

# SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Series 100

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LEGAL STATUS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Iowa law authorizes the creation of a Common Schools System. As part of this Common Schools System, this school district is a school corporation created and organized under Iowa law. This school district is known as the

Union Community School District  
Dysart-Geneseo-La Porte City.

This school corporation is located in the counties of Black Hawk, Benton, Buchanan, and Tama, and its affairs are conducted by elected school officials, the Union Community School District Board of Directors. This school corporation has exclusive jurisdiction over school matters in the territory of the school district.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 274.1, .2, .6, .7; 279.8; 594A

Cross Reference: 200 Legal Status of the Board of Directors

Approved Jan. 20, 1997

Reviewed June 15, 2020

Revised June 15, 2020

## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

As a school corporation of Iowa, the Union Community School District, acting through its board of directors, is dedicated to promoting an equal opportunity for a quality public education to its students. The board's ability may be limited by the school district's ability and willingness to furnish financial support in cooperation with student's parents and school district community. The board is also dedicated to providing the opportunity to develop a healthy social, intellectual, emotional, and physical self-concept in a learning environment that provides guidance to and encourages critical thinking in the students for a lifetime.

The board endeavors, through the dedication of the school district's resources, to encourage students, who come to the school district from a variety of backgrounds, to look forward to the time when they will have jobs, homes, families, places in the school district community, and attain recognition as individuals. In order to achieve this goal, the board will seek qualified employees dedicated to development of their professional skills for the betterment of the education program and for the expertise for educational productivity.

Instruction and curriculum are the key elements of a public education. Critical thinking and problem solving skills that will assist the students' preparation for life is instructed as part of a sequentially coordinated curriculum. The school district strives to prepare students for employment, further education, and to discover and nurture creative talent and to prepare them to meet and cope with social change in an atmosphere conducive to learning.

The support and involvement of the home and the school district community are essential to achieve educational excellence in the school district. The school district strives to maintain an active relationship with the home and the school district community to create within the students an awareness of dignity and worth of the individual, civic responsibility and respect for authority.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .11A (2005).

Cross Reference: 102 Equal Educational Opportunity  
103 Long-Range Needs Assessment  
209 Board of Directors' Management Procedures  
600 Goals and Objectives of the Education Program  
602 Curriculum Development

Approved Jan. 20, 1997

Reviewed June 15, 2020

Revised Nov. 21, 2005

## EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of the Union Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Mark Albertsen, Equity Coordinator, 505 West Street, Dysart, IA, 52224, 319-476-5100, [m\\_albertsen@union.k12.ia.us](mailto:m_albertsen@union.k12.ia.us).

The board requires all persons, agencies, vendors, contractors and other persons and organizations doing business with or performing services for the school district to subscribe to all applicable federal and state laws, executive orders, rules and regulations pertaining to contract compliance and equal opportunity.

Legal Reference:      20 U.S.C. §§ 1221 *et seq.*  
                             20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 *et seq.*  
                             20 U.S.C. §§ 1701 *et seq.*  
                             29 U.S.C. § 206 *et seq.*  
                             29 U.S.C. § 794  
                             42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d and 2000e.  
                             42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq.*  
                             34 C.F.R. Pt. 100.  
                             34 C.F.R. Pt. 104.  
                             Iowa Code §§ 216.6; 216.9; 256.11; 280.3.  
                             281 I.A.C. 12.

Cross Reference:      101      Educational Philosophy of the School District  
                             401.1    Equal Employment Opportunity  
                             500      Objectives for Equal Educational Opportunities for Students  
                             506.1    Student Records

Approved Jan. 20, 1997

Reviewed June 15, 2020

Revised Nov. 16, 2015

ANNUAL NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Union Community School offers career and technical programs in the following areas of study:

Industrial Technology  
Family and Consumer Science  
Business Education  
Agriculture Education

It is the policy of the Union Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Mark Albertsen, Equity Coordinator, 505 West Street, Dysart, IA, 52224, 319-476-5100, [m\\_albertsen@union.k12.ia.us](mailto:m_albertsen@union.k12.ia.us).

