

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 21, No. 2 - Nondiscrimination Policies - Feb. 2021
Title	REVISED POLICY - VOL. 21, NO. 2 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY HR
Code	*po1122
Status	First Reading
Adopted	October 28, 2008
Last Revised	February 14, 2017

REVISED POLICY - VOL. 21, NO. 2

1122 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

I. General Statement

The School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, ~~trans~~gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

It is the legal obligation and the policy of the Board to employ only those persons who are best qualified, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

II. 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.

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 classified 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).

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 Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

For purposes of this policy, "military status" refers to a person's status in the uniformed services, which includes the performance of duty, on a voluntary basis, 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 employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty as listed above.

III. District Compliance Officer(s)

The Superintendent shall appoint compliance officer(s) whose responsibility it will be to require that Federal and State regulations are complied with and that any inquiries or complaints are dealt with promptly in accordance with law. The Superintendent shall also require that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II, 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, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act will be provided to staff members and the general public. Any sections of the District's collectively-bargained, negotiated agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, and tenure will contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above.

A. Compliance Officer(s)

The Board designates the following persons to serve as the District's "Compliance Officer(s)" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators"; hereinafter referred to as the "COs"):

☒ The COs shall also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. ~~[END OF OPTION]~~

[DRAFTING NOTE: School districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female CO in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The COs may also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, by appointing two (2) COs, there should always be a CO available to investigate a claim of discrimination /retaliation that pertains to the other CO.]

Harry Russell
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Executive Director, Personnel Support and Instructional Leadership
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Dr. Lesley Thompson
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Lesley.Thompson@KeysSchools.com
(E-mail Address)

B. Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator (x) and Title IX Coordinator

The Board designates the following individual(s) to serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator **(x)** and Title IX Coordinator [END OF OPTION].

[DRAFTING NOTE: School districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female Section 504 Compliance

Officer/ADA Coordinator (x) and Title IX Coordinator in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable.]

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C. Title IX Coordinator

The Board designates the following individual(s) to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

DRAFTING NOTE: School districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female Title IX Coordinator in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable.]

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D. Publication Required

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually:

1. ☒ in the staff handbooks.
2. ☐ in the School District Annual Report to the public.
3. ☒ on the School District's website.
4. ☒ on each individual school's website.
5. ☐ in the School District's calendar.
6. ☐ _____.

IV. Complaint Procedures

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~~If an employee believes that s/he has~~ been subjected to unlawful discrimination, ~~s/he~~ 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. Nothing contained in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), the Florida Commission on Human Relations ("FCHR"), or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

In accordance with Federal and State law, employees will be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of Federal and/or State law. In addition, employees will be notified of their right to file a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or EEOC.

Internal complaints must be in writing and 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 a compliance officer within the time limits specified below. The compliance officer is available to assist individuals in filing a complaint.

V. Internal Complaint Procedure

The following internal complaint procedure is available to employees for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination that is prohibited in this policy. This complaint procedure is not available to unsuccessful applicants. 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, FCHR, or EEOC.

- A. An employee with a complaint based on alleged discrimination may first discuss the problem with the compliance officer.
- 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 compliance officer. 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 compliance officer 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 compliance officer for good cause.
- C. The compliance officer 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 compliance officer will provide the complainant with a written disposition of the complaint within ten (10) ~~work~~ days. If no decision is rendered within ten (10) ~~work~~ days, or the decision is unsatisfactory in the opinion of the complainant, the employee may file, in writing, an appeal with the Superintendent.
- D. The Superintendent will, within ten (10) ~~work~~ days of receiving the written appeal, conduct a hearing with all parties involved in an attempt to resolve the complaint.
- E. The Superintendent will render his/her decision within ten (10) ~~work~~ days of the hearing.

