

Sexual Harassment/Intimidation of Students

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is prohibited. An employee, District agent, or student engages in sexual harassment whenever that individual makes unwelcome advances, requests sexual favors, or engages in other verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that:

1. Denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, opportunities, or treatment, or that makes such conduct a condition of a student's academic status; or
2. Has the purpose or effect of:
 - a. Substantially interfering with a student's educational environment;
 - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
 - c. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, opportunities, or treatment; or
 - d. Making submission to or rejection of such unwelcome conduct the basis for academic decisions affecting a student.

The terms "intimidating," "hostile," and "offensive" include conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include but are not limited to unwelcome touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, pressure for sexual activity, intimidation by words, actions, insults, or name calling, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

Students who believe that they may have been sexually harassed or intimidated should consult a counselor, teacher, Title IX coordinator, or administrator, who will assist them in the complaint process. Supervisors or teachers who knowingly condone or fail to report or assist a student to take action to remediate such behavior of sexual harassment or intimidation may themselves be subject to discipline.

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any student of the District who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension and expulsion consistent with the District's discipline policy. Any person who knowingly makes a false accusation regarding sexual harassment likewise will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge with regard to employees or suspension and expulsion with regard to students.

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The District will make every effort to ensure that employees or students accused of sexual harassment or intimidation are given an appropriate opportunity to defend themselves against such accusations.

To the greatest extent possible, the District will treat complaints in a confidential manner. The District realizes that limited disclosure may be necessary in order to complete a thorough investigation. Retaliation against persons who file a complaint is a violation of law prohibiting discrimination and will lead to disciplinary action against an offender.

Any individual seeking further information should consult the Superintendent for the name of the current Title IX Coordinator for the District. The Superintendent will ensure that student and employee handbooks include the name, address, and telephone number of an individual responsible for coordinating District compliance efforts.

An individual with a complaint alleging a violation of this policy should follow the Uniform Complaint Procedure.

Cross Reference: 1700 Uniform Complaint Procedure

Legal References: Art. X, Sec. 1, Montana Constitution – Educational goals and duties
§§ 49-3-101, et seq., MCA Montana Human Rights Act
Title IX of the Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.
34 CFR Part 106 Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in
education programs or activities receiving
Federal financial assistance
10.55.701(1) (f), ARM Board of Trustees
10.55.719, ARM Student Protection Procedures
10.55.801(1) (a), ARM School Climate

Policy History:

Adopted on: February 17, 1998

Revised on: February 26, 2002

Revised on: February 9, 2016