
Note: This policy addresses employee complaints of sex and gender discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, and retaliation. For legally referenced material relating to this subject matter, see DAA(LEGAL). For sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, and retaliation targeting students, see FFDA.

**Statement of
Nondiscrimination**

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any employee on the basis of sex or gender. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.

Definitions

Employee

Solely for purposes of this policy, the term “employee” includes former employees, applicants for employment, and unpaid interns.

Discrimination

Discrimination against an employee is defined as conduct directed at an employee on the basis of sex or gender that adversely affects the employee’s employment.

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.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment. Sexual violence includes physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person’s will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim’s use of drugs or alcohol or due to an intellectual or other disability.

Examples

Examples of sexual harassment may include sexual advances; touching intimate body parts; coercing or forcing a sexual act on another; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; sexual assault as defined by law; offensive or derogatory language directed at another person’s gender identity; and other sexually motivated conduct, communication, or contact.

Dating Violence	<p>“Dating violence” means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting party’s statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. For the purposes of this definition, dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the Clery Act definition of domestic violence [see FA].</p>
Stalking	<p>“Stalking” means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person’s safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.</p> <p>For the purposes of this definition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. “Course of conduct” means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person’s property.2. “Reasonable person” means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
Prohibited Conduct	<p>In this policy, the term “prohibited conduct” includes discrimination, sexual harassment, dating violence, stalking, and retaliation as described by this policy, even if the behavior does not rise to the level of unlawful conduct.</p>
Confidential Employee	<p>A “confidential employee” is a person who holds a professional license requiring confidentiality, such as a counselor or medical provider, who is supervised by such a person, or a person who is a nonprofessional counselor or advocate designated in administrative procedures as a confidential source.</p>
Reporting Procedures Reporting by Alleged Victim	<p>A victim of prohibited conduct has the right to report the incident to the College District and to receive a prompt and equitable resolution of the report.</p> <p>An employee who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct may report the alleged acts to his or her immediate supervisor, to the Title IX coordinator, or to the College President or designee. Additionally, the employee may report electronically through the College District’s website.</p>

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION
SEX AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

DIAA
(LOCAL)

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

A victim of a crime has the right to choose whether to report the crime to law enforcement, to be assisted by the College District in reporting the crime to law enforcement, or to decline to report the crime to law enforcement.

It is important that a victim of prohibited conduct go to a hospital for treatment and preservation of evidence, if applicable, as soon as practicable after the incident.

Reporting by Other
Employees

Any employee who believes that another employee has experienced prohibited conduct, regardless of when or where the incident occurred, shall immediately report the alleged acts to the Title IX coordinator. Additionally, the employee may report to the College President or designee.

A report against the College President must also be made directly to the Board or Title IX coordinator. If a report is made directly to the Board, the Board shall appoint an appropriate person to conduct an investigation.

Exceptions

Disclosure at
Event

A person who received the information solely from a disclosure at a sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking public awareness event sponsored by a postsecondary educational institution or by an employee organization affiliated with the institution is not required to report the prohibited conduct.

Employee
Subject to
Confidentiality
Rules

Absent the employee's consent, or unless required by law, a confidential employee shall only be required to disclose the type of incident reported and may not disclose information that would violate the employee's expectation of privacy. If multiple confidential employees receive information about the same alleged incident, then only one report disclosing the type of incident must be submitted.

Prior Report

A person who has either learned of an incident of prohibited conduct during the course of the College District's review or process, or has confirmed with the person or office overseeing the review or process that the incident has been previously reported, is not required to report the prohibited conduct.

**Definition of College
District Officials**

For the purposes of this policy, College District officials are the Title IX coordinator and the College President.

Title IX Coordinator

Reports of discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, may be directed to the Title IX coordinator. The College District designates the following person to coordinate its efforts to

comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended:

Position: Director of Human Resources
Address: 1109 W. Panola, Carthage, TX 75633
Telephone: (903) 693-2021

Other Anti-discrimination Laws

The College President or designee shall serve as coordinator for purposes of College District compliance with all other antidiscrimination laws.

Responsible Employees

All employees, with the exception of confidential employees, are designated as responsible employees for purposes of compliance with Title IX.

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

Investigation of the Report

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

Initial Assessment

Upon receipt or notice of a report, the College District official shall determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the College 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 the College District official determines that the allegations, if proven, would not constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy but may constitute a violation of other College District rules or regulations, the College District official shall refer the complaint for consideration under the appropriate policy.

The investigation may be conducted by the College District official or a designee or by a third party designated by the College District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the 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.

<i>Request Not to Investigate</i>	<p>The alleged victim may request that the College District not investigate the allegations. If the victim requests that the allegations not be investigated, in deciding whether to initiate the investigation, the College District must consider the factors described by law and any other factors the College District considers relevant.</p> <p>The College District must promptly notify the alleged victim of the decision regarding whether it will conduct the investigation. If the College District decides not to investigate the allegations, the College District must take reasonable steps to protect the health and safety of the College District community.</p>
Interim Action	<p>If appropriate, the College District shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent prohibited conduct and protect the victim from retaliation prior to the completion of the investigation. Examples of possible accommodations and supportive measures include work accommodations, counseling, and health services.</p>
Concluding the Investigation	<p>Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten College District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.</p> <p>The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report shall be filed with the College District official overseeing the investigation.</p>
College District Action	<p>If the results of an investigation indicate that prohibited conduct occurred, the College District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.</p> <p>The College 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.</p>
Confidentiality	<p>To the greatest extent possible, consistent with law, the College District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with applicable law.</p>
Retaliation	<p>The College District prohibits retaliation against an employee who makes a claim alleging to have experienced prohibited conduct, or a person who, in good faith, makes a report, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates in an investigation. This prohibition does not apply to discipline of a person who perpetrated or assists in the perpetration of the prohibited conduct.</p>

Examples

Examples of retaliation may include termination, refusal to hire, demotion, and denial of promotion. Retaliation may also include threats, unjustified negative evaluations, unjustified negative references, or increased surveillance.

Failure to Report and False Claims

An employee who fails to make a required report or an employee or student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a College District investigation regarding prohibited conduct shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Appeal

A party who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through the applicable grievance policy beginning at the appropriate level. [See DGBA(LOCAL) for employees, FLD(LOCAL) for students, and GB(LOCAL) for community members]

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

Records Retention

Retention of records shall be in accordance with the College District's records retention procedures. [See CIA]

Access to Policy, Procedures, and Related Materials

Information regarding this policy and any accompanying procedures, as well as relevant educational and resource materials concerning the topics discussed in this policy, shall be distributed annually to College District employees and students in compliance with law and in a manner calculated to provide easy access and wide distribution, such as through electronic distribution and inclusion in the employee and student handbooks and other major College District publications. Information regarding the policy, procedures, and related materials shall also be prominently published on the College District's website on a dedicated page accessible through a clear link on the homepage, taking into account applicable legal requirements. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be readily available at the College District's administrative offices and shall be distributed to an employee who makes a report.