

**Mt. Pleasant School District  
Board Policy**

**Students**

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**Sexual Harassment  
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**BP 5145.7**

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining a safe school environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. The Board prohibits, at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities, sexual harassment targeted at any student by anyone. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who reports, files a complaint or testifies about, or otherwise supports a complainant in alleging sexual harassment.

The district strongly encourages students who feel that they are being or have been sexually harassed on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity by another student or an adult, or who have experienced off-campus sexual harassment that has a continuing effect on campus, to immediately contact their teacher, the principal, the district's Title IX Coordinator, or any other available school employee. Any employee who receives a report or observes an incident of sexual harassment shall notify the Title IX Coordinator.

Once notified, the Title IX Coordinator shall ensure the complaint is addressed through Title IX complaint procedures or uniform complaint procedures, as applicable, and shall offer supportive measures to the complainant.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform students and parents/guardians of the district's sexual harassment policy by disseminating it through parent/guardian notifications, publishing it on the district's web site, posting it at school sites and including it in student and staff handbooks. All district staff shall be trained regarding the policy.

**Instruction/Information**

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all district students receive age-appropriate information on sexual harassment. Such instruction and information shall include:

What acts and behavior constitute sexual harassment, including the fact that sexual harassment could occur between people of the same sex and could involve sexual violence

A clear message that students do not have to endure sexual harassment under any circumstance

Encouragement to report observed incidents of sexual harassment even when the alleged victim of the harassment has not complained

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A clear message that student safety is the district's primary concern, and that any separate rule violation involving an alleged victim or any other person reporting a sexual harassment incident will be addressed separately and will not affect the manner in which the sexual harassment complaint will be received, investigated, or resolved

A clear message that, regardless of a complainant's noncompliance with the writing, timeline, or other formal filing requirements, every sexual harassment allegation that involves a student, whether as the complainant, respondent, or victim of the harassment, shall be investigated and action shall be taken to respond to harassment, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students

Information about the district's procedures for investigating complaints and the person(s) to whom a report of sexual harassment should be made

Information about the rights of students and parents/guardians to file a civil or criminal complaint, as applicable, including the right to file a civil or criminal complaint while the district investigation of a sexual harassment complaint continues

A clear message that, when needed, the district will implement supportive measures to ensure a safe school environment for a student who is the complainant or victim of sexual harassment and/or other students during an investigation

**Disciplinary Actions**

Upon completion of an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint, any student found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual violence in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4-12, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion, provided that, in imposing such discipline, the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account.

Upon investigation of a sexual harassment complaint, any employee found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual violence toward any student shall be subject to

disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with law and the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

**Record-Keeping**

In accordance with law, the Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of sexual harassment to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in district schools.

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(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)  
(cf. 5131 - Conduct)  
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)  
(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)  
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)  
(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)  
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)  
(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)  
(cf. 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures)  
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)  
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)  
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))  
(cf. 4117.7/4317.7 - Employment Status Report)  
(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)  
(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)  
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)  
(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex

Grounds for suspension or expulsion

Additional grounds for suspension or expulsion; sexual harassment

Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct

Notice at beginning of term

Notices, report, statements and records in primary language

CIVIL CODE

Liability for sexual harassment; business, service and professional relationships

Liability of parents/guardians for willful misconduct of minor

GOVERNMENT CODE

Sexual harassment training

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

-4670 Uniform complaint procedures

-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

Definition of sexual assault

Application of laws

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 34

Definition of dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

Civil action for deprivation of rights

d-2000d-7 Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964

e-2000e-17 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended

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CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy

-106.82 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs

COURT DECISIONS

Donovan v. Poway Unified School District, (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567

Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District, (2003, 9th Cir.) 324 F.3d 1130

Reese v. Jefferson School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 208 F.3d 736

Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, (1999) 526 U.S. 629

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, (1998) 524 U.S. 274

Oona by Kate S. v. McCaffrey, (1998, 9th Cir.) 143 F.3d 473

Doe v. Petaluma City School District, (1995, 9th Cir.) 54 F.3d 1447

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Q&A on Campus Sexual Misconduct, September 2017

Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students, May 2016

Dear Colleague Letter: Title IX Coordinators, April 2015

Sexual Harassment: It's Not Academic, September 2008

Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties, January 2001

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

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