

## **Fresno Unified Board Policy (BP) 5145.3 Nondiscrimination/Harassment**

The Board desires to provide a welcoming, safe, and supportive school environment that allows all students equal access to and opportunities in the district's academic, extracurricular, and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment intimidation, and bullying targeted at any student by anyone, based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age(40 and above), religious creed, religion, political belief or affiliation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy or parental status, childbirth, breastfeeding/lactation status, medical condition, military and veteran status, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment. Not all bases of discrimination will apply to both education services and employment.

This policy shall apply to all acts constituting unlawful discrimination or harassment related to school activity or to school attendance occurring within a district school, to acts which occur off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored activities but which may have an impact or create a hostile environment at school, and to all acts of the Governing Board and the Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the district. (Education Code 234.1)

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*

*(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)*

*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*

*(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)*

*(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)*

*(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education under Section 504)*

Unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying may result from physical, verbal, nonverbal, or written conduct based on any of the categories listed above. Unlawful discrimination also occurs when prohibited conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; has the effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance; or otherwise adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

Unlawful discrimination also includes disparate treatment of students based on one of the categories above with respect to the provision of opportunities to participate in school programs or activities or the provision or receipt of educational benefits or services.

Because unlawful discrimination may occur when disciplining students, including suspension and expulsion, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the staff enforce discipline rules fairly, consistently, and in a non-discriminatory manner, as specified in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144 – Discipline, Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process, and Administrative Regulation 5144.2 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities).

The Board also prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who reports or participates in the reporting of unlawful discrimination, files or participates in the filing of a complaint or investigates or participates in the investigation of a complaint or report alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Staff shall be alert and immediately responsive to student conduct which may interfere with another student's ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or privileges. Retaliation complaints shall be investigated and resolved in the same manner as a

discrimination complaint.

The district shall ensure that all complainants are protected from retaliation and that the identity of a complainant alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying remains confidential, as appropriate. (EC Section 234.1(g))

*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*  
*(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)*

The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate students' access to the educational program by publicizing the district's nondiscrimination policy and related complaint procedures to students, parents/guardians, and employees. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall post the districts policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and intimidation, and bullying and other required information on the district's website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and students, in accordance with the law and the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 234.1, 234.6)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training and information on the scope and use of the policy and complaint procedures and take other measures designed to increase the school community's understanding of the requirements of law related to discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the implementation of the district's nondiscrimination policies and practices and, as necessary, shall take action to remove any identified barrier to student access to or participation in the district's educational program. The Superintendent or designee shall report their findings and recommendations to the Board after each review.

The district has provided, incident to the publicizing of policies against discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying described in EC Section 234.1(c), to certificated school site employees who serve pupils in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, who are employed by the district, information on existing school site and community resources related to the support of LGBTQ+ pupils, or related to the support of pupils who may face bias or bullying on the basis of religious affiliation, or perceived religious affiliation.

(a) School site resources may include, but are not limited to, peer support or affinity clubs and organizations, safe spaces for LGBTQ+, or other at-risk pupils, counseling services, staff who have received anti-bias or other training aimed at supporting these pupils or who serve as designated support to these pupils, health and other curriculum materials that are inclusive of, and relevant to, these pupils, online training developed pursuant to EC Section 32283.5, and other policies adopted pursuant to this article, including related complaint procedures.

(b) Community resources may include, but are not limited to, community-based organizations that provide support to LGBTQ+, or other at-risk pupils and their families, and physical and mental health providers with experience or training in treating or supporting these pupils. (EC Section 234.1(d))

*(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*  
*(cf. 1330 - Use of Facilities)*  
*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*  
*(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)*  
*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)*

Students who engage in unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying, in violation of law, Board policy, or administrative regulation shall be subject to appropriate consequence or discipline, which may include counseling, suspension or expulsion when the behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code 48900.4. Any employee who permits or engages in prohibited discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

*(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)*

*(cf. 4119.21/4219.21/4319.21 - ProfessionalStandards)*  
*(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)*  
*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*  
*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*  
*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*  
*(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))*  
*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*

All allegations of unlawful discrimination in district programs and activities shall be brought, investigated, and resolved in accordance with Board Policy 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures.

## Grievance Procedures

The Board hereby designates the following positions as Coordinator(s) for Nondiscrimination to ensure compliance with nondiscrimination in educational equity, to handle complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies:

Teresa Plascencia, Executive Director/Equity  
Compliance Officer  
Constituent Services Office  
Fresno Unified School District  
2309 Tulare Street  
Fresno, California 93721  
(559) 457-3736  
Constituent.Services@fresnounified.org

David Chavez, Chief of Human Resources  
Title IX Coordinator/Age Discrimination Act  
Fresno Unified School District  
2309 Tulare Street  
Fresno, California 93721  
(559) 457-3713  
titleix@fresnounified.org

Patrick Morrison, District 504 Coordinator  
Fresno Unified School District 890 S.  
10<sup>th</sup> Street Fresno, CA 93702  
(559) 457-3220  
504@fresnounified.org

Tangee Pinheiro, Instructional Superintendent  
Special Education Office  
Fresno Unified School District  
890 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street Fresno, CA 93702  
(559) 457-3220  
Spedleadership@fresnounified.org

Steven Shubin, Title II/ADA Coordinator  
Fresno Unified School District  
2309 Tulare Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 457-3520  
Accomodations@fresnounified.org

*(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)*  
*(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*

Any student who feels that they have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying should immediately contact the Coordinator for Nondiscrimination, the principal, or any other staff member. Any student who observes an incident should report the incident to the Coordinator or principal, whether or not the victim files a complaint.

