

5027

Sexual Harassment of Students by Other Students

Students should be provided with an environment that is free from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct constituting sexual harassment. The board of education unequivocally prohibits sexual harassment by its students against other students even when the affected student does not complain to the faculty or the administration.

Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct that wrongfully deprives students of their dignity and the opportunity to study and be in an environment free from unwelcome sexual overtones. Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other such verbal or physical misconduct. Sexual harassment means:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's educational opportunities or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.

A student who feels he or she has been sexually harassed by another student should directly inform the offending student that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offending student, or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to a teacher, principal or counselor with whom she or he feels comfortable.

Regardless of the means selected for resolving the problem, the good faith initiation of a complaint of sexual harassment will not cause any reflection on the complaining student, or affect his or her status as a student.

Any student who sexually harasses another student will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion, depending on the severity of the misconduct. A decision to take disciplinary action under this policy may be based on the statements of a complaining student, statements, observations of educators, or any other credible evidence.

This policy pertains to sexual harassment of students by other students. The sexual harassment of students by school district employees is governed by other board policy.

Adopted on: **December 20, 2010**

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____