:

- A. use of objective bases for admission to any school, class, program, or activity;
- B. prohibition of harassment towards students and procedures for the investigation of claims (see Policy 5517);
- C. use of disciplinary authority, including suspension and expulsion authority;
- D. administration of gifts, bequests, scholarships and other aids, benefits, or services to students from private agencies, organizations, or persons;
- E. selection of instructional and library media materials in a nondiscriminatory manner and that reflect the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society;
- F. design and implementation of student evaluation practices, materials, and tools, but not at the exclusion of implementing techniques to meet students' individual needs;
- G. design and configuration of facilities;
- H. opportunity for participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities provided that separate programs for male and female students may be available provided comparable activities are made available to all in terms of type, scope, and District support; and
- I. the school lunch program and other school-sponsored food service programs.

The Board is also committed to equal employment opportunity in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students. The Board's policies pertaining to employment practices can be found in Policy 1422, Policy 3122, and Policy 4122 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity.

[The District will identify, evaluate, and provide a free appropriate public education to students with disabilities who are determined eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 \(Section 504\).](#)

[The District's educational programs include the academic and nonacademic setting. Each qualified student with a disability shall be educated with students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate. In the nonacademic setting, a student with a](#)



disability shall participate with students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination and the identity of the District's Compliance Officer(s) (see below) will be published on the District's website, posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

### **Principal's Responsibilities**

Each Principal shall verify that the procedures used with students and parents for selection of and participation in any part of the District's academic, co-curricular, or extra-curricular programs do not discriminate on the basis of the Protected Classes.

### **District Administrator's Responsibilities**

In furtherance of the aforesaid goal, the District Administrator shall:

#### A. Curriculum Content

1. review current and proposed courses of study and textbooks to detect any bias based upon the Protected Classes ascertaining whether or not supplemental materials, singly or taken as a whole, fairly depict ~~those~~ the Protected Classes ~~contribution of both sexes, various races, ethnic groups, etc.~~ toward the development of human society;
2. provide that necessary programs are available for students with limited use of the English language;

#### B. Staff Training

develop an ongoing program of staff training and in-service training for school personnel designed to identify and solve problems of bias based upon the Protected Classes in all aspects of the program;

#### C. Student Access

1. review current and proposed programs, activities, facilities, and practices to ensure that all students have equal access thereto and are not segregated on the basis of the Protected Classes in any duty, work, play, classroom, or school practice, except as may be permitted under State regulations;
2. verify that facilities are made available in a non-discriminatory fashion, in accordance with Board Policy 7510 - Use of District Facilities, for non-curricular student activities that are initiated by parents or other members of the community, including but not limited to any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society;
3. verify that the educational programs of this District are accessible to all students;  
All programs need to be designed and scheduled so the location or nature of the facility or area will not deny an otherwise qualified student with a disability the opportunity to participate in the academic or other school programs on the same basis as students without disabilities.
4. require that service animals for students who require this type of assistance shall be permitted access to all facilities, programs, and events of the District.

#### D. District Support

require that like aspects of the District program receive like support as to staff size and compensation, purchase and maintenance of facilities and equipment, access to such facilities and equipment, and related matters;

#### E. Student Evaluation

verify that tests, procedures, ~~and~~ or guidance and counseling materials, which are designed to evaluate student progress, rate aptitudes, analyze personality, or in any manner establish or tend to establish a category by which a student may be judged, are not differentiated or stereotyped on the basis of the Protected Classes.

### **Definitions**

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

**Complainant:** is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

**Day(s):** Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the District office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

**Military status:** refers to a person's status in the uniformed services, which includes the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service, including active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty for training, and full-time National Guard duty. It also includes the period of time for which a person is absent from school for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any duty listed above.

**Respondent:** is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the Reporting Party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

**School District community:** means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and support staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

**Third Parties:** include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

The District Administrator shall ~~appoint and~~ publicize the name of the compliance officer(s) who is/are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with the applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination or equal access. The Compliance Officer(s) also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ~~Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972,~~ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), is provided to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public.

The District Administrator shall attempt annually to identify children with disabilities, ages 3 - ~~21~~22, who reside in the District but do not receive a public education.

In addition, the District Administrator~~s/he~~ shall establish procedures to identify students who are Limited English Proficient, including immigrant children and youth, to assess their ability to participate in District programs, and develop and administer a program that meets the English language and academic needs of these students. This program shall include procedures for student placement, services, evaluation, and exit guidelines and shall be designed to provide students with effective instruction that leads to academic achievement and timely acquisition of proficiency in English. As a part of this program, the District will evaluate the progress of students in achieving English language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing, on an annual basis.

## Reporting Procedures

~~Students and District employees are required, and all other members of the District community and Third Parties~~Students, parents and all other members of the School District community are encouraged to promptly report suspected violations of this policy to ana teacher or administrator, supervisor, or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any teacher, ~~or~~ administrator, supervisor, or other District employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the District's Compliance Officer within two (2) days at his/her first opportunity. **[NOTE: While students are advised to report discrimination/retaliation to administrators, supervisors, or other District officials, the Board recognizes that some students may report discrimination/retaliation to a teacher. When a teacher receives such a report, the teacher must file it with the CO as indicated above.]**

~~Students who believe they have been denied equal access to District educational opportunities in a manner inconsistent with this policy may initiate a complaint and the investigation process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint will not adversely affect the complaining individual's participation in educational or extra-curricular programs unless the complaining individual makes the complaint maliciously or with the knowledge that it is false.~~

Members of the District community, which includes students or Third Parties, who believe they have been discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 - Bullying, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may constitute unlawful discrimination based on a Protected Class, the Principal

shall report the act to one of the COs, who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the CO investigates the allegation, the Principal shall suspend the Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the CO's written report. The CO shall keep the principal informed of the status of the Policy 2260 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept reports of discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the District community or a Third Party and reports that initially are made to another District employee. Upon receipt of a report of alleged discrimination/retaliation, the CO will contact the Complainant and begin either an informal or formal complaint process (depending on the Complainant's request and the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation) or designate a specific individual to conduct such a process.

