

## 507 STUDENT SEX NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

### I. Purpose

Students are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. The purpose of this policy is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students and to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

### II. General Statement of Policy

- A. The school provides equal educational opportunity for all students and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex. No student will be excluded from the participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity operated by the school on the basis of sex.
- B. It is the responsibility of every school employee to comply with this policy.
- C. The school board hereby designates the School Director as its Title IX coordinator. This employee coordinates the school's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX.
- D. Any student, parent, or guardian having questions regarding the application of Title IX and its regulations and/or this policy should discuss them with the Title IX coordinator. Questions relating solely to Title IX and its regulations may be referred to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education. In the absence of a specific designee, an inquiry or complaint should be referred to the superintendent or the school district human rights officer.

### III. Reporting Grievance Procedures

- A. Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of unlawful sex discrimination by a teacher, administrator or other school personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute unlawful sex discrimination toward a student should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school official designated by this policy or may file a grievance. The school encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the school office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- B. The Executive Director or designee is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports or grievances of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student at the building level. Any school personnel who receives a report of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student shall inform the Executive Director immediately.
- C. Upon receipt of a report or grievance, the Executive Director or designee may not insist upon a written complaint. If the report was given verbally, the Executive Director or designee shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours.
- D. The school board hereby designates the Executive Director as the school district human rights officer to receive reports, complaints or grievances of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student.
- E. The school shall conspicuously post the name of the Title IX coordinator and human rights officer(s), including office mailing addresses and telephone numbers
- F. Submission of a good faith complaint, grievance or report of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.

- G. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.
- H. The school will respect the privacy of the complaint, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

#### **IV. Investigation**

- A. By authority of the school, the human rights officer, upon receipt of a report, complaint or grievance alleging unlawful sex discrimination toward a student shall promptly undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school officials or by a third party designated by the school.
- B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.
- C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy the school should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.
- D. In addition, the school may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, pupils, teachers, administrators or other school personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged unlawful sex discrimination toward a student.
- E. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The school human rights officer shall make a written report to the School Board Chair upon completion of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

#### **V. School District Action**

- A. Upon conclusion of the investigation and receipt of a report, the school will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. School action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law and school district policies
- B. The result of the school's investigation of each complaint filed under these procedures will be reported in writing to the complainant by the school in accordance with state and federal law regarding data or records privacy.

#### **VI. Reprisal**

The school will discipline or take appropriate action against any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel who retaliates against any person who reports alleged unlawful sex discrimination toward a student or any other person who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such unlawful sex discrimination. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

## **VII. Right to Alternative Complaint Procedures**

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, initiating civil action or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law, or contacting the Office of Civil Rights for the United States Department of Education.

## **VIII. Dissemination of Policy and Evaluation**

A. This policy shall be made available to all students, parents/guardians of students, staff members, employee unions and organizations.

B. The school shall review this policy and the school's operation for compliance with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination on a continuous basis.

### **Legal References:**

Minn. Stat. 121A.04 (Athletic Programs; Sex Discrimination)

Minn. Stat. Ch 363 (Minnesota Human Rights Act)

20 U.S.C. 1681-1688 (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)

34 C.F.R. Part 106 (Implementing Regulations of Title IX)

### **Cross References:**

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 102 (Equal Educational Opportunity)

MSBA/ MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)

MSBA/ MASA Model Policy 528 (Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination)

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