Regardless of whether a complainant complies with the writing, timeline, and/or other formal filing requirements, all complaints brought to the attention of staff, alleging unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, shall be investigated and prompt action taken to stop the discrimination, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students.

In addition, the employee shall immediately intervene when safe to do so. (Education Code 234.1)

Any complaints of discrimination or any behavior prohibited by this policy, shall be addressed in accordance with the Administrative Regulation 5145.7 Sexual Harassment.

If dissatisfied with the district's decision, the complainant may submit their appeal in writing to the Office of Constituent Services within 15 calendar days of receiving the district's decision. The written concerns shall specify the basis for the appeal of the decision and whether the facts are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied. The district shall investigate in accordance with AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. Employees who observe an incident of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying or to whom such an incident is reported shall immediately report the incident to any of the designated Coordinators for Nondiscrimination, or principal, whether or not the victim files a complaint. Upon receiving a complaint of discrimination or harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the Coordinator shall immediately investigate the complaint in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures specified in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. Where the Coordinator finds that harassment has occurred, they shall take prompt, appropriate action to end the harassment and address its effects on the victim.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the student handbook clearly describes the district's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filing a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and the resources that are available to students who feel that they have been the victim of any such behavior. The district's nondiscrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies shall readily accessible in a prominent location on the district's existing internet website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and pupils. (EC Section 234.6(b)(8))

The district must post the established policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying in all schools and offices, which include staff lounges and pupil government meeting rooms. (EC Section 234.1(e); 5 CCR Section 4960(b))

The district must publicize adopted policies that prohibit discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including information about the manner in which to file a complaint, to pupils, parents/guardians, employees, the governing board, and the general public. The information shall be translated pursuant to EC section 48985. The district shall also include a notice of nondiscrimination policies in any publications used in connection with the recruitment of pupils or employees. The district must identify the officer responsible for nondiscrimination and education equity compliance in such publicity. (EC Section 234.1(c); 5 CCR Sections 4960(b) and 4961; 34 CFR Section and 106.8)

The district shall post a link to statewide resources, including community-based organizations, which shall be readily accessible in a prominent location on the district's existing internet website in a manner that is easily accessible to parents/guardians and pupils. The district shall also include any additional information deemed important for preventing bullying and harassment. (EC Section 234.6(b)(11-12))

*(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)*  
*(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)*  
*(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)*

If 15 percent or more of the pupils enrolled in a public school that provides instruction in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, speak a single primary language other than English, all notices, reports, statements, and records sent to the parent/guardian of any such pupil by the district shall, in addition to being written in English, be written in the primary language, and may be responded to in either English or primary language. (EC Section 48985(a))

### **Record-Keeping**

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive prohibited behavior in district schools.

*(cf. 3580 - District Records)*

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination  
48900.3 Suspension or expulsion for act of hate violence  
48900.4 Suspension or expulsion for harassment, threats, or intimidation  
48904 Liability of parent/guardian for willful student misconduct  
48907 Exercise of free expression; time, place and manner rules and regulations  
48950 Speech and other communication  
48985 Notices to parents in language other than English  
49020-49023 Athletic programs  
49060-49079 Student records  
51204.5 Social sciences instruction; contributions of specified groups  
51500 Prohibited instruction or activity  
51501 Nondiscriminatory subject matter  
60010 Instructional materials; definition  
60040-60052 Requirements for instructional materials

CIVIL CODE

1714.1 Liability of parent or guardian for act of willful misconduct by a minor

PENAL CODE

422.55 Definition of hate crime  
422.6 Crimes, harassment

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

432 Student records  
4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures  
4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs receiving state or federal financial assistance

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination based on sex

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Section 504

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act  
2000d-2000e-17 Title VI and Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended 2000h-2-  
2000h-6 Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
6101-6107 Age Discrimination Act of 1975 CODE OF

FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.107 Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints CODE OF

FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.31 Disclosure of personally identifiable information  
100.3 Prohibition of discrimination on basis of race, color or national origin  
104.8 Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap  
106.45 Grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment  
104.7 Section 504; Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievances procedures  
106.8 Designation of coordinator; dissemination of policy, and adoption of grievance procedures  
106.9 110.25 Prohibition of discrimination based on age

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

106.30 Discrimination on the basis of sex; definitions

COURT DECISIONS

Donovan v. Poway Unified School District, (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 567  
Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District, (2003) 324 F.3d 1130

Management Resources References

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students, May 2016

WEB SITES

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR>

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

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Adopted: August 26, 1993 Fresno, California

Revised: March 22, 2000

Revised: June 29, 2005

Revised: June 19, 2013

Revised: May 14, 2014

Revised: June 17, 2015

Revised: November 16, 2016

Revised: December 18, 2019

Admin Reviewed: October 27, 2021

Revised: March 16, 2022

Revised: February 21, 2024

*Policy Section: 5000 Students*