The CO will provide a copy of this policy to the Complainant and the Respondent. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the District Administrator or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) days of learning of the incident/conduct.

Any District employee who directly observes discrimination/retaliation of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) days. Additionally, any District employee who observes an act of unlawful discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other District employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO/designee must contact the Complainant if age eighteen (18) or older or the Complainant's parents/guardians if the student is under the age of eighteen (18) within two (2) days to advise of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

### **~~Title IX Complaint Coordinators~~/District Compliance Officers (hereinafter referred to as the "COs")**

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's CO's:

Carmen O'Brien  
Business Manager  
School District of Manawa  
800 Beech Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5840  
cobrien@manawaschools.org

Daniel Wolfgram  
High School/Middle School Principal  
800 Beech Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5310  
dwolfgram@manawaschools.org

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the staff and student handbooks, and on the School District's web site.

A CO will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to student discrimination in educational opportunities under this policy.

### **Investigation and Complaint Procedure**

The CO shall investigate any complaints brought under this policy. Throughout the course of the process as described herein, the CO should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All complaints must include the following information to the extent known it is available: a description of the alleged violation, the identity of the Respondent individual(s) believed to have engaged in, or to be actively engaging in, conduct in violation of this policy, if any; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); ~~and~~ a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge~~report~~ by signing the document.

Upon receiving a complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken during the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further loss of educational opportunity, including but not limited to a change of work assignment or class schedule

for the Complainant, tentative enrollment in a program, or other appropriate action. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees with the proposed action ~~prior to any action being taken. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO still may take whatever actions are deemed appropriate in consultation with the District Administrator.~~ ~~The Complainant should be notified of any proposed action prior to such action being taken.~~

As soon as appropriate in the investigation process, the CO will inform the Respondent ~~any individual named by the Complainant in connection with an alleged violation of this policy~~, that a complaint has been received. The person(s) must also be provided an opportunity to respond to the complaint.

All investigations shall be commenced as soon as practicable upon receipt of a complaint and concluded as expeditiously as feasible, in consideration of the circumstances, while taking measures to complete a thorough investigation. The complaining party shall be notified in writing of receipt of the complaint within forty-five (45) days of the complaint and shall reach a determination concerning the complaint within ninety (90) days of receipt unless additional time is agreed to by the complaining party.

The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent ~~any persons named in the complaint~~;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who ~~may~~ reasonably may be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other evidence presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness which is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the District Administrator which summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definitions in this Policy, as well as in State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been denied access to educational opportunities on the basis of one of the protected classifications, based on a preponderance of evidence standard. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved.

The CO may consult with the Board's attorney during the course of the investigatory process and/or before finalizing the report to the District Administrator.

In cases where no District CO is able to investigate a complaint due to concerns regarding conflicts, bias or partiality, or for other reasons that impair the CO's ability to conduct an investigation, the CO may in consultation with the District Administrator or Board President, if the matter involves the District Administrator, engage outside legal counsel to conduct the investigation consistent with this policy.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) ~~ten (10)~~ business days of receiving the report of the CO or designee, the District Administrator ~~must~~ either must issue a written final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated ~~the complaint~~ or request further investigation. A copy of the District Administrator's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and Respondent ~~(-)~~ ~~and to the Respondent, if any~~ **[END OF OPTION]**. The District Administrator may redact information from the decision in the event the release of information raises concerns regarding the integrity of the complaint or investigation process. The Board authorizes the District Administrator to consult with legal counsel to determine the extent to which information in an investigation report must be provided to either the Complainant or Respondent.

If the District Administrator requests additional investigation, the District Administrator must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) ~~ten (10)~~ business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the District Administrator must issue a final written decision as described above. The decision of the District Administrator will be reviewed by the Board upon request.

If the Complainant feels that the decision does not adequately address the complaint s/he may appeal the decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction by submitting a written request to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Pupil Nondiscrimination Program, or by contacting the DPI Pupil Nondiscrimination Program at (608) 267-9157. Any person, including the Respondent in a complaint, who is subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination as a result of a complaint may choose to file a grievance utilizing the District's grievance procedure as outlined in Policy 3340 or Policy 4340.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report regardless of whether the member of the School District community or third party chooses to pursue the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the complaint

investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

### **Additional School District Action**

If the evidence suggests that any conduct at issue violates any other policies of the Board, is a crime, or requires mandatory reporting under the Children's Code (Sec. 48.981, Wis. Stat.) (Policy 8462), or threats of violence (Policy 8462.01), the CO or District Administrator shall take such additional actions as necessary and appropriate under the circumstances, which may include a report to the appropriate social service and/or law enforcement agency charged with responsibility for handling such investigations.

### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The District will make reasonable efforts to protect the privacy of any individuals involved in the investigation process. Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, however. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity. ~~All Complainants proceeding through the investigation process should be advised that as a result of the investigation, allegations against individuals may become known to those individuals, including the Complainant's identity.~~

During the course of an investigation, the CO or designee will instruct all members of the School District community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose any information that is learned or provided~~s/he learns or that s/he provides~~ during the course of the investigation.