CONTINUOUS NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Union Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Mark Albertsen, Union Middle School Principal, 505 West Street, Dysart, IA, 52224, 319-476-5100, [m\\_albertsen@union.k12.ia.us](mailto:m_albertsen@union.k12.ia.us).

NOTICE OF SECTION 504 STUDENT AND PARENTAL RIGHTS

The Union Community School District does not discriminate in its educational programs and activities on the basis of a student's disability. It has been determined that your child has a qualifying disability for which accommodations may need to be made to meet his or her individual needs as adequately as the needs of other students. As a parent, you have the right to the following:

- Participation of your child in school district programs and activities, including extracurricular programs and activities, to the maximum extent appropriate, free of discrimination based upon the student's disability and at the same level as students without disabilities;
- Receipt of free educational services to the extent they are provided students without disabilities;
- Receipt of information about your child and your child's educational programs and activities in your native language;
- Notice of identification of your child as having a qualifying disability for which accommodations may need to be made and notice prior to evaluation and placement of your child and right to periodically request a re-evaluation of your child;
- Inspect and review your child's educational records including a right to copy those records for a reasonable fee; you also have a right to ask the school district to amend your child's educational records if you feel the information in the records is misleading or inaccurate; should the school district refuse to amend the records, you have a right to a hearing and to place an explanatory letter in your child's file explaining why you feel the records are misleading or inaccurate; and
- Hearing before an impartial hearing officer if you disagree with your child's evaluation or placement; you have a right to counsel at the hearing and have the decision of the impartial hearing officer reviewed.

It is the policy of the Union Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Mark Albertsen, Equity Coordinator, 505 West Street, Dysart, IA, 52224, 319-476-5100, m\_albertsen@union.k12.ia.us.

**COMPLAINT FORM**  
(Discrimination, Anti-Bullying, and Anti-Harassment)

Date of complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Complainant: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you filling out this form for yourself or someone else (please identify the individual if you are submitting on behalf of someone else):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who or what entity do you believe discriminated against, harassed, or bullied you (or someone else)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of alleged incident(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Names of any witnesses (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of discrimination, harassment, or bullying alleged (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Attribute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical/Mental Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Familial Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economic Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Party Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – Please Specify:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Race/Color		
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Origin/Ethnic Background/Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Creed		

In the space below, please describe what happened and why you believe that you or someone else has been discriminated against, harassed, or bullied. Please be as specific as possible and attach additional pages if necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## WITNESS DISCLOSURE FORM

Name of Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of initial complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Complainant (include whether the Complainant is a student or employee):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Date and place of alleged incident(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nature of discrimination, harassment, or bullying alleged (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Attribute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical/Mental Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Familial Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economic Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Party Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – Please Specify:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Race/Color	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Origin/Ethnic Background/Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Creed	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Description of incident witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINT FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of initial complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Complainant (include whether the Complainant is a student or employee):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Date and place of alleged incident(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Name of Respondent (include whether the Respondent is a student or employee):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nature of discrimination, harassment, or bullying alleged (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Attribute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical/Mental Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Familial Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economic Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Party Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – Please Specify:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Race/Color		
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Origin/Ethnic Background/Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Creed		

Summary of Investigation: \_\_\_\_\_

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I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

It is the policy of the Union Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Mark Albertsen, Equity Coordinator, 505 West Street, Dysart, IA, 52224, 319-476-5100, m\_albertsen@union.k12.ia.us.

Students, parents of students, employees, and applicants for employment in the school district have the right to file a formal complaint alleging discrimination. The district has policies and procedures in place to identify and investigate complaints alleging discrimination. If appropriate, the district will take steps to prevent the recurrence of discrimination and to correct its discriminatory effects on the Complainant and others.

A Complainant may attempt to resolve the problem informally by discussing the matter with a building principal or a direct supervisor. However, the Complainant has the right to end the informal process at any time and pursue the formal grievance procedures outlined below. Use of the informal or formal grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies. Please note that informal processes and procedures are not to be used in certain circumstances (e.g., sexual harassment and sexual assault).

