

Students

Nondiscrimination/Harassment

The Office of Student Services is responsible for handling complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying and to answer inquiries regarding the District's nondiscrimination policies.

To prevent discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students at District schools or in school activities and to ensure equal access of all students to the educational program, the Superintendent or designee shall implement the following measures:

1. Provide to employees, volunteers, and parents/guardians information regarding the district's nondiscrimination policy; what constitutes prohibited discrimination, harassment, or bullying; how and to whom a report of an incident should be made; and how to guard against segregating or stereotyping students when providing instruction, guidance, supervision, or other services to them. Such training and information shall include guidelines for addressing issues related to transgender and gender-nonconforming students.
2. Provide to students a handbook that contains age-appropriate information that clearly describes the district's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filling a complaint, and resources available to students who feel that they have been the victim of any such behavior.
3. Annually notify all students and parents/guardians of the district's nondiscrimination policy and of the opportunity to inform the school Principal whenever a student's participation in a sex-segregated school program or activity together with another student of the opposite biological sex would be against the student's religious beliefs and/or practices or a violation of his/her right to privacy. In such a case, the Principal shall meet with the student and/or parent/guardian to determine how best to accommodate the student.
4. Publicize the District's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures to students, parents/guardians, employees, volunteers, and the general public and post them on the district's web site and other locations that are easily accessible to students.
5. When 15 percent or more of a school's students speak a single primary language other than English, translate the nondiscrimination policy, related complaint process into that other language.
6. At the beginning of each school year, inform school employees that any employee who witnesses any act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against a student is required to intervene if it is safe to do so.

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Process for Initiating and Responding to Complaints

Any student who feels that he/she has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying should immediately contact the principal, or any other staff member. In addition, any student who observes any such incident should report the incident to the principal whether or not the victim files a complaint.

Any school employee who observes an incident of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying or to whom such an incident is reported shall immediately report the incident to the principal whether or not the victim files a complaint.

Upon receiving a complaint of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the Principal shall immediately investigate the complaint in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures specified in AR 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students

Gender identity 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.

Gender expression means a person's gender-related appearance and behavior, whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth.

Gender-nonconforming student means a student whose gender expression differs from stereotypical expectations.

To ensure that transgender and gender-nonconforming students are afforded the same rights, benefits, and protections provided to all students by law and Board policy, the District shall address each situation on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Right to privacy: A student's transgender or gender-nonconforming status is his/her private information and the district will only disclose the information to others with the student's prior consent, except when the disclosure is otherwise required by law or is necessary to preserve the

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student's physical or mental well-being. Any District employee to whom a student discloses his/her transgender or gender-nonconforming status shall seek the student's permission to notify the Principal for Nondiscrimination. If the student refuses to give permission, the employee shall keep the student's information confidential, unless he/she is required to disclose or report the student's information pursuant to law or district policy, and shall inform the student that it may be impossible to accommodate the student's needs related to his/her status as a transgender or gender-nonconforming student. As appropriate, the Principal shall discuss with the student any need to disclose the student's transgender or gender-nonconformity status to his/her parents/guardians and/or others, including other students, teacher(s), or other adults on campus. Any decision to disclose the student's status to others shall be based on the student's best interest.

2. Determining a Student's Gender Identity: The Principal shall accept the student's assertion unless district personnel present a credible basis for believing that the student's assertion is for an improper purpose. In such case, the Principal shall document the improper purpose and, within 14 days of receiving notification of the student's assertion, shall provide a written response to the student and, if appropriate, to his/her parents/guardians.
3. Addressing a Student's Transition Needs: The Principal shall arrange a meeting with the student and, if appropriate, his/her parents/guardians to identify potential issues, including transition-related issues, and to develop strategies for addressing them. The meeting shall discuss the transgender or gender-nonconforming student's rights and how those rights may affect and be affected by the rights of other students and shall address specific subjects related to the student's access to facilities and to academic or educational support programs, services, or activities, including, but not limited to, sports and other competitive endeavors. In addition, the Principal shall identify specific school site employee(s) to whom the student may report any problem related to his/her status as a transgender or gender-nonconforming individual, so that prompt action could be taken to address it.
4. Accessibility to Sex-segregated Facilities, Programs, and Activities: The District may maintain sex-segregated facilities, such as restrooms and locker rooms, and sex-segregated programs and activities, such as physical education classes, intermural sports, and interscholastic athletic programs. A student shall be entitled to access facilities and participate in programs

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and activities consistent with his/her gender identity, In addition, a student shall be permitted to participate in accordance with his/her gender identity in other circumstances where students are separated by gender, such as for class discussions, yearbook pictures, and field trips. However, a student's right to participate in a sex-segregated activity in accordance with his/her gender identity shall not render invalid or inapplicable any other eligibility rule established for participation in the activity.

5. Student Records: A student's legal name or gender as entered on the mandatory student record required pursuant to 5 CCR 432 shall only be changed pursuant to a court order. However, at the written request of a student or, if appropriate, his/her parents/guardians, the district shall use the student's preferred name and pronouns consistent with his/her gender identity on all other district-related documents.
6. Names and Pronouns: if a student so chooses, district personnel shall be required to address the student by a name and the pronouns consistent with his/her gender identity, without the necessity of a court order or a change to his/her official district record. However, inadvertent slips or honest mistakes by district personnel in the use of the student's name and/or consistent pronouns shall not constitute a violation of this administrative regulation or the accompanying district policy.
7. Uniforms/Dress Code: A student has the right to dress in a manner consistent with his/her gender identity, subject to any dress adopted on a school site.

Legal Reference:

Education Code
234.1

Safe Place to Learn Act

Regulation
adopted: 4-9-14

PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Paramount, California