### **Remedial Action and Monitoring**

If warranted, appropriate remedial action shall be determined and implemented on behalf of the Complainant, including but not limited to counseling services, reinstatement of leave taken because of the discrimination, the opportunity to complete assignments missed due to absences related to the discrimination, or other appropriate action.

The Board may appoint an individual, who may be a District employee, to follow up with the Complainant to ensure no further discrimination or retaliation has occurred and to take action to address any reported occurrences promptly.

### **Sanctions and Disciplinary Action**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against discrimination/retaliation by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct.

While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of any relevant codes of conduct.

When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity level of any student involved. In those cases where discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies.

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior disciplinary action has been taken against the Respondent, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

### **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging harassment/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other

appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

### **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of discriminatory practices. The District Administrator shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information, provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

### **Retention of ~~Public Records, Student Records, and Investigatory~~ Records and Materials**

The Compliance Officer(s) is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation, including but not limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;
- B. narratives of all verbal reports, allegations, complaints, and statements collected;
- C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;
- D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;
- E. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;
- F. all documentary evidence;
- G. e-mails, texts, or social media posts related to the investigation;
- H. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;
- I. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;
- J. dated written determinations to the parties;
- K. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;
- L. written documentation of any ~~supportive~~<sup>interim</sup> measures offered and/or provided to Complainant and/or the Respondent/complainants, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt; and
- M. documentation of all actions, both individual and systemic, taken to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects.
- N. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
- O. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;
- P. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained

**regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]**

**It is suggested the following records also be maintained, as appropriate.**

- Q. documentation that any rights or opportunities that the District made available to one party during the investigation were made available to the other party on equal terms;
- R. copies of any notices sent to the alleged perpetrator/responding party of the allegations constituting a potential violation of this policy;
- S. copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and the Respondent in advance of any interview, meeting, or hearing;
- T. copies of any notices sent to the complainant and alleged perpetrator in advance of any interview or hearing;
- U. copies of any documentation or evidence used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings, including the investigation report, and any written responses submitted by the Complainant or the Respondent.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District’s records retention schedule.

Revised 12/18/17  
Revised 7/22/19  
Revised 11/18/19

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- Legal
- 118.13 Wis. Stats.
  - P.I. 9, Wis. Adm. Code
  - P.I. 41, Wis. Adm. Code
  - Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution
  - 20 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974
  - 20 U.S.C. 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act
  - 29 U.S.C. 794, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended
  - 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975
  - 42 U.S.C. 2000 et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964
  - 42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
  - 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended
  - 29 C.F.R. Part 1635, The GINA Regulations
  - 34 C.F.R. Part 110, The Age Discrimination Act Regulations
  - Guidelines for Vocational Education Programs, Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, March 21, 1979

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on September 16, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	Copy of HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
Code	po2414
Status	
Adopted	October 17, 2016

#### 2414 - HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Education directs that students receive instruction in human growth and development, consistent with Chapter 118.019(2) Wis. Stats, to include the following:

A. Medically accurate and age-appropriate instruction in the following topics:

1. the importance of communication about sexuality between the student and the student's parents or guardians
2. reproductive and sexual anatomy and physiology, including biological, psychosocial, emotional, and intellectual changes that accompany maturation
3. puberty, pregnancy, parenting, body image, and gender stereotypes
4. the skills needed to make responsible decisions about sexuality and sexual behavior throughout the student's life, including how to refrain from making inappropriate verbal, physical, and sexual advances and how to recognize, rebuff, and report any unwanted or inappropriate verbal, physical, and sexual behaviors
5. the benefits of and reasons for abstaining from sexual activity

Instruction under this subdivision shall stress the value of abstinence as the only reliable way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections and shall identify the skills necessary to remain abstinent

6. methods for developing healthy life skills, including setting goals, making responsible decisions, communicating, and managing stress
7. how alcohol and drug use affect responsible decision making
8. the impact of media and one's peers on thoughts, feelings, and behaviors related to sexuality
9. adoption resources, prenatal care, and postnatal supports
10. the nature and treatment of sexually transmitted infections

B. use instructional methods and materials that do not discriminate against a student based upon the student's race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnic or cultural background or against sexually active students or children with disabilities

C. address self-esteem, personal responsibility, healthy relationships, and positive interpersonal skills, with an emphasis on healthy relationships



- D. identify counseling, medical, and legal resources for survivors of sexual abuse and assault, including resources for escaping violent relationships

The District Administrator will ensure that any instruction provided under this policy also includes instruction in the same year, when age-appropriate, that fulfills the requirements of Chapter 118.019(2~~m~~<sup>f</sup>) Wis. Stats. required subjects as listed below:

- A. presents abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior for unmarried students;
- B. emphasizes that abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the only reliable way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome;
- C. provides instruction in parental responsibility and the socioeconomic benefits of marriage for adults and their children;
- D. explains pregnancy, prenatal development, and childbirth;
- E. explains the criminal penalties for engaging in sexual activities involving a child under Ch. 948, Wis. Stats.;
- F. explains the sex offender registration requirements under ~~Section~~ 301.45, Wis. Stats.;

Instruction under this paragraph shall include who is required to report under ~~S.~~ 301.45, Wis. Stats., what information must be reported, who has access to the information reported, and the implications of being registered under ~~Section~~ 301.45, Wis. Stats.

- G. provides medically accurate information about the human papilloma virus and the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

The Board authorizes the curriculum to include separating students on the basis of gender as determined by the District Human Growth and Development Committee.

A citizens' advisory committee shall be established, in accordance with Board Policy 9140 - Citizens' Advisory Committees and 118.019(5), Wis. Stats., in order to ensure the effective participation of staff, parents, health-care professionals, members of clergy, and other residents of the District in the design and implementation of this program area.

