

FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Students**SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SEX-BASED HARASSMENT**

The County Superintendent and County Board do not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of their programs or activities and comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations. Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, is prohibited in County Superintendent/County Board education programs and activities.

Definitions

Sex discrimination includes treating a student differently with respect to the provision of opportunities to participate in school programs or activities or the provision or receipt of educational benefits or services based on the student's sex, sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions and recovery; parental, family, or marital status; or the student's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct and occurs when prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

Sex-based harassment is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, or other bases specified above. Conduct will constitute sex-based harassment when it takes the form of: (34 CFR 106.2, 106.11)

1. Quid pro quo harassment: A County Superintendent employee, agent, or other individual authorized by the County Superintendent to provide an aid, benefit, or service in the County Superintendent's education program or activity conditioning the provision of County Superintendent aid, benefit, or service on a student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.
2. Hostile environment harassment: Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the County Superintendent's education program or activity.

Any prohibited conduct that occurs off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored programs or activities will be regarded as sex-based harassment in violation of County Superintendent policy if it has a continuing effect on a student's ability to participate in or benefit from County Superintendent educational programs or activities.

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3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 34 CFR 106.2.

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors, or other unwanted verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the educational setting, under any of the following conditions: (Education Code 212.5; 5 CCR 4916)

1. Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's academic status or progress.
2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by a student is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting the student.
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the student's academic performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.
4. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by the student is used as the basis for any decision affecting the student regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through any County Superintendent-operated program or activity.

Examples of Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment

Examples of types of conduct which are prohibited in the County Superintendent-operated schools and programs and which may constitute sex- based harassment under state and/or federal law, in accordance with the definitions above, include, but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome leering, sexual flirtations, or propositions
2. Unwelcome sex-based slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, or sexually degrading descriptions
3. Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body or overly personal conversation
4. Sex-based jokes, derogatory posters, notes, stories, cartoons, drawings, pictures, obscene gestures, or computer-generated images of a sexual nature
5. Spreading sex-based rumors
6. Teasing or sexual remarks about students enrolled in a predominantly single-sex class
7. Massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking, or brushing the body
8. Touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way

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9. Impeding or blocking movements or any physical interference with school activities when directed at an individual on the basis of sex
10. Displaying sexually suggestive objects
11. Sexual assault, sexual battery, or sexual coercion
12. Electronic communications containing comments, words, or images described above

Title IX Coordinator

The County Superintendent designates the following individual(s) as the responsible employee(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX. The Title IX Coordinator(s) may be contacted at:

Deputy Superintendent, Instructional Division
Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
1111 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93721-2000
(559) 265-3090
DLira@fcoe.org

To prevent unlawful sex discrimination and sex-based harassment in County Superintendent and County Board programs and activities, the County Superintendent or designee shall provide notifications and implement measures to prevent discrimination and harassment as specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment.

In addition to the measures to prevent discrimination specified in Administrative Regulation 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment, the County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a copy of the County Superintendent/County Board sex discrimination and sex-based harassment policy and regulation:

1. Is included in the notifications that are sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year (Education Code 48980; 5 CCR 4917)
2. Is displayed in a prominent location in the main administrative building or other area where notices of County Superintendent rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted (Education Code 231.5)
3. Is summarized on a poster, which shall be prominently and conspicuously displayed in each bathroom and locker room at each school or program site. The poster may be displayed in public areas that are accessible to and frequented by students, including, but not limited to, classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and cafeterias. The poster shall display the rules and procedures for reporting a charge of sexual harassment; the name, phone number, and email address of an appropriate school employee to contact to report sexual harassment; the rights of the reporting student, the

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complainant, and the respondent; and the responsibilities of the school or program. (Education Code 231.6)

4. Is provided as part of any orientation program conducted for new and continuing students at the time the student is enrolled or at the beginning of each quarter, semester, or summer session (Education Code 231.5)
5. Appears in any school or County Superintendent publication that sets forth the school's or program's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct (Education Code 231.5)

Reports and Complaints

A student or a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) who believes that the student has been subjected to sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, in a County Superintendent program or activity or who has witnessed sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, is strongly encouraged to report the incident to a teacher, the lead site administrator, the County Superintendent's Title IX Coordinator, or any other available school or program employee. Within one workday of receiving such a report, the lead site administrator or other school employee shall forward the report to the County Superintendent's Title IX Coordinator. Any employee who observes sex discrimination or sex-based harassment involving a student shall, within one workday, report the observation to the lead site administrator or Title IX Coordinator as specified in the accompanying policy. The report shall be made regardless of whether the alleged victim files a formal complaint or requests confidentiality.

When a report or complaint of sex discrimination or sex-based harassment involves off-campus conduct, the Title IX Coordinator shall assess whether the conduct may create or contribute to the creation of a hostile school environment. If the Title IX Coordinator determines that a hostile environment may be created, the complaint shall be investigated and resolved in the same manner as if the prohibited conduct occurred at school or school activity.

