

TITLE IX/SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS

The policy of this school district forbids discrimination against, or harassment of any student on the basis of sex. The Sequoyah Board of Education will not tolerate sexual harassment by any of its employees or students. This policy applies to all students and employees including non-employee volunteers whose work is subject to the control of school personnel.

1. Sexual Harassment is defined as conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:
 - a. An employee of the school district conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the school district on a student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct. This is referred to as quid pro quo sexual harassment;
 - b. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a student equal access to the school district's educational program or activity; or
 - c. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking as defined by federal law.

For the purpose of this policy, examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

Verbal or physical sexual advances, including subtle pressure for sexual activity; touching, pinching, patting, or brushing against; comments regarding physical or personality characteristics of a sexual nature; and sexually-oriented "kidding" "teasing," double meanings, and jokes.

DemEANing comments about a girl's ability to excel in a class historically considered a "boy's" subject, privately talking to a student about sexual matters, hugging or touching a student inappropriately may constitute sexual harassment.

Writing graffiti that names a student or otherwise identifies a student is potentially slanderous and constitutes sexual harassment. Graffiti of any kind will not be tolerated on school property. The superintendent is directed to cause any graffiti or unauthorized writings to be removed immediately.

Any of the aforementioned conduct that effectively deprives a student of access to educational opportunities or benefits provided by the school.

2. Specific Prohibitions

- A. Administrators and Supervisors

1. It is sexual harassment for an administrator, supervisor, support employee, or teacher to use his or her authority to solicit sexual favors or attention from students.
 2. Administrators, supervisors, support personnel, or teachers who either engage in sexual harassment of students or tolerate such conduct by other employees shall be subject to sanctions, as described below.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS (Cont.)

3. The school district is not concerned with the "off-duty" conduct of school personnel unless the conduct has or will have a negative impact on the educational process of the school. Any romantic or sexual affiliation between school personnel and students, including students who have reached the age of majority (18), during school hours will have a negative impact on the educational process and shall constitute a violation of school policy. Such violations may result in suspension of the student and suspension or termination for the employee. Any sexual affiliation between teachers and students under the age of 18 may constitute a crime under state or federal law.
3. Report, Investigation, and Sanctions
 - A. It is the express policy of the board of education to encourage student victims of sexual harassment to come forward with such claims. This may be done through the Sexual Discrimination Grievance policy. The Office of Civil Rights relies on school administrators' judgment and common sense in meeting the requirements of the federal law.
 1. Students who feel that administrators, supervisors, support personnel, teachers, or other students are subjecting them to sexual harassment are encouraged to report these conditions, or have their parents report these conditions, to the appropriate administrator or teacher. If the student's immediate administrator or teacher is the alleged offending person, the report will be made to the next higher level of administration or supervision or to any responsible adult person.
 2. Every attempt will be made to maintain confidentiality; however, absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed because of due process concerns that arise in sexual harassment investigations. No reprisals or retaliation will be allowed to occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of sexual harassment.
 - B. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the conduct, and the context in which the alleged conduct occurred will be investigated. The superintendent has the responsibility of investigating and resolving complaints of sexual harassment.
 - C. Any employee found to have engaged in sexual harassment of students shall be subject to sanctions, including, but not limited to warning, suspension, or termination subject to applicable procedural and due process requirements.
 - D. Any student found to have engaged in sexual harassment of other students shall be subject to sanctions, including, but not limited to warning, suspension or other appropriate punishment subject to applicable procedural and due process requirements.
 - E. A copy of this Sexual Harassment policy will be provided to students and parents each year.
 - F. Special effort will be made to apprise district administrators, teachers, and counselors of their obligation to receive student complaints of sexual harassment, document such complaints, and forward them to the grievance committee.

District Coordinator: Lynn Schroeder
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Investigator: Lynn Schroeder
Decision Maker: Building Principal/Superintendent

TITLE IX/SEXUAL HARASSMENT GREIVANCE FORM

Date: _____ Time: _____ Room/Location: _____

Student(s) Initiating Alleged Sexual Harassment:

Grade: _____ Class: __________
Grade: _____ Class: _____

Student(s) Affected:

Grade: _____ Class: __________
Grade: _____ Class: _____

Describe the incident:

Witness present: _____

Principal Signature: _____

Parent(s) contacted: Date: _____ Time: _____

Completed form shall be submitted to the Sequoyah Public School Title IX coordinator via the school site principal.