The District shall provide parents annually with an outline of the human growth and development program used in their child's grade level as well as information regarding how the parent may inspect the complete program and instructional materials. Prior to use in the classroom, the program shall be made available to parents for inspection.

The District shall notify the parents, in advance of the instruction and give them an opportunity, prior to instruction, to review the complete program and instructional materials, and of their right to have their child excused from the instruction. The notice shall state that, in the event a student is excused, that student will still receive instruction under ~~Wis. Stat.~~ 118.01(2)(d)2c, Wis. Stats. unless exempted and under ~~Wis. Stat.~~ 118.01(2)(d)8, Wis. Stats.

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Legal 115.35, 118.01(2)(d), 118.019, Wis. Stats.  
P.I. 8.01(2)(j), Wis. Adm. Code

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on July 24, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	Copy of DISTRICT-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES
Code	po2430
Status	
Adopted	October 17, 2016
Last Revised	March 15, 2021

#### 2430 - **DISTRICT-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Board believes that the goals and objectives of this District are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, including those that are not conducted in a regular classroom but are related to the District's curriculum and/or mission.

The purpose of District-sponsored~~curricular-related~~ activities shall be to enable students to explore a wider range of individual interests than may be available in the District's courses of study but are still directly related to accomplishing the educational outcomes for students as adopted by the Board in Policy 2131. The Board encourages all students, including those students in elementary and middle school grades, to participate in such opportunities. In implementing this policy, the District Administrator shall take steps to make such opportunities accessible to all students.

For purposes of this policy, District-sponsored~~curricular-related~~ activities are typically defined as those activities in which:

- A. the subject matter is actually taught or will be taught in a regularly offered course;
- B. the subject matter concerns the District's composite courses of study;
- C. participation is required for a particular course;
- D. participation results in academic credit; or
- E. the subject matter is of interest to students and aligns with the District's goals and mission.

No ~~curricular-related~~ activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board unless it meets one or more of the criteria stated above and has been approved by the District Administrator.

Such activities, along with competitive extra-curricular activities/athletics (not directly related to courses of study), may be conducted on-or-off-school premises by clubs, associations, and organizations of students sponsored by the Board and directed by a staff advisor.

Non-District sponsored~~Non-curricular~~ student activities that are initiated by parents or other members of the community may be allowed under the provisions of Policy 7510 - Use of District Facilities. The Board, however will not:

- A. assume any responsibility for the planning, conducting, or evaluating of such activities;
- B. provide any funds or other resources;

- C. allow any member of the District's staff to assist in the planning, conducting, or evaluating of such an activity during the hours s/he is functioning as a member of the staff.

No non-district-sponsored organization may use the name, logo, mascot, or any other name which would associate an activity with the District. Additionally, no nondistrict-sponsored organization may use the assets of the District, including but not limited to facilities, technology, or communication networks without the specific permission(s) as outlined in the relevant District policies.

In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, to be eligible for any athletic or other extra-curricular activity, a student must meet the criteria established in the Activities Code.

Students shall be fully informed of the curricular-related activities available to them and of the eligibility standards established for participation in these activities. District-sponsored activities shall be available to all students who elect to participate and who meet eligibility standards.

The District Administrator shall prepare administrative guidelines to implement a program of curricular-related clubs and activities. Such guidelines should ensure that the needs and interests of the students are properly assessed and procedures are established for continuing evaluation of each club and activity.

To remain a member of a District-established student group or national organization such as the National Honor Society, a student must continue to meet all of the eligibility criteria and abide by the principles and practices established by the group or the organization.

Revised 12/18/17

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Legal                      120.12(23), Wis. Stats.  
                                    P.L. 98-377

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on July 24, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	Copy of INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
Code	po2431
Status	
Adopted	October 17, 2016
Last Revised	December 18, 2017

#### 2431 - **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

The Board recognizes the value to the District and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for as many students as feasible and in accordance with Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity. The Board believes that it is the purpose of an interscholastic program to provide the benefits of an athletic experience to as large a number of students as feasible within the District.

The Board recognizes that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of each participant with emphasis on the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play. Athletics should encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by the participants.

Interscholastic athletic programs provide opportunities for participants to develop positive school morale, practice hospitality and exercise the qualities of fair play and courtesy. The interscholastic athletic program is a part of the school curriculum, educational in purpose and conduct.

The athletic program affords opportunities for wholesome school-community relations under constructive conditions. It is the responsibility of school authorities to inform the community regarding the purposes of the program. The community should recognize that an athletic contest is an integral part of the school program because of its educational values. If interscholastic athletics cease to possess educational value, then these should cease to be school functions.

The Board encourages the full participation of elementary and middle school students in interscholastic athletic activities. For purposes of Board policy, "full participation" means fair and equal participation to the extent that the budget, facilities or type of activity allow.

The District shall maintain membership in the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and the District's conference. The District shall abide by all WIAA and conference rules and regulations, and student athletes shall also be expected to abide by all eligibility rules and regulations.

The District Administrator ~~provides shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines for the operation of the Athletic Program and a Code of Conduct for those who participate. Such guidelines should provide for~~ the following safeguards:

- A. Prior to enrolling in the sport, each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a District-approved physician and parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation.
- B. Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate.

- C. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have written approval by a physician prior to the student's return to participation.
- D. Any student suspected of having a head injury or concussion shall be provided with safety protocols specified in Policy 5340 - Student Accidents/Illness/Concussion.

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches should never dispense, supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.

