

**NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT**

The Governing Board is determined to provide a safe, positive environment where all district employees are assured of full and equal employment access and opportunities, protection from harassment and intimidation, and freedom from any fear of reprisal or retribution for asserting their employment rights in accordance with law. For purposes of this policy, *employees* include job applicants, interns, volunteers, and persons who contracted with the district to provide services, as applicable.

No district employee shall be discriminated against or harassed by any coworker, supervisor, manager, or other person with whom the employee comes in contact in the course of employment, on the basis of the employee's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, age, religious creed, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, military and veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

The district shall not inquire into any employee's immigration status nor discriminate against an employee on the basis of immigration status, unless there is clear and convincing evidence that it is necessary to comply with federal immigration law. (2 CCR 11028)

Discrimination in employment based on the characteristics listed above is prohibited in all areas of employment and in all employment-related practices, including the following:

1. Discrimination in hiring, compensation, terms, conditions, and other privileges of employment
2. Taking of an adverse employment action, such as termination or the denial of employment, promotion, job assignment, or training
3. Unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is so severe or pervasive as to adversely affect an employee's employment opportunities, or that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment
4. Actions and practices identified as unlawful or discriminatory pursuant to Government Code 12940 or 2 CCR 11006-11086, such as:
  - a. Sex discrimination based on an employee's pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or any related medical condition or on an employee's gender, gender expression, or gender identity, including transgender status

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- b. Religious creed discrimination based on an employee's religious belief or observance, including religious dress or grooming practices, or based on the district's failure or refusal to use reasonable means to accommodate an employee's religious belief, observance, or practice which conflicts with an employment requirement
- c. Requirement for a medical or psychological examination of a job applicant, or an inquiry into whether a job applicant has a mental or physical disability or a medical condition or as to the severity of any such disability or condition, without the showing of a job-related need or business necessity
- d. Failure to make reasonable accommodation for the known physical or mental disability of an employee, or to engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with an employee who has requested such accommodations in order to determine the effective reasonable accommodations, if any, to be provided to the employee

The Board also prohibits retaliation against any district employee who opposes any discriminatory employment practice by the district or its employees, agents, or representatives or who complains, testifies, assists, or in any way participates in the district's complaint process pursuant to this policy. No employee who requests an accommodation for any protected characteristic listed in this policy shall be subjected to any punishment or sanction, regardless of whether the request was granted. (Government Code 12940; 2 CCR 11028)

No employee shall, in exchange for a raise or bonus or as a condition of employment or continued employment, be required to sign any document that releases the employee's right to file a claim against the district or to disclose information about harassment or other unlawful employment practices. (Government Code 12964.5)

Complaints concerning employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation shall immediately be investigated in accordance with procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Any supervisory or management employee who observes or has knowledge of an incident of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including harassment of an employee by a nonemployee, shall report the incident to the Superintendent or designated district coordinator as soon as practical after the incident. All other employees are encouraged to report such incidents to their supervisor immediately. The district shall protect any employee who reports such incidents from retaliation.

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The Superintendent or designee shall use all appropriate means to reinforce the district's nondiscrimination policy, including providing training and information to employees about how to recognize harassment, discrimination, or other related conduct, how to respond appropriately, and components of the district's policies and regulations regarding discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the district's employment practices and, as necessary, shall take action to ensure district compliance with the nondiscrimination laws.

Any district employee who engages in prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation or who aids, abets, incites, compels, or coerces another to engage or attempt to engage in such behavior in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE200-262.4 *Prohibition of discrimination*CIVIL CODE51.7 *Freedom from violence or intimidation*GOVERNMENT CODE11135 *Unlawful discrimination*11138 *Rules and regulations*12900-12996 *Fair Employment and Housing Act, especially:*12940-12952 *Unlawful employment practices*12960-12976 *Unlawful employment practices; complaints*PENAL CODE422.56 *Definitions, hate crimes*CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 211006-11086 *Discrimination in employment, especially:*11013 *Recordkeeping*11019 *Terms, conditions and privileges of employment*11023 *Harassment and discrimination prevention and correction*11024 *Sexual harassment training and education*11027-11028 *National origin and ancestry discrimination*CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 54900-4965 *Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 201681-1688 *Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29621-634 *Age Discrimination in Employment Act*794 *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 422000d-2000d-7 *Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended*2000e-2000e-17 *Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended*2000ff-2000ff-11 *Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008*2000h-2-2000h-6 *Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*6101-6107 *Age discrimination in federally assisted programs*12101-12213 *Americans with Disabilities Act*CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 2835.101-35.190 *Americans with Disabilities Act*CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34*Legal Reference continued:*CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34 (continued)104.8 *Notice*106.8 *Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievance procedures*106.9 *Dissemination of policy*110.1-110.39 *Nondiscrimination on the basis of age*COURT DECISIONS

*Thompson v. North American Stainless LP*, (2011) 131 S.Ct. 863  
*Shephard v. Loyola Marymount*, (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 837

*Management Resources:*

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING PUBLICATIONS

California Law Prohibits Workplace Discrimination and Harassment

Transgender Rights in the Workplace

Workplace Harassment Guide for California Employers

Your Rights and Obligations as a Pregnant Employee

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Notice of Non-Discrimination, August 2010

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

EEOC Compliance Manual

Enforcement Guidance: Vicarious Employer Liability for Unlawful Harassment by Supervisors, June 1999

WEB SITES

California Department of Fair Employment and Housing: <http://www.dfeh.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: <http://www.eeoc.gov>