



**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON**  
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## 5517 - **STUDENT ANTI-HARASSMENT**

### **Prohibited Harassment**

It is the policy of the Board ~~of Education~~ to maintain an educational environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate actions to eliminate it, including suspension or expulsion of students and disciplinary action against any other individual in the School District community. Additionally, appropriate action will be taken to stop and otherwise deal with any third party who engages in harassment against our students.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment based on the traits of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, or disability, that are protected by Federal or ~~State~~ state civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the School District community as well as third parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. Additionally, harassment means behavior toward a student or group of students that substantially interferes with the student's school or academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment. Harassment may occur student-to-student, student-to-staff, staff-to-student, male-to-female, female-to-male, male-to-male, or female-to-female.

The Board will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

For purposes of this policy, "School District community" means individuals students, administrators, teachers, staff, and as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

For purposes of this policy, "third parties" include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams parent), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

### **Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.

- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.
- C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying investigation of allegations of unlawful harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating unlawful harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties

## Definitions

### Bullying

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon sex, race, color, national origin, religion, or disability, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation; and may involve:

- A. teasing;
- B. threats;
- C. intimidation;
- D. stalking;
- E. cyberstalking;
- F. cyberbullying;
- G. physical violence;
- H. theft;
- I. public humiliation; or
- J. destruction of property.

### Harassment

Harassment means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

- A. places a student in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
- B. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or
- C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

### Sexual Harassment

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

- A. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of access to educational opportunities or program;
- B. submission or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's education;
- C. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's education, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender.

Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- A. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;

- B. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;
- C. unwelcome, sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching, or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of students by teachers, administrators, or other school personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;
- D. unwelcome sexual behavior or words including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's educational status;
- E. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's educational status;
- F. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of gender;

Examples are:

1. repeatedly asking a person for dates or sexual behavior after the person has indicated no interest;
  2. rating a person's sexuality or attractiveness;
  3. staring or leering at various parts of another person's body;
  4. spreading rumors about a person's sexuality;
  5. letters, notes, telephones calls, or materials of a sexual nature;
  6. displaying pictures, calendars, cartoons, or other materials with sexual content.
- G. inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the District community into a student's personal space and personal life;
  - H. remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history; and
  - I. verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

It is further the policy of the Board that a sexual relationship between staff and students is not permissible in any form or under any circumstances, in or out of the work place, in that it interferes with the educational process and may involve elements of coercion by reason of the relative status of a staff member to a student.

### **Race/Color Harassment**

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

### **Religious (Creed) Harassment**

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

### **National Origin Harassment**

Prohibited national origin harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's national origin and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct

is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

### **Racial/Color Harassment**

Prohibited age based harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race and/or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's educational performance; or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment.

### **Disability Harassment**

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disabling condition, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like.

### **Reporting Procedures**

Students and all other members of the School District community, as well as third parties, are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful harassing conduct to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or District employee or official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the District's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer at his/her first opportunity.

Members of the School District community, which includes students, or third parties who believe they have been unlawfully harassed are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining individual's participation in educational or extra-curricular programs unless the complaining individual makes the complaint maliciously or with knowledge that it is false.

If, during an investigation of reported act of bullying and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Harassment, the principal or his/her designee believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on sex, race, color, national origin, religion, or disability, the principal or his/her designee will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy.

Reporting procedures are as follows:

- A. Any student who believes s/he has been the victim of harassment prohibited under this policy will be encouraged to report the alleged harassment to any District employee, such as a teacher, administrator or other employee.
- B. Any parent of a student who believes the student has been the victim of harassment prohibited under this policy will be encouraged to report the alleged harassment to the student's teacher, building administrator or District Administrator.
- C. Teachers, administrators, and other school officials who have knowledge or received notice that a student has or may have been the victim of harassment prohibited under this policy shall immediately report the alleged harassment to the Compliance Officer and the building principal or District Administrator.
- D. Any other person with knowledge or belief that a student has or may have been the victim of harassment prohibited by this policy shall be encouraged to immediately report the alleged acts to any District employee, such as a teacher, administrator or other employee.
- E. The reporting party or complainant shall be encouraged to use a report form available from the principal of each building or available from the District office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Use of formal reporting forms shall not be mandated. However, all oral complaints shall be reduced to writing.
- F. To provide individuals with options for reporting harassment to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable, each school's building principal shall be advised to designate both a male and a female Compliance Officer for receiving reports of harassment prohibited by this policy. At least one (1) Compliance Officer or other individual shall be available outside regular school hours to address complaints of harassment that may require immediate attention.

### **Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers**

The following individual shall serve as the "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer" for the District. S/He is hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officer".

Nichole J. Schweitzer  
 District Administrator  
 District Office, N5650 Broad Street  
 Shiocton, WI 54170  
 nschweitzer@shiocton.k12.wi.us  
 920-986-3351 x761

Nick Ortlieb  
[Gr 7 - 12 Principal](#)~~High School Math Teacher~~  
 District Office, N5650 Broad Street  
 Shiocton, WI 54170  
 nortlieb@shiocton.k12.wi.us  
 920-986-3351 x751  
~~733~~

The name, title, and District contact information of this individual will be published annually in the student handbooks, School District Annual Report, and on the School District's web-site.

A CO will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful harassment, to assist students, other members of the School District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the student.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Anti-Harassment COs within two (2) business days. Thereafter, the COs must contact the student, if over age eighteen (18) or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) business days to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the CO to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined in the complaint procedures.

The COs are assigned to accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District, or to receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint, either directly or through a school building administrator, a CO will begin review and investigation or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will prepare recommendations for the District Administrator or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the CO as soon as possible, but always within no more than two (2) calendar days of learning of the incident.