The District Administrator is authorized to establish a set of behavior expectations for participants as well as the implementation of appropriate disciplinary procedures for those who violate sportsmanship expectations. ~~The guidelines should also provide a set of behavioral expectations for each type of participant. The District Administrator is authorized to implement suitable disciplinary procedures against those who violate the following sportsmanship expectations.~~

To support the efforts to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, the Board commits itself to:

- A. adopt policies (upon recommendation of the administration) that reflect the District's educational objectives and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity;
- B. support and reward participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship.

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Legal                      120.12(23), Wis. Stats.  
                                  P.I. 9.03(1)(h), Wis. Adm. Code

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on July 24, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND STATE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS
Code	po2700.01
Status	
Adopted	October 1, 2015
Last Revised	November 16, 2020

#### 2700.01 - SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND STATE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS~~REPORTS~~

The Board believes that a vital component of the District's educational programs is ensuring that parents and other individuals are informed of the performance of the schools and the School District. To this end, the Board has adopted this policy.

#### ~~State-School Performance Report (SPR)~~

The Board will publish an annual school and school district performance report including all information prescribed by statute. By January 1st of each year, the Board shall notify the parents of each student enrolled in the District of the right to request a school and school district performance report. ~~(-) Parents shall be notified that the performance report will be provided to the parent electronically unless the parent requests a written copy of the report. [Note: End of Choice] By May 1st, the Board shall distribute copies of the report to those who have requested the report, including students enrolled in charter schools located in the District, that have requested the report.~~

~~(-)~~ Per the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the District ~~shall~~<sup>may</sup> use links to the [WISEdash Public Portal](#) to meet the electronic State School Performance Report requirements.

~~[ ] The annual school and School District report shall be made available on the District's internet for public viewing.~~

~~The report shall generally include the following information, as required or modified by the State Superintendent:~~

- ~~A. indicators of academic achievement, including the performance of students on Statewide assessment examinations by subject area~~
- ~~B. dropout, attendance, retention in grade and graduation rates~~
- ~~C. number of suspensions and expulsions, the reasons for, and duration of, the suspensions and expulsions and the length of time students are expelled~~
- ~~D. staffing and financial data information~~
- ~~E. number and percentage of resident students attending a course in a nonresident district and the number and percentage of nonresident students attending a course in the district, and~~
- ~~F. method of reading instruction used in the District~~

#### Title I Provisions of the School/District Accountability Performance Report Card

In any year that the District receives Title I funding, its school/~~District accountability performance~~-report card(s) must also include the information regarding the delivery of Title I services as described in Policy 2261.03.

**State Accountability Report Card**~~SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS~~

A copy of each school's accountability report card as prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction shall be provided to the parent of each student enrolled in or attending the school ~~and the ranking levels for each school within the District shall be provided to all parents~~ on an annual basis. The report shall be sent simultaneously with the notice required in Policy 8146 - Notification of Educational Options.

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Legal                      115.38, Wis. Stats.  
                                  115.385, Wis. Stats.  
                                  20 U.S.C. 6311

Last Modified by Melanie Oppor on September 13, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	Copy of EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF
Code	po3120
Status	
Adopted	May 16, 2016
Last Revised	July 22, 2019

### 3120 - EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The Board recognizes that positions be filled with highly-qualified and competent personnel are vital to the successful operation of the District.

All employees other than the District Administrator or support staff members (Policy 0100 – Definitions) are considered professional employees.

The Board shall approve the employment, fix the compensation, and establish the term of employment for each professional staff member employed by this District. Teachers, governed by Wis. Stat. 118.22 and administrators, governed by Wis. Stat. 118.24, may only be employed by contract and only following majority vote of the full membership of the Board or as required or permitted by law.

The District Administrator shall provide a description of the work schedule, hours of work per week, a determination of whether the employee is exempt or non-exempt for purposes of overtime eligibility (See Policy 6700). For non-exempt employees, there shall be a clear statement in the job description and employee handbook which states the following: "No non-exempt employee may perform work for the District outside of his/her regular schedule without prior supervisory approval. Violations of this requirement will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination from employment," and for overtime eligible employees, there shall be a clear statement in the job description and employee handbook which states the following: "No overtime eligible employee may perform overtime work for the District without prior supervisory approval. Violations of this requirement will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination from employment."

Such approval shall be given only to those candidates for employment recommended by the District Administrator.

When any recommended candidate has been rejected by the Board, the District Administrator shall make a substitute recommendation.

All applications for employment shall be referred to WECAN.

~~Relatives of Board members may be employed by the Board. If the Board member benefits financially either directly or indirectly, the Board member may not participate in any way in the discussion or vote on any matter relating to said employment.~~

Relatives of staff members may be employed by the Board. The newly employed staff member shall not be placed in a position in which s/he will be supervised directly by, or supervise directly, his/her relative.

Any professional staff member's intentional misstatement of fact pertaining to his/her qualifications for employment or the determination of salary shall constitute grounds for dismissal by the Board.

The employment of professional staff members prior to approval by the Board is authorized when their employment is required to maintain continuity in the educational program, except as prohibited by law, including the employment of full-time teachers and



certain administrative employees on a substitute basis, pending Board approval. Employment shall be recommended to the Board at the next regular meeting.

No candidate for employment as professional staff shall receive recommendation for such employment without having proffered visual evidence of proper certification or application for such certification. For staff members instructing children in reading and/or language arts, pre-school and/or grades kindergarten through sixth grade, their certificate must verify successful completion of instruction that includes the teaching of phonics.

For each candidate, a satisfactory background check will be conducted by the Department of Public Instruction or appropriate State agency.

Any person who signs a contract to teach in the District must, within ten (10) days after signing the contract, file in the office of the District Administrator a statement showing the date of expiration and the grade and character of the certificate or license held.

