

NONDISCRIMINATION & ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY**General Prohibitions**

The North Border School District is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment free from discrimination and harassment in all employment and educational programs, activities, and facilities. The District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on a student and/or employee's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or other class protected by law.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any district student or employee to harass or discriminate against another district student or employee sexually or based on any other class protected by law. The District will not tolerate harassment or discrimination of a district student or employee by a third party. The District also prohibits aiding, abetting, inciting, compelling, or coercing discrimination or harassment; discriminating against or harassing any person affiliated with a person protected by this policy and/or law; knowingly making a false discrimination and/or harassment report; and retaliation against individuals who report and/or participate in a discrimination and/or harassment investigation, including instances when a complaint is not substantiated.

The District shall promptly investigate any harassment or discrimination complaint and act on findings as appropriate, which may include disciplinary measures such as, but not limited to, termination of employment or expulsion in accordance with board policy, law, and, when applicable, the negotiated agreement. Students and employees are expected to fully cooperate in the investigation process.

Definitions

- *Disability* is defined in accordance with NDCC 14-02.4-02 (5).
- *Discrimination* is defined in accordance with NDCC 14-02.4-02 (6).
- *Employee* is defined in accordance with NDCC 14-02.4-02 (7).
- *Harassment* is any physical or verbal conduct related to an individual's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, or other class protected by law that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment or is otherwise sufficiently serious to substantially or unreasonably limit an individual's employment or educational opportunities.
- *Sexual harassment* is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal, written, or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
 - a. It is quid pro quo, meaning submission to such conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining or retaining employment; of obtaining an education, advancement, or grade; or is used as a factor in decisions affecting an individual's employment or education.
 - b. It creates a hostile environment meaning such conduct or communication that has the purpose or effect of substantially or

unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment or education or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or education environment.

- *Sexual harassment examples* may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Sexual or "dirty" jokes
 - b. Sexual advances
 - c. Pressure for sexual favors
 - d. Unwelcome touching, such as patting, pinching, or constant brushing against another's body
 - e. Displaying or distributing of sexually explicit drawings, pictures, and written materials
 - f. Graffiti of a sexual nature
 - g. Sexual gestures
 - h. Touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in front of others
 - i. Spreading rumors about or rating other's sexual activity or performance
 - j. Remarks about a person's sexual orientation

Complaint Filing Procedure

The Board shall create an informal and formal harassment and discrimination complaint filing procedure in board regulations. Nothing in this policy or in the harassment/discrimination grievance procedure shall prevent an individual from pursuing redress through state and/or federal law.

Confidentiality

An individual wishing to file an anonymous harassment and/or discrimination complaint shall be advised that confidentiality will limit the district's ability to fully respond to the complaint. The District will attempt to protect the identity of the complainant, witnesses, and alleged harasser to the extent possible under law; however, a harassment or discrimination investigation report is subject to the open records law after 60 days or when the investigation is complete (whichever comes first), with limited exceptions.

Policy Training and Dissemination

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop harassment and discrimination awareness training for students and employees. In addition, the Superintendent shall display this policy and complementary grievance procedure in a prominent place in each district building and publish it in student and employee handbooks.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator

The Board designates the Superintendent as the Title IX and Nondiscrimination Coordinator. S/he can be contacted at: PO Box 558, Walhalla, ND 58282, 701-549-3751.

Complementary Documents

- AAC-BR, Discrimination & Harassment Grievance Procedure
- AAC-E, Filing a State or Federal Discrimination & Harassment Complaint