### **Investigation and Complaint Procedure**

Any student who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful harassment may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures described below. Further, a process for investigating claims of harassment and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of legally prohibited harassment was substantiated are set forth below.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment, time lines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) calendar days of the complaint being received).

### **Complaint Procedure**

A student who believes s/he has been subjected to harassment hereinafter referred to as the "complainant", may file a complaint, either orally or in writing with a teacher, principal, or other District employee at the student's school, the CO, District Administrator, or other District employee who works at another school or at the District level. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment, time lines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a complainant informs a teacher, principal, or other District employee at the student's school, the CO, District Administrator, or other District employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer or designee within two (2) business days.

Throughout the course of the process as described herein, the CO should keep the parties informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or to be actively engaging in, harassment; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; and

a list of potential witnesses.

If the complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the complainant from further harassment or retaliation including but not limited to a change of class schedule for the complainant or the alleged harasser, or possibly a change of school for either or both of the parties. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Principal and the District Administrator prior to any action being taken. The complainant should be notified of any proposed action prior to such action being taken.

As soon as appropriate in the investigation process, the CO will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the harassing conduct, hereinafter referred to as the "respondent", that a complaint has been received. The respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and a copy of these administrative procedures and the Board's anti-harassment policy shall be provided to the respondent at that time. The respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to respond to the complaint. If the respondent is another student, the student may respond to the allegations orally in an interview with the CO or in writing within five (5) days.

Within five (5) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO or a designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the complainant has been subject to offensive conduct/harassment. A principal will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the CO

Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the complainant;
- B. interviews with the respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other evidence presented by the complainant, respondent, or any other witness which is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations, as determined by the CO

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the District Administrator which summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the complainant has been subject to unlawful harassment. In determining if unlawful harassment occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. The CO may consult with the Board Attorney before finalizing the report to the District Administrator.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within ten (10) business days of receiving the report of the CO, the District Administrator must either issue a final decision regarding whether or not the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the District Administrator's final decision will be delivered to both the complainant and the respondent.

If the District Administrator requests additional investigation, the District Administrator must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within ten (10) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the District Administrator must issue a final written decision as described above.

The decision of the District Administrator shall be final. If the complainant feels that the decision does not adequately address the complaint s/he may appeal the decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful harassment regardless of whether the member of the School District community or third party alleging the unlawful harassment pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

#### **Additional School District Action**

If the evidence suggests that the harassment at issue is a crime or requires mandatory reporting under the Children's Code (Sec. 48.981, Wis. Stat.), the District Administrator shall report the harassment to the appropriate social service and/or law

enforcement agency charged with responsibility for handling such investigations and crimes.

### **Confidentiality**

The District will make all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the complainant and the respondent. The District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the respondent, and all witnesses in a manner consistent with the District's legal obligations under State and Federal law. Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed however. All complainants proceeding through the investigation process should be advised that as a result of the investigation, the respondent may become aware of the complainant's identity.

During the course of an investigation, the CO will instruct all members of the School District community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that s/he learns or that s/he provides during the course of the investigation.

~~All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of harassment will be maintained by the CO in accordance with the Board's records retention policy (see Policy 8310). Any records which are considered student records in accordance with the state or Federal law will be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the law.~~

### **Sanctions and Monitoring**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful harassment by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment and prevent further such harassment. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable law. When imposing discipline, the District Administrator shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful harassment is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies.

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or District Administrator shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

### **Retaliation**

Any act of retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation is prohibited.

### **Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct**

State law requires any teacher or school employee who knows or suspects that a child under the age of eighteen (18) is a victim of child abuse or neglect to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the Department of Children and Family Services. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the CO has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board policy.

If the CO has reason to believe that the complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct as defined under Wisconsin law, such knowledge should be reported to local law enforcement.

Any reports made to the local child protection service or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the CO's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the COs may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the District Administrator.

### **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Board will develop a method of discussing this policy with the School District community. Training on the requirements of non-discrimination and the appropriate responses to issues of harassment will be provided to the School District community on an annual basis, and at such other times as the Board in consultation with the District Administrator determines is necessary or appropriate.

This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with local, State, and Federal law.

The District shall conspicuously post a notice including this policy against harassment in each school in a place accessible to the School District community and members of the public. This notice shall also include the name, mailing address and telephone number of the Compliance Officers, the name, mailing address and telephone number of the State agency responsible for investigating allegations of discrimination in educational opportunities, and the mailing address and telephone number of the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

A summary of this policy shall appear in the student handbook and shall be made available upon request of parents, students, and other interested parties.

### Retention of Public Records, Student Records, and Investigatory Records and Materials

All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation including but not limited to:

1. all written reports;
2. narratives of all verbal reports or statements;
3. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;
4. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel;
5. written witness statements;
6. narratives or audio, video, or digital recordings of verbal witness statements;
7. any documentary evidence;
8. handwritten and contemporaneous notes;
9. e-mails, texts, or social media posts related to the investigation and allegations;
10. dated written determinations;
11. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;
12. written documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants, including no contact orders; and
13. documentation of all actions taken to stop the discrimination of harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy the discriminatory effects.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

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Legal

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
42 U.S.C. Section 2000 et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964  
29 U.S.C. 794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
20 U.S.C. 1415  
48.981, Wis. Stats.  
118.13, Wis. Stats.  
P.I. 9, 41 Wis. Admin. Code  
Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution  
20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX of Education Amendments Act  
42 U.S.C. 1983  
42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.  
34 C.F.R. Sec. 300.600-300.662  
20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974