The District Administrator shall prepare procedures for the recruitment and selection of all professional staff that includes reporting newly hired employees to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

### **DISTRICT SUPPORTED ALTERNATIVE LICENSING PROGRAMS**

As part of the Board's efforts to provide the highest quality education for all students in all subject areas, the Board authorizes the District Administrator, where appropriate, to support teacher licensure opportunities.

### **EXPERIENCED-BASED LICENSURE FOR TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

"Technical education" means technology education and any technology-related occupation.

"Vocational education" means agriculture, child services, clothing services, food services, housing and equipment services, family and consumer education, family and consumer services, home economic-related occupations, health care-related occupations, trade specialist, business education, business and office, and marketing education.

The District Administrator may support the application for an experience-based license for a teacher to teach in a technical and/or vocational education field, provided that the individual can be credited with at least 100 points using the following system:

A. The following points for experience in a technical field (must comprise at least twenty-five (25) of the required 100 points):

1. For a bachelor's degree in any science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field and any teaching license or permit, or in a field related to the vocational subject, 100 points.
2. For a bachelor's degree in any science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field, or in a field related to the vocational subject seventy-five (75) points.
3. For a bachelor's degree in a field other than those described in numbers 1. and 2., above, any science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or technical or technology education field, sixty-five (65) points.
4. For industry or vocational certification, ninety (90) points.
5. For industry experience in a trade or technical field or vocation, five (5) points per forty (40) hours worked up to a maximum of ninety (90) points.
6. For an internship in a trade or technical field or in the vocation, twenty-five (25) points.
7. For being mentored in a trade or technical skill or in the vocation by a colleague or a Wisconsin Technology Education Association or a recognized vocational association approved mentor, twenty-five (25) points.
8. For an apprenticeship in a trade or technical field or in the vocation, five (5) points per forty (40) hours worked up to a maximum of ninety (90) points.

B. The following points for pedagogical experience (must be at least twenty-five (25) out of the 100 required points):

1. For a bachelor's degree in technical or technology education, 100 points.

2. For a bachelor's degree in a field other than any science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or technical or technology education field, or in a subject related to the vocation and any teaching license or permit, seventy-five (75) points.
3. For credit earned at an accredited institution of higher education or technical college, three (3) points per credit up to a maximum of seventy-five (75) points for technical or technology education courses and science, technology, engineering, or mathematics courses or any field related to the vocation and three (3) points per credit up to a maximum of seventy-five (75) points for education and pedagogical courses.
4. For completing at least 100 hours of training in pedagogy, five (5) points per fifty (50) hours up to a maximum of seventy-five (75) points.

Individuals that have sufficient points may be employed by the District under an experience-based license provided that the District Administrator implements a professional development curriculum for the teacher to follow during the three (3) year period of the initial license. The District Administrator shall monitor the teacher's progress in fulfilling the curriculum.

### **PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PERMIT**

The District Administrator may support the teaching license application of an individual to teach a course in engineering, mathematics, science, computer science, art, music, or world languages that do not yet hold a professional teacher license provided that the following criteria are met:

- A. The District is experiencing a shortage in the availability of teachers with professional teaching certification in the subject area and is unable to fill a position with an acceptable licensed teacher.
- B. The individual holds at least a bachelor's degree in engineering, mathematics, science, computer science, art, music, or world languages.
- C. The individual possesses at least five (5) years of verifiable industry experience in the same field as the bachelor's degree.
- D. The individual has completed at least 100 hours of pedagogical training in an alternative teacher licensing program approved by DPI.
- E. The District Administrator shall implement a plan to provide supervision of the teacher by a teacher that holds regular professional teaching licensure during the two (2) year period of the permit.
- F. The hiring of the teacher under this alternative licensure program will not displace a regularly licensed teacher in the District.

Revised 8/22/16

Revised 7/17/17

Revised 11/19/18

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Legal	118.191, Wis. Stats.
	118.192, Wis. Stats.
	118.21, Wis. Stats.
	118.22(2), Wis. Stats.
	118.24, Wis. Stats.
	121.02, Wis. Stats.
	Wis. Admin. Code P.I. 34

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on July 24, 2021



Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT - NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE
Code	po3122.02
Status	
Adopted	May 16, 2016

### 3122.02 - NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE

The Board ~~of Education~~ prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, including hiring, firing, compensation, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits, or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. The Board also does not limit, segregate, or classify applicants or employees in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive them of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the status of ~~the person~~an employee as an employee, based on genetic information. Harassment of a person because of ~~his/her~~ genetic information ~~is also~~ is prohibited. Likewise, retaliation against a person for identifying, objecting to, or filing a complaint concerning a violation of this policy~~an applicant or employee for engaging in protected activity~~ is prohibited.

The identity of the Compliance Officer (see Policy 3122 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity) shall be posted throughout the District and published in any District statement regarding the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, in any staff handbooks, and in general information publications of the District as required by Federal and State law and on the District website.

In accordance with Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. 2000ff, et seq., and 29 C.F.R. Part 1635 ("GINA"), the Board shall not request, require or purchase genetic information of employees, their family members or applicants for employment. Further, in compliance with GINA~~this Act~~, applicants and employees are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to necessary requests for medical information, with the exception that family medical history may be provided~~acquired~~ as part of the certification process for FMLA leave, or when an employee is asking for leave to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition. Applicants for employment are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to requests for medical information as part of the District's application for employment process. Employees and applicants for employment shall not be penalized for providing genetic information in good faith in response to a request from a Board employee or agent, unless that applicant or employee refuses to delete the information at the request of the employee or agent of the Board.