F. The employee may be represented, at his/her own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

G. 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. 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, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

VI. Filing a Complaint with OCR/FCHR/EEOC

At any time, if an employee believes that ~~they have~~~~/he has~~ been subjected to unlawful discrimination, ~~thes/he~~ individual may file a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or EEOC.

VII. 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 Specifically, the Board nor any other person may will not discriminate/retaliate against, coerce, 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 prohibited by this policy, 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, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.~~

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 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 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.

VIII. Training

The compliance officers will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Federal and State law, and are informed of the Board's policies and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Federal and State law.

IX. Notice

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the compliance officers will be posted throughout the District, and published in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications as required by Federal and State law and this policy.

X. Retention of 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/statements;
- 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 related to the investigation and/or the District's response to the alleged violation of this policy;
- E. ~~(→)~~ written witness statements;
- F. ~~(→)~~ narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;
- G. ~~(→)~~ all documentary evidence;
- H. ~~(→)~~ e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;
- I. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;
- J. 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;
- K. dated written determinations to the parties;
- L. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;
- M. ~~written documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt; and~~
- N. 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; ~~;~~
- O. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or 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;
- P. 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);
- Q. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment; and
- R. 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.]

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.

Legal

F.S. 110.1221

F.S. 250.481

F.S. 760.01

F.S. 760.10

F.S. 1000.05

20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX

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

29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973

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

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

42 U.S.C. 12112, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq., The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

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Title	REVISED POLICY - VOL. 21, NO. 2 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY HR
Code	*po3122
Status	First Reading
Adopted	October 28, 2010
Last Revised	February 14, 2017

REVISED POLICY - VOL. 21, NO. 2

3122 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

I. General Statement

The School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, ~~trans~~gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

It is the legal obligation and the policy of the Board to employ only those persons who are best qualified, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

II. 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.

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 classified 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).

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 Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

For purposes of this policy, "military status" refers to a person's status in the uniformed services, which includes the performance of duty, on a voluntary basis, 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 employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty as listed above.

III. District Compliance Officer(s)

The Superintendent shall appoint compliance officer(s) whose responsibility it will be to require that Federal and State regulations are complied with and that any inquiries or complaints are dealt with promptly in accordance with law. The Superintendent shall also require that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II, 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, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act will be provided to staff members and the general public. Any sections of the District's collectively-bargained, negotiated agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, and tenure will contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above.

A. Compliance Officer(s)

The Board designates the following persons to serve as the District's "Compliance Officer(s)" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators"; hereinafter referred to as the "COs"):

[X] The COs shall also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. ~~{END-OF-OPTION}~~

DRAFTING NOTE: School districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female CO in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The COs may also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, by appointing two (2) COs, there should always be a CO available to investigate a claim of discrimination /retaliation that pertains to the other CO.]

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(Office Address)

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(E-mail Address)

B. Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator (X) and Title IX Coordinator

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator **(X)** and Title IX Coordinator ~~{END-OF-OPTION}~~.

[DRAFTING NOTE: School districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator (X) and Title IX Coordinator in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable.]

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C. Title IX Coordinator

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

[DRAFTING NOTE: School districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female Title IX Coordinator in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable.]

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D. Publication Required

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually:

1. (X) in the staff handbooks.
2. () in the School District Annual Report to the public.
3. (X) on the School District's website.
4. (X) on each individual school's website.
5. () in the School District's calendar.
6. () _____.

IV. **Complaint Procedures**

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~~If an employee believes that s/he has~~ been subjected to unlawful discrimination, ~~s/he~~ 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. Nothing contained in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), the Florida Commission on Human Relations ("FCHR"), or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

In accordance with Federal and State law, employees will be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of Federal and/or State law. In addition, employees will be notified of their right to file a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or the EEOC.

Internal complaints must be in writing and 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 a compliance officer within the time limits specified below. The compliance officer is available to assist individuals in filing a complaint.

V. **Internal Complaint Procedure**

The following internal complaint procedure is available to employees for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination that is prohibited in this policy. This complaint procedure is not available to unsuccessful applicants. 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, FCHR, or EEOC.

