

HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS

Harassment of students because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry, national origin, or disability is prohibited. Such conduct is a violation of Board policy and may constitute illegal discrimination under state and federal laws.

Harassment

Harassment includes but is not limited to verbal abuse based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry, national origin, or disability. Harassment that rises to the level of physical assault, battery and/or abuse is also addressed in Board policy JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment includes but is not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or pressure to engage in sexual activity, physical contact of a suggestive or sexual nature, gestures, comments, or other physical, written or verbal conduct that is gender-based that interferes with a student's education. School employees, fellow students, volunteers and visitors to the school, and other persons with whom students may interact in order to pursue school activities are required to refrain from such conduct.

Harassment/sexual harassment of students by school employees are considered grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. Harassment/sexual harassment of students by other students are considered grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

The Superintendent/designee or the employee designated as the Affirmative Action Officer will investigate complaints of harassment in accordance with the Student Harassment Complaint Procedure. School employees, students, and parents shall be informed of this policy/procedure through handbooks and/or other means selected by the school administration.

Legal Reference: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC § 1681, et seq.)
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC § 2000(d))
5 MRSA §§ 4602; 4681 et seq.
20-A MRSA § 6553

Cross References: ACAA-R – Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
ACAD – Hazing
JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety
JICK - Bullying

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