Note: This policy addresses discrimination, harassment, and retaliation involving District employees. In this policy, the term "employees" includes former employees and applicants for employment. For discrimination, harassment, and retaliation involving students, see FFH. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any employee on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law ("protected categories"). Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy.

DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination against an employee is defined as intentional conduct directed at an employee on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the employee's employment.

HARASSMENT

Prohibited harassment of an employee is defined as physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct based on an employee's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, when the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct:

1. Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance;
2. Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects the employee's performance, environment, or employment opportunities.

EXAMPLES

Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, gender identity, or need for workplace accommodation; threatening or intimidating conduct; offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; display of graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other stereotypes; or other types of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property that is directed at an employee on the basis of a protected category.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination defined as unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct; or other conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to the conduct is either explicitly or implicitly a condition of an employee's employment, or when submission to or rejection of the conduct is the basis for an employment action affecting the employee; or

2. The conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment.

EXAMPLES

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to, sexual advances; touching intimate body parts; coercing or forcing a sexual act on another; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; requests for a sexual or intimate liaison; and other sexually motivated conduct, communication, or contact.

RETALIATION

The District prohibits retaliation against an employee who makes a claim alleging that he or she was subjected to unlawful discrimination or harassment, or another employee who, in good faith, makes a report, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates in an investigation of alleged unlawful discrimination or harassment ("protected conduct").

An employee who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding harassment or discrimination is subject to appropriate discipline.

EXAMPLES

Examples of retaliation may include, without limitation, adverse employment action such as termination of employment, refusal to hire, demotion, or denial of promotion where such action is taken because the employee engaged in protected conduct. Retaliation may also include threats, unjustified negative evaluations or performance counseling, unjustified negative references, or unjustified increased surveillance undertaken because the employee engaged in protected conduct.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

In this policy, the term "prohibited conduct" includes discrimination, harassment, and retaliation as defined by this policy, even if the behavior does not rise to the level of unlawful conduct.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

An employee who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct or believes that another employee has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts. The employee may report the alleged acts to his or her supervisor or campus principal.

Alternatively, the employee may report the alleged acts to one of the District officials below.

DEFINITION OF DISTRICT OFFICIALS

For the purposes of this policy, District officials are the Title IX coordinator, the ADA/Section 504 coordinator, the Superintendent, and the deputy superintendent.

TITLE IX COORDINATOR

Reports of discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, may be directed to the Title IX coordinator. The District designates the following person to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended:

Name: Patti Kieker

Position: Deputy Superintendent

Address: 400 S. Greenville, Richardson, TX 75081-4198

Telephone: (469) 593-0000

ADA / SECTION 504 COORDINATOR

Reports of discrimination based on disability may be directed to the ADA/Section 504 coordinator. The District designates the following person to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, which incorporates and expands upon the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended:

Name: Kelvin Bradford

Position: Special Education Coordinator

Address: 701 Beltline Road, Richardson, TX 75081

Telephone: (469) 593-0000

COMPLAINTS

The Superintendent shall serve as coordinator for purposes of District compliance with antidiscrimination laws. Allegations of unlawful discrimination by and against employees shall be directed to the appropriate supervisor or the human resources department. The District shall promptly investigate reports of unlawful discrimination.

ALTERNATIVE REPORTING PROCEDURES

An employee shall not be required to report prohibited conduct to the person alleged to have committed it. Reports concerning prohibited conduct, including reports against the Title IX coordinator or ADA/Section 504 coordinator, may be directed to the Superintendent.

A report against the Superintendent may be made directly to the Board. If a report is made directly to the Board, the Board President shall appoint an appropriate person to conduct an investigation.

TIMELY REPORTING

Reports of prohibited conduct shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to

promptly report prohibited conduct may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

NOTICE OF REPORT

Any District supervisor who receives a report of prohibited conduct shall immediately notify the appropriate District official listed above and take any other steps required by this policy.

INVESTIGATION OF THE REPORT

The District may request, but shall not insist upon, a written report. If a report is made orally, the District official who investigates the matter shall reduce the report to written form.

Upon receipt or notice of a report, the District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the District official shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation, regardless of whether a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the same or similar allegations is pending.

If appropriate, the District shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent prohibited conduct during the course of an investigation.

The investigator shall draw upon his or her judgment and discretion, considering the particular report, in determining the proper steps to conduct a thorough and reasonable investigation. The investigation may be conducted by the District official or a designee, such as the campus principal, or by a third party designated by the District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the campus principal or supervisor shall be involved in or informed of the investigation.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person making the report, the person against whom the report is filed, and others with knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the allegations. The investigation may also include analysis of other information or documents related to the allegations.

CONCLUDING THE INVESTIGATION

Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

In most cases, the investigator shall prepare a written report or summary of the investigation after it is concluded. The report or summary shall be submitted to the District official overseeing the investigation.

DISTRICT ACTION

If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited conduct occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate

disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

The District may take action based on the results of an investigation, even if the conduct did not rise to the level of prohibited or unlawful conduct.

CONFIDENTIALITY

To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with applicable law.

APPEAL

A complainant who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through DGBA(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.

The complainant may have a right to file a complaint with appropriate state or federal agencies.

RECORDS RETENTION

Copies of reports alleging prohibited conduct, investigation reports or summaries, and related records shall be maintained by the District for a period of at least three years. [See CPC]

ACCESS TO POLICY

This policy shall be distributed annually to District employees. Copies of the policy shall be readily available at each campus and the District administrative offices. It shall also be available via the District's Web site at http://www.risd.org and on the intranet.