- A. An employee with a complaint based on alleged discrimination may first discuss the problem with the compliance officer.
- 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 compliance officer. 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 compliance officer 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 compliance officer for good cause.
- C. The compliance officer 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 compliance officer will provide the complainant with a written disposition of the complaint within ten (10) ~~work~~ days. If no decision is rendered within ten (10) ~~work~~ days, or the decision is unsatisfactory in the opinion of the complainant, the employee may file, in writing, an appeal with the Superintendent.
- D. The Superintendent will, within ten (10) ~~work~~ days of receiving the written appeal, conduct a hearing with all parties involved in an attempt to resolve the complaint.

The Superintendent will render his/her decision within ten (10) ~~work~~ 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. 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, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

V. Filing a Complaint with OCR/FCHR/EEOC

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VI. Retaliation

~~Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, or participates as a witness in an investigation, is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not discriminate/retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice prohibited by this policy, 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, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.~~

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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 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.

VII. Training

The compliance officers will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Federal and State law, and are informed of the Board's policies and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Federal and State law.

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- 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 related to the investigation and/or the District's response to the alleged violation of this policy;
- E. ~~↔~~ written witness statements;
- F. ~~↔~~ narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;
- G. ~~↔~~ all documentary evidence;
- H. ~~↔~~ e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;
- I. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;
- J. 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;
- K. dated written determinations to the parties;
- L. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;
- M. ~~written documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt; and~~
- N. 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; ~~;~~
- O. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or 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;
- P. 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);
- Q. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment; and
- R. 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.]

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.

Legal

F.S. 110.1221

F.S. 250.481

F.S. 760.01

F.S. 760.10

F.S. 1000.05

20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX

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

29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973

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

42 U.S.C. 12112, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq., The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 21, No. 2 - Nondiscrimination Policies - Feb. 2021
Title	REVISED POLICY - VOL. 21, NO. 2 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY HR
Code	*po4122
Status	First Reading
Adopted	October 28, 2008
Last Revised	February 14, 2017

REVISED POLICY - VOL. 21, NO. 2

4122 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

I. General Statement

The School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, ~~trans~~gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

It is the legal obligation and the policy of the Board to employ only those persons who are best qualified, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

II. 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.

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 classified 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).

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 Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

For purposes of this policy, "military status" refers to a person's status in the uniformed services, which includes the performance of duty, on a voluntary basis, 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 employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty as listed above.

III. District Compliance Officer(s)

The Superintendent shall appoint compliance officer(s) whose responsibility it will be to require that Federal and State regulations are complied with and that any inquiries or complaints are dealt with promptly in accordance with law. The Superintendent shall also require that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II, 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, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act will be provided to staff members and the general public. Any sections of the District's collectively-bargained negotiated agreements dealing with hiring and promotion will contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above.

A. Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following persons to serve as the District's "Compliance Officer(s)" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators"; hereinafter referred to as the "COs"):

[X] The COs shall also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. ~~{END-OF-OPTION}~~

DRAFTING NOTE: School districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female CO in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The COs may also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, by appointing two (2) COs, there should always be a CO available to investigate a claim of discrimination /retaliation that pertains to the other CO.]

Harry Russell
(Name)

Executive Director, Personnel Support and Instructional Leadership
(School District Title)

305-293-1400 x53330
(Telephone Number)

241 Trumbo Rd. Key West, FL. 33040
(Office Address)

Harry.Russell@KeysSchools.com
(E-mail Address)

Dr. Lesley Thompson
(Name)

Director, Exceptional Student Education
(School District Title)

305-293-1400 x53378
(Telephone Number)

255 Crane BLVD, Sugarloaf, FL. 33042
(Office Address)

Lesley.Thompson@KeysSchools.com
(E-mail Address)

B. Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator (X) and Title IX Coordinator

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator **(X)** and Title IX Coordinator ~~{END-OF-OPTION}~~.