The ~~Board District~~ recognizes that genetic information may be acquired through commercially and publicly available media including~~documents like~~ newspapers, books, magazines, periodicals, television shows or the Internet. The ~~Board District~~ prohibits, ~~however,~~ its employees and agents including commercial background investigation agents from searching these~~such~~ sources with the intent of finding or obtaining genetic information, or accessing sources from which they are likely to acquire genetic information. If genetic information about an employee or applicant is obtained in error, it shall be redacted immediately and not shared beyond the point of first receipt.

As used in this policy, "Genetic information," ~~as defined by GINA,~~ means information about: (a) an individual's genetic tests; (b) the genetic tests of that individual's family members; (c) the manifestation of disease or disorder in family members of the individual (i.e., family medical history); (d) an individual's request for, or receipt of, genetic services, or the participation in clinical research that includes genetic services by the individual or a family member of the individual; or (e) the genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or a pregnant woman who is a family member of the individual and the genetic information of an embryo legally held by an individual or family member using assistive reproductive technology.

The term "genetic information" does not include information about the sex or age of the individual, the sex or age of family members, or information about the race or ethnicity of the individual or family member that is not derived from a genetic test.





Book	Policy Manual
Section	For Board Review - Vol. 30, No. 2 + Special Update
Title	Copy of NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Code	po3122
Status	
Adopted	October 17, 2016
Last Revised	July 22, 2019

### 3122 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Board does not discriminate in the employment of professional staff on the basis of ~~the Protected Classes of~~ race, color, national origin, age, sex (including transgender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.), ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, declining to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters, or any other legally protected category in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities characteristic protected by law in its employment practices.

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination and the identity of the School District's Compliance Officer(s) (see below) will be published on the District's website, posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

#### Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

**Day(s):** Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the District office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

**Military status:** refers to a person's status in the uniformed services, which includes the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service, including active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty for training, full-time National Guard duty, and performance of duty or training by a member of Wisconsin organized militia. It also includes the period of time for which a person is absent from employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any duty listed above.

**Respondent** is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the Reporting Party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

**School District community** means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and support staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

**Third Parties** include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals

[who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities \(whether on or off District property\).](#)

### District Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" ([also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators";](#) hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

Carmen O'Brien  
Business Manager  
School District of Manawa  
800 Beech Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5840  
cobrien@manawaschools.org

Daniel Wolfgram  
High School/Middle School Principal  
School District of Manawa  
800 Beech Street  
Manawa, WI 54949  
920-596-5310  
dwolfgram@manawaschools.org

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the staff handbooks and on the School District's website.

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with the applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, retaliation, or denial of equal access. The COs shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination has been provided for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ~~Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972~~, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public. ~~A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is available upon request from the CO.~~

### Reports and Complaints of ~~Unlawful~~ Discrimination and Retaliation

Employees are ~~required to~~~~expected to promptly~~ report incidents of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination and/or retaliation to an administrator, supervisor, or other supervisory employees so that the Board may address the conduct. Any administrator, supervisor, or other supervisory employees who receive such a ~~report~~~~complaint~~ shall file it with the CO at ~~the employee's~~~~his/her~~ first opportunity, but no later than two (2) ~~business~~-days.

[Discrimination against an individual based on their sex \(including gender status, sexual orientation, and gender identity\) is discrimination in violation of Title VII. Specifically, discrimination on the basis of sex stereotyping/gender-nonconformity constitutes sex discrimination. This is true irrespective of the cause of the person's gender non-conforming behavior. Employment actions based upon an individual's sex could be suspect and potentially impermissible.](#)

[COs are required to investigate allegations of conduct involving the discrimination or harassment of an employee or applicant based upon his/her gender status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.](#)

[Any questions concerning whether alleged conduct might violate this prohibition should be brought to the CO's attention promptly.](#)

Employees who believe they have been ~~unlawfully~~ discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint will not adversely affect the ~~Complainant's~~~~complaining individual's~~ employment. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept ~~reports~~~~complaints~~ of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the School District community [or a Third Party, or receive reports that are initially filed with another Board employee \(District employees, students, parent\(s\), and member of the Board\), a resident of the District, or a visitor to the District.](#) Upon receipt of a [report of alleged discrimination/retaliation](#)~~complaint~~, ~~the either directly or through a school building administrator, a~~ CO will [contact the Complainant and begin either an informal or formal complaint process \(depending on the Complainant's request and the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation\)](#)~~investigation~~, or [the District Administrator will designate a specific individual to conduct the process necessary for an informal or formal investigation.](#) ~~the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process.~~ The CO will

provide a copy of this policy to the Complainant and the Respondent upon request. ~~any person who files a complaint. All members of the School District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.~~

Any Board employee who directly observes ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO must contact the Complainant employee within two (2) business days to advise ~~him/her~~ of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

## Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Except for sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, any employee who alleges to have been ~~Any employee who believes that s/he has been~~ subjected to ~~unlawful~~ discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of ~~the his/her~~ complaint through the procedures described below. The complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims of discrimination/retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Once the complaint process begins, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) ~~business~~ days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

## Complaint Procedure

A Complainant who alleges discrimination/retaliation ~~An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant"),~~ may file a complaint, either orally or in writing; 1) with a Principal; 2) the CO; or 3) to the District Administrator or other supervisory employees. Any complaint received regarding the District Administrator or a Board member shall be referred to the Board's legal counsel, who shall assume the role of the CO for such complaints. Additionally, if the complaint is regarding a CO, the complaint shall be reported to the District Administrator, who shall coordinate with the other appointed/designated ~~assume the role of~~ CO or, if appropriate appoint/designate another individual to serve as CO for the complaint regarding a CO. ~~for such complaints.~~

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals are encouraged ~~should make every effort~~ to file a complaint within thirty (30) ~~calendar~~ days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a Principal, District Administrator, or other supervisory employees, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO at the employee's first opportunity, but no later than ~~within~~ two (2) ~~business~~ days.

