

Sexual Harassment of Students by Other Students

I. Sex Discrimination

- A. The Hitchcock County School District Board of Education prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity except when it is necessary to accomplish a specific purpose that does not impinge upon essential equality or fairness in the treatment of students or employees. Employees are required to comply with this policy as well as with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the regulations of the U.S. Department of Education as applicable to this district.
- B. Any individual who believes he or she is being discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may seek relief by filing a complaint pursuant to the board's complaint policy or contacting the district's Title IX coordinator.

II. Sexual Harassment

- A. Students should be provided with an environment that is free from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct constituting sexual harassment. The board of education unequivocally prohibits sexual harassment of its students, even when the affected student does not complain to the faculty or administration.
- B. Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct that wrongfully deprives students of their dignity and the opportunity to study and be in an environment free from unwelcome sexual overtones. Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other such verbal or physical misconduct. Sexual harassment means:
- C. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's

educational opportunities or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.

- D. A student who feels he or she has been sexually harassed should directly inform the offending student that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offending student, or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to the Title IX coordinator or to a teacher, principal or counselor with whom she or he feels comfortable.
- E. Retaliation against student who make good faith reports of sexual harassment is prohibited.

III. Disciplinary Decisions

- A. A decision to take disciplinary action under this policy may be based on the statements of a complaining student, statements, observations of educators, or any other credible evidence.
- B. All complaints against staff members will follow the investigation, decision, and appeal process established in the district's complaint policy.
- C. Any student who sexually harasses another student will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion, depending on the severity of the misconduct, as established in the district's student discipline policy.

Hitchcock County Schools #44-0070

Adopted on: October 12, 2015

Revised on: July 9, 2018