**Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students**

All students need a safe and supportive school environment to progress academically and developmentally.

**State Policy**

It is the policy of the State of Vermont that all Vermont educational institutions provide safe, orderly, civil, and positive learning environments. Harassment, hazing and bullying have no place and will not be tolerated in Vermont schools. No Vermont student should feel threatened or be discriminated against while enrolled in a Vermont school. 16 V.S.A. § 570.

**State Law**

An owner or operator of a place of public accommodation or an agent or employee of such owner or operator shall not, because of race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity of any person, refuse, withhold from, or deny to that person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of the place of public accommodation. 9 V.S. A. § 4502(a).

**Discrimination/Harassment**

Harassment of a student based on sex can limit or prevent a student from participating in or receiving educational benefits, services or opportunities. Gender-based harassment may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex stereotyping. For example, harassing a student for failing to conform to stereotypical masculine or feminine notions or behaviors constitutes sex discrimination.

Complaints alleging discrimination or harassment based on a person’s actual or perceived transgender status, gender identity or gender nonconformity should be handled in accordance with the **Policy on the Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students**.

The Vermont Secretary of Education has developed best practices for supporting our transgender and gender nonconforming students at the link below: <http://education.vermont.gov/documents/best-practices-schools-regarding-transgender-and-gender-nonconforming-students>

MRUSD Policies and Procedures can be found at <http://www.maplerun.org/policies-procedures--8>