

## Equal Educational Opportunities

### **Overview**

The District is committed to creating and maintaining an environment which is free from discrimination and harassment. This policy addresses the provision of equal educational opportunities to students. It is just one component of the District's overall commitment to maintaining a discrimination and harassment-free educational and work environment.

Consistent with this commitment and in accordance with law and regulation, the District provides equal opportunity for students and does not discriminate against any student enrolled in (or any candidate for admission to) its programs and activities on the basis of any legally protected class or category including, but not limited to: race; color; religion; disability; national origin; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; military status; sex; age; marital status; pregnancy; parental status; weight; ethnic group; or religious practice.

The District adopts this policy as part of its effort to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of discrimination. The District will promptly respond to reports of discrimination, ensure that all investigations are conducted within a reasonably prompt time frame and under a predictable fair grievance process that provides due process protections, and impose disciplinary measures and implement remedies when warranted.

Inquiries about this policy may be directed to the District's Compliance Officers.

### **Educational Services for Married/Pregnant Students**

The opportunity to participate in all of the programs, and activities of the District will not be restricted or denied because of pregnancy, parenthood, or marriage. Pregnant students will be encouraged to remain and participate in District programs. The forms of instruction provided to these students may include any or all of the following:

- a) Remain in school with provisions for special instruction, scheduling, and counseling as needed;
- b) Receive home instruction;
- c) Attend BOCES programs.

The Superintendent or designee, in consultation with student services staff, the school physician, and the student's personal physician, may make program modifications which are feasible and necessary to accommodate the special needs of these students.

### **Reporting Allegations of Discrimination**

In order for the District to enforce this policy, and to take corrective action as warranted, it is essential that students who believe that they have been a victim of discrimination, as well as any other person who has knowledge of or witnesses any possible discrimination, immediately report the alleged conduct or incident. Reports of discrimination may be made orally or in writing to any District employee including, but not limited to, a teacher, building principal, or District Compliance Officer(s).

All District employees who witness or receive an oral or written report of discrimination must immediately inform a District Compliance Officer. Failure to immediately inform a District Compliance Officer may subject the employee to discipline up to and including termination. If a District Compliance Officer is unavailable, including due to a conflict of interest or other disqualifying reason, the report will be directed to another District Compliance Officer, if the District has designated another individual to serve in that capacity. If the District has not designated another District Compliance Officer, the Superintendent will ensure that another person with the appropriate training and qualifications is appointed to act as the District Compliance Officer.

Additionally, District employees must comply with reporting requirements in any other applicable District policy or document

### **Grievance Process for Complaints of Discrimination**

The District will act to promptly, thoroughly, and equitably investigate all complaints, whether oral or written, of discrimination and will promptly take appropriate action to protect students from further discrimination.

Various District policies and documents address discrimination. These policies and documents may include: Section IV, Policy No. 25 – Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment; Section IV, Policy No. 20 – Title IX – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs and Activities; Section IV, Policy No. 49 – Dignity for All Students; and the District's *Code of Conduct*. All complaints will be handled in accordance with the applicable District policies and/or documents.

The determination as to which District policies and/or documents are applicable is fact-specific, and the District Compliance Officer(s) may work with other District staff such as the District's Title IX Coordinator(s) and/or Dignity Act Coordinator(s) (DAC(s)) to determine which District policies and/or documents are applicable to the specific facts of the complaint.

If an investigation reveals that discrimination has occurred, the District will take immediate corrective action as warranted. This action will be taken in accordance with applicable law and regulation, as well as any applicable District policy, regulation, procedure, collective bargaining agreement, third-party contract, or other document such as the District's *Code of Conduct*.

### **Prohibition of Retaliatory Behavior (Commonly Known as "Whistle-Blower" Protection)**

The District prohibits retaliation against any individual because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing related to a complaint of discrimination.

Complaints of retaliation may be directed to a District Compliance Officer. If the District Compliance Officer is unavailable, including due to a conflict of interest or other disqualifying reason, the report will be directed to another District Compliance Officer, if the District has designated another individual to serve in that capacity. If the District has not designated another District Compliance Officer, the Superintendent will ensure that another person with the appropriate training and qualifications is appointed to act as the District Compliance Officer.

Where appropriate, follow-up inquiries will be made to ensure that the discrimination has not resumed and that those involved in the investigation have not suffered retaliation.

Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 USC § 6101 et seq.  
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 USC § 12101 et seq.  
Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, 20 USC § 1701 et seq.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC § 790 et seq.  
Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC § 2000c et seq.  
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC § 2000d et seq.  
Title IX, 20 USC § 1681 et seq.  
28 CFR Part 35  
34 CFR Parts 100, 104, 106, 110, and 270  
45 CFR Part 86  
Civil Rights Law §§ 40, 40-c, and 47-b  
Education Law §§ 10-18, 313, 2801, 3201, and 3201-a  
New York State Human Rights Law, Executive Law § 290 et seq.  
8 NYCRR § 100.2  
9 NYCRR § 466 et seq.