Complaint Procedures

All complaints and allegations of sex discrimination and sex-based harassment shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 5145.71 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

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

Gender identity of a student means the student's gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior as determined from the student's internal sense, regardless of whether that gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the student's physiology or assigned sex at birth.

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

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

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

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

Nonbinary student means a student whose gender identity falls outside of the traditional conception of strictly either female or male, regardless of whether the student identifies as transgender, was born with intersex traits, uses gender-neutral pronouns, or uses agender, genderqueer, pangender, gender nonconforming, gender variant, or such other more specific term to describe their gender.

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

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

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

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7. Assaulting a student because of the student's gender, sex characteristic, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression

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

1. Right to privacy: A student's intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming status is the student's private information.

The County Superintendent shall develop strategies to prevent unauthorized disclosure of students' private information. Such strategies may include, but are not limited to, collecting or maintaining information about student gender only when relevant to the educational program or activity, protecting or revealing a student's gender identity as necessary to protect the health or safety of the student, and keeping a student's unofficial record separate from the official record.

The County Superintendent shall only disclose the information to others with the student's prior written consent, except when the disclosure is otherwise required by law or when the County Superintendent has compelling evidence that disclosure is necessary to preserve the student's physical or mental well-being. (Education Code 220.3, 220.5; 34 CFR 99.31, 99.36)

The County Superintendent shall only allow disclosure of a student's personally identifiable information to employees in accordance with law. Any County Superintendent employee to whom a student's intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming status is disclosed shall keep the student's information confidential. When disclosure of a student's gender identity is made to a County Superintendent employee by a student, the employee shall seek the student's permission to notify the Compliance Officer. If the student refuses to give permission, the employee shall keep the student's information confidential, unless the employee is required to disclose or report the student's information pursuant to this administrative regulation, and shall inform the student that honoring the student's request may limit the County Superintendent's ability to meet the student's needs related to the student's status as an intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming student. If the student permits the employee to notify the Compliance Officer, the employee shall do so within three school days.

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

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2. Determining a Student's Gender Identity: The Compliance Officer shall accept the student's assertion of gender identity and begin to treat the student consistent with that gender identity unless County Superintendent personnel present a credible and supportable basis for believing that the student's assertion is for an improper purpose.
3. Addressing a Student's Transition Needs: The Compliance Officer shall arrange a meeting with the student and, if appropriate, the student's parents/guardians to identify and develop strategies for ensuring that the student's access to educational programs and activities is maintained.

The meeting shall discuss the intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming student's rights and how those rights may affect and be affected by the rights of other students and shall address specific subjects related to the student's access to facilities and to academic or educational support programs, services, or activities, including, but not limited to, sports and other competitive endeavors. In addition, the Compliance Officer shall identify specific school site employee(s) to whom the student may report any problem related to the student's status as an intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming individual, so that prompt action can be taken to address it. Alternatively, if appropriate and desired by the student, the school may form a support team for the student that will meet periodically to assess whether the arrangements for the student are meeting the student's educational needs and providing equal access to programs and activities, educate appropriate staff about the student's transition, and serve as a resource to the student to better protect the student from gender-based discrimination.

4. Accessibility to Sex-Segregated Facilities, Programs, and Activities: When the County Superintendent maintains sex-segregated facilities, such as restrooms and locker rooms, or offers sex-segregated programs and activities, such as physical education classes, intermural sports, and interscholastic athletic programs, students shall be permitted to access facilities and participate in programs and activities consistent with their gender identity.

To address any student's privacy concerns in using sex-segregated facilities, the County Superintendent shall offer available options such as a gender-neutral or single-use restroom or changing area, a bathroom stall with a door, an area in the locker room separated by a curtain or screen, or use of the locker room before or after the other students. However, the County Superintendent shall not require a student to utilize these options because the student is intersex, nonbinary, transgender, or gender-nonconforming. In addition, a student shall be permitted to participate in accordance with the student's gender identity in other circumstances where students are separated by gender, such as for class discussions, yearbook pictures, and field trips. A student's right to participate in a sex-segregated activity in accordance with the student's gender identity shall not render invalid or inapplicable any other eligibility rule established for participation in the activity.

Beginning July 1, 2026, each school shall provide and maintain at least one all-gender restroom for student use that meets the requirements of Education Code 35292.5.

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

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

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

6. Names and Pronouns: If a student so chooses, County Superintendent personnel shall be required to address the student by a name and the pronoun(s) consistent with the student's gender identity, without the necessity of a court order or a change to the student's official County Superintendent record.

However, inadvertent slips or honest mistakes by County Superintendent personnel in the use of the student's name and/or consistent pronouns will, in general, not constitute a violation of this administrative regulation or the accompanying policy.

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

Adopted: 10/15/2020, 04/20/2023, 08/15/2024