Throughout the course of the process, the CO should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All complaints must include the following information to the extent known ~~it is available~~: the identity of the Respondent individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in, the discriminatory/retaliatory conduct; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including; but not limited to; a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent person who allegedly engaged in the misconduct. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees with ~~his/her position to~~ the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still may take whatever actions are deemed ~~he deems~~ appropriate in consultation with the District Administrator.

Within two (2) days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate an investigation by at a minimum confirming receipt of the complaint with the Complainant and informing the Complainant of the investigation process. ~~Within two (2) business days of~~

~~receiving the complaint, the CO will initiate an investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.~~

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the Respondent that a formal individual alleged to have engaged in the discriminatory or retaliatory conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"), that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and upon request provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including this Policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint and the obligation to do so within five (5) ~~business~~ days.

~~Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment based on a protected class or retaliation within thirty (30) days of receiving the formal complaint. though certain cases may require additional time, the CO will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of discrimination/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:~~

The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO shall prepare and deliver a written report to the District Administrator that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent has engaged in harassment/retaliation of the Complainant~~Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.~~ The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances. In determining if discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used.

The CO may consult with the Board's attorney during the course of the investigatory process and/or before finalizing the report to the District Administrator.

In cases where no District CO is able to investigate a complaint due to concerns regarding conflicts, bias or partiality, or for other reasons that impair the CO's ability to conduct an investigation, the CO may in consultation with the District Administrator or Board President, if the matter involves the District Administrator, engage outside legal counsel to conduct the investigation consistent with this policy.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) ~~business~~ days of receiving the report of the CO, the District Administrator either must ~~either~~ issue a written final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A ~~summary explanation of the copy of~~ the District Administrator's final decision will be provided delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the District Administrator requests additional investigation, the District Administrator must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) ~~business~~ days, or as quickly as possible if additional time is necessary due to the availability of necessary witness(es) or documents. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the District Administrator must issue a final written decision as described above.

If the District Administrator determines the Respondent engaged in discrimination/retaliation toward the Complainant, the District Administrator~~Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, s/he~~ must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate, effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the District Administrator may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) ~~business~~ days of the party's his/her receipt of the District Administrator's ~~final~~ decision. The written statement of appeal must be submitted to the District Administrator, who will forward the request to the Board President.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall review the findings and may meet with the concerned parties and their



representatives within twenty (20) ~~business~~-days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) ~~business~~-days of its decision. The decision of the Board will be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of ~~unlawful~~-discrimination/retaliation regardless of whether the ~~Complainant employee alleging the misconduct~~ pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described interviews/meetings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint ~~process~~procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The Board will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Respondents must be provided an opportunity to meaningfully respond to allegations, which may include disclosure of the Complainant's identity. ~~Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity. All Complainants will be advised that their identities may become known to the Respondent(s) through the investigation process.~~

During the course of an investigation, the CO will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that is learned or provided ~~s/he learns and/or provides~~ during the course of the investigation.

### **Remedial Action ~~Sanctions~~ and Monitoring**

~~The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law. When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter. In those cases where unlawful discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies and/or the Employee Handbook.~~

If warranted, appropriate remedial action shall be determined and implemented on behalf of the Complainant, including but not limited to counseling services, reinstatement of leave taken due to the discrimination, or other appropriate action.

The Board may appoint an individual, who may be a District employee, to follow up with the Complainant to ensure no further discrimination or retaliation has occurred and to take action to address any reported occurrences promptly.

### **Sanctions and Disciplinary Action**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct.

While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and any relevant codes of conduct.

When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the age and maturity level of any student involved. In those cases where discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies.

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior ~~disciplinary~~remedial action has been taken against ~~the Respondent~~an employee, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.

### **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging ~~unlawful~~ discrimination/retaliation, or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy. ~~Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised their rights, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise of any right granted or protected by those laws.~~

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

### Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of ~~unlawful~~ discriminatory practices. The District Administrator shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

### Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

The CO is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all ~~information,~~ documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include ~~including,~~ but are not limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;
- B. narratives of all verbal reports, allegations, complaints, and statements collected;
- C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;
- D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;
- E. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;
- F. all documentary evidence;
- G. e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;
- H. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;
- I. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;
- J. dated written determinations to the parties;
- K. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;
- L. written documentation of any ~~supportive~~ ~~interim~~ measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent ~~complainants~~, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt; and

- M. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;
- N. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Codes of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
- O. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;
- P. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]

**It is suggested the following records also be maintained, as appropriate.**

- Q. documentation that any rights or opportunities that the District made available to one party during the investigation were made available to the other party on equal terms;
- R. copies of any notices sent to the alleged perpetrator/responding party of the allegations constituting a potential violation of this policy;
- S. copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and the Respondent in advance of any interview, meeting, or hearing;
- T. copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and alleged perpetrator in advance of any interview or hearing;
- U. copies of any documentation or evidence used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings, including the investigation report, and any written responses submitted by the Complainant or the Respondent.

The ~~information~~, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The ~~information~~, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

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## Legal

111.31 et seq., Wis. Stats.

111.335(d)(2), Wis. Stats.

118.195, Wis. Stats.

118.20, Wis. Stats.

Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution

20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974

20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act

29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq., Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

42 U.S.C. 2000 et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 1973 as amended

42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

29 C.F.R. Part 1635, The GINA Regulations

34 C.F.R. Part 110, The Age Discrimination Act Regulations

Last Modified by Steve LaVallee on September 16, 2021