### **Filing a Complaint**

A Complainant who wishes to avail himself/herself of this grievance procedure may do so by filing a complaint with the equity coordinator. An alternate will be designated in the event it is claimed that the equity coordinator or superintendent committed the alleged discrimination or some other conflict of interest exists. Complaints shall be filed within 180 days of the event giving rise to the complaint or from the date the Complainant could reasonably become aware of such occurrence. The Complainant will state the nature of the complaint and the remedy requested. The equity coordinator shall assist the Complainant as needed.

### **Investigation**

Within 15 working days, the equity coordinator will begin the investigation of the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation (hereinafter "equity coordinator"). If the Complainant is under 18 years of age, the equity coordinator shall notify his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) that they may attend investigatory meetings in which the Complainant is involved. The complaint and identity of the Complainant, Respondent, or witnesses will only be disclosed as reasonably necessary in connection with the investigation or as required by law or policy. The investigation may include, but is not limited to the following:

- A request for the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint;
- A request for the individual named in the complaint to provide a written statement;
- A request for witnesses identified during the course of the investigation to provide a written statement;
- Interviews of the Complainant, Respondent, or witnesses;
- An opportunity to present witnesses or other relevant information; and
- Review and collection of documentation or information deemed relevant to the investigation.

Within 60 working days, the equity coordinator shall complete the investigation and issue a report with respect to the findings.

The equity coordinator shall notify the Complainant and Respondent of the decision within 5 working days of completing the written report. Notification shall be by U.S. mail, first class.

**Decision and Appeal**

The complaint is closed after the equity coordinator has issued the report, unless within 10 working days after receiving the decision, either party appeals the decision to the superintendent by making a written request detailing why he/she believes the decision should be reconsidered. The equity coordinator shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the superintendent. 30 working days, the superintendent shall affirm, reverse, amend the decision, or direct the equity coordinator to gather additional information. The superintendent shall notify the Complainant, Respondent, and the equity coordinator of the decision within 5 working days of the decision. Notification shall be by U.S. mail, first class.

The decision of the superintendent shall be final.

The decision of the superintendent in no way prejudices a party from seeking redress through state or federal agencies as provided by in law.

This policy and procedures are to be used for complaints of discrimination, in lieu of any other general complaint policies or procedures that may be available.

If any of the stated timeframes cannot be met by the district, the district will notify the parties and pursue completion as promptly as possible.

Retaliation against any person, because the person has filed a complaint or assisted or participated in an investigation, is prohibited. Persons found to have engaged in retaliation shall be subject to discipline by appropriate measures.

## LONG-RANGE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Long-range needs assessment enables the school district to analyze assessment data, get feedback from the community about its expectation of students and determine how well students are meeting student learning goals. The board will conduct ongoing and in-depth needs assessment, soliciting information from business, labor, industry, higher education and community members, regarding their expectations for adequate student preparation.

In conjunction with the in-depth needs assessment of the school district, the board will authorize the appointment of a committee, representing administrators, employees, parents, students and community members, to make recommendations and assist the board in determining the priorities of the school district in addition to the basic skills areas of the education program.

The School District and Board will encourage opportunities for local feedback on an ongoing basis.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure the school district community is informed of students' progress on state and locally determined indicators. The superintendent will report annually to the board about the means used to keep the community informed.

As a result of the board and committee's work, the board will determine major educational needs and rank them in priority order; develop long-range goals and plans to meet the educational needs; establish and implement short-range and intermediate-range plans to meet the goals and to attain the desired levels of student performance; evaluate progress toward meeting the goals and maintain a record of progress under the plan that includes reports of student performance and results of school improvement projects; and annually report the school district's progress made under the plan to the committee, community and Iowa Department of Education.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 21; 256.7; 280.12, .18 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.8(1)(b).

Cross Reference: 101 Educational Philosophy of the School District  
200 Legal Status of the Board of Directors  
208 Committees of the Board of Directors  
603.1 Basic Instruction Program  
801.1 Buildings and Sites Long Range Planning  
801.2 Buildings and Sites Surveys

Approved Jan. 20, 1997

Reviewed June 15, 2020

Revised Nov. 21, 2005

## LONG-RANGE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

*School districts also need to develop a process for long-range needs assessment. The process needs to include three items.*

- ◆ *provisions for collecting, analyzing and reporting information derived from local, state and national sources;*
- ◆ *provisions for reviewing information acquired on the following:*
  - *state indicators and other locally determined indicators,*
  - *locally established student learning goals,*
  - *specific data collection required by state and federal programs;*
- ◆ *provisions for collecting and analyzing assessment data on the following:*
  - *state indicators,*
  - *locally determined indicators,*
  - *locally established student learning goals.*

ANTI-BULLYING/ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY [SS1]

The Union Community School District is committed to providing all students, employees, and volunteers with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. Bullying and/or harassing behavior can seriously disrupt the ability of school employees to maintain a safe and civil environment, and the ability of students to learn and succeed.