[DRAFTING NOTE: School districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator (X) and Title IX Coordinator in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable.]

Harry Russell
(Name)

Executive Director, Personnel Support and Instructional Leadership
(School District Title)

305-293-1400 x53330
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Harry.Russell@KeysSchools.com
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Dr. Lesley Thompson
(Name)

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(School District Title)

305-293-1400 x53378
(Telephone Number)

Lesley.Thompson@KeysSchools.com
(E-mail Address)

C. Title IX Coordinator

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

[DRAFTING NOTE: School districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female Title IX Coordinator in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable.]

Harry Russell
(Name)

Executive Director, Personnel Support and Instructional Leadership
(School District Title)

305-293-1400 x53330
(Telephone Number)

TitleIX@KeysSchools.com
(E-mail Address)

Dr. Lesley Thompson
(Name)

Director, Exceptional Student Education
(School District Title)

305-293-1400 x53378
(Telephone Number)

TitleIX@KeysSchools.com
(E-mail Address)

D. Publication Required

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually:

1. (☒) in the staff handbooks.
2. (☐) in the School District Annual Report to the public.
3. (☒) on the School District's website.
4. (☒) on each individual school's website.
5. (☐) in the School District's calendar.
6. (☐) _____.

IV. **Complaint Procedures**

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~~If an employee believes that s/he has~~ been subjected to unlawful discrimination, ~~s/he~~ 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. Nothing contained in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), the Florida Commission on Human Relations ("FCHR"), or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

In accordance with Federal and State law, employees will be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of Federal and/or State law. In addition, employees will be notified of their right to file a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or the EEOC.

Internal complaints must be in writing and 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 a compliance officer within the time limits specified below. The compliance officer is available to assist individuals in filing a complaint.

V. **Internal Complaint Procedure**

The following internal complaint procedure is available to employees for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination that is prohibited in this policy. This complaint procedure is not available to unsuccessful applicants. 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, FCH, or EEOC.

- A. An employee with a complaint based on alleged discrimination may first discuss the problem with the compliance officer.
- 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 compliance officer. 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 compliance officer 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 compliance officer for good cause.
- C. The compliance officer 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 compliance officer will provide the complainant with a written disposition of the complaint within ten (10) ~~work~~ days. If no decision is rendered within ten (10) ~~work~~ days, or the decision is unsatisfactory in the opinion of the complainant, the employee may file, in writing, an appeal with the Superintendent.
- D. The Superintendent will, within ten (10) ~~work~~ days of receiving the written appeal, conduct a hearing with all parties involved in an attempt to resolve the complaint.

The Superintendent will render his/her decision within ten (10) ~~work~~ 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. 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, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

V. Filing a Complaint with OCR/FCHR/EEOC

At any time, if an employee believes that ~~they have~~~~s/he has~~ been subjected to unlawful discrimination, ~~the individual~~~~s/he~~ may file a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or EEOC.

VI. Retaliation

~~Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, or participates as a witness in an investigation, is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not discriminate/retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice prohibited by this policy, 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, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.~~

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 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 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.

VII. Training

The compliance officers will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Federal and State law, and are informed of the Board's policies and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Federal and State law.

VIII. Notice

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the compliance officers will be posted throughout the District, and published in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications as required by Federal and State law and this policy.

IX. Retention of 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/statements;

- C. a narrative of all 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. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel;
- E. ~~↔~~ written witness statements;
- F. ~~↔~~ narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;
- G. ~~↔~~ all documentary evidence;
- H. ~~↔~~ e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;
- I. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;
- J. 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;
- K. dated written determinations to the parties;
- L. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;
- M. ~~written documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt; and~~
- N. 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;:-
- O. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or 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;
- P. 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);
- Q. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment; and
- R. 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.]

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.

Legal

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F.S. 250.481

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