**NON-DISCRIMINATION (STUDENTS)**

 The Board of Education complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws prohibiting the exclusion of any person from any of its educational programs or activities, or the denial to any person of the benefits of any of its educational programs or activities because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability (including pregnancy), or gender identity or expression, subject to the conditions and limitations established by law.

 It is the policy of the Board that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability (including pregnancy), gender identity or expression, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law is prohibited, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to the control of the Board. The Board’s prohibition of discrimination or harassment in its educational programs or activities expressly extends to academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities, including athletics. It is also the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics such as race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability (including pregnancy), gender identity or expression.

For the purposes of this policy, “gender identity or expression” means a person’s gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person’s physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Board’s non-discrimination policies:

**Superintendent of Schools**

**147 A Route 169**

**Woodstock, CT 06281**

**(860) 928-7453**

The Board’s Title IX Coordinator is:

**Superintendent of Schools**

**147 A Route 169**

**Woodstock, CT 06281**

**(860) 928-7453**

The Board’s Section 504/ADA Coordinator is:

**Superintendent of Schools**

**147 A Route 169**

**Woodstock, CT 06281**

**(860) 928-7453**

**POLICY REGARDING STUDENTS AND**

**SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AND**

**TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. Similarly, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“Title II” or “ADA”) prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability by state and local governments. To be protected under Section 504 and the ADA (“collectively, “Section 504/ADA”), an individual must (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) have a record of such an impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such an impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504/ADA, the Woodstock Public Schools recognize a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel, students, parents/guardians and members of the public who participate in school sponsored programs. In this regard, the Woodstock Public Schools prohibit discrimination against any person with a disability in any of the services, programs or activities of the school system.

The school district has specific responsibilities under Section 504 to identify, evaluate and provide an educational placement for students who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. The school district’s obligation includes providing access to a free appropriate public education (“FAPE”) for students determined to be eligible under Section 504/ADA. Under Section 504, FAPE is defined as the provision of regular or special education and related services that are designed to meet the individual educational needs of a student with a disability as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met, and that are provided without cost (except for fees imposed on nondisabled students/parents).

If the parent/guardian of a student disagrees with the decisions made by the professional staff of the school district with respect to the identification, evaluation or educational placement of his/her child, the parent/guardian has a right to request an impartial due process hearing.

In addition, a student or parent/guardian of a student may also file an internal grievance/complaint on these issues or any other type of discrimination on the basis of disability by or within the district by utilizing the grievance/complaint procedures outlined in the Board’s Administrative Regulations Regarding Students and Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of Americans with Disabilities Act, and/or may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S.

Department of Education (“OCR”):

Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office

U.S. Department of Education

8th Floor

5 Post Office Square

Boston, MA 02109- 3921

(617) 289-0111

Anyone who wishes to file a grievance/complaint with the district, or who has questions or concerns about this policy, should contact the Superintendent of Schools, the Section 504/ADA Coordinator for the Woodstock Public Schools, at phone number (860) 928-7453.

Legal References:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, et seq.

Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, et seq.

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-15c and § 46a-81a, et seq. Discrimination on basis of sexual orientation

 Connecticut General Statutes § 1-1n, “Gender Identity or Expression” defined

29 U.S.C. §§ 705, 794

34 C.F.R. Part 104

42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.

28 C.F.R. Part 35

*Protecting Students with Disabilities, Frequently Asked Questions About Section 504 and the Education of Children with Disabilities*, Office for Civil Rights (March 17, 2011), available at http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html

*Dear Colleague Letter*, United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (January 19, 2012)

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REVISED: February 22, 2017