Bullying and/or harassment of or by students, employees, and volunteers is against federal, state, and local policy and is not tolerated by the board.

Accordingly, school employees, volunteers, and students shall not engage in bullying or harassing behavior while on school property, while on school-owned or school-operated vehicles, while attending or participating in school-sponsored or sanctioned activities, and while away from school grounds if the conduct materially interferes with the orderly operation of the educational environment or is likely to do so.

Complaints may be filed with the superintendent or superintendent's designee pursuant to the regulation accompanying this policy. Complaints will be investigated within a reasonable time frame.

A school employee, volunteer, or student, or a student's parent or guardian who promptly, reasonably, and in good faith reports an incident of bullying or harassment, in compliance with the procedures in the regulation, to the appropriate school official designated by the school district, shall be immune from civil or criminal liability relating to such report and to participation in any administrative or judicial proceeding resulting from or relating to the report.

**Retaliation Prohibited**

Individuals who knowingly file false bullying or harassment complaints and any person who gives false statements in an investigation may be subject to discipline by appropriate measures.

Any student found to have violated or retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. Any school employee found to have violated or retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, termination of employment. Any school volunteer found to have violated or retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, removal from service and exclusion from school grounds.

**Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, the defined words shall have the following meaning:

- “Electronic” means any communication involving the transmission of information by wire, radio, optic cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. “Electronic” includes but is not limited to communication via electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, cell phones, and electronic text messaging. “Harassment” and “bullying” mean any repeated or potentially repeated electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or other ongoing conduct toward an individual based on any trait or characteristic of the individual which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:
  - (1) Places the individual in reasonable fear of harm to the individual's person or property.
  - (2) Has a substantial detrimental effect on the individual's physical or mental health.

- (3) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the individual’s academic or career performance. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the individual’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.
- “Trait or characteristic of the individual” includes but is not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status.
  - “Volunteer” means an individual who has regular, significant contact with students.

### **Publication of Policy**

The board will annually publish this policy. The policy may be publicized by the following means:

- Inclusion in the student handbook,
- Inclusion in the employee handbook
- Inclusion in the registration materials
- Inclusion on the school or school district’s web site,
- (other) \_\_\_\_\_

***NOTE: This is a mandatory policy. School districts are required to integrate the anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy into the comprehensive school improvement plan and shall collect and report data regarding instances of bullying and harassment as required by law.***

***NOTE: Some conduct that falls under a school’s anti-bullying/anti-harassment policy also may trigger responsibilities under one or more of the federal and state antidiscrimination laws. By limiting the response to a specific application of its anti-bullying/anti-harassment disciplinary policy and the accompanying procedures, a school may fail to properly consider whether the alleged conduct also results in discriminatory bullying and/or harassment.***

Legal References:      20 U.S.C. §§ 1221-1234i.  
                                  29 U.S.C. § 794.  
                                  42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7.  
                                  42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *2et. seq.*  
                                  Iowa Code §§ 216.9; 280.28; 280.3.  
                                  281 I.A.C. 12.3(6).  
                                  *Morse v. Frederick*, 551 U.S. 393 (2007)

Cross References:      102      Equal Educational Opportunity  
                                  502      Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                                  503      Student Discipline  
                                  506      Student Records

Approved Aug. 29, 2007

Reviewed June 15, 2020

Revised Nov. 16, 2015



COMPLAINT FORM  
(Discrimination, Anti-Bullying, and Anti-Harassment)

Date of complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Complainant: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you filling out this form for yourself or someone else (please identify the individual if you are submitting on behalf of someone else):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who or what entity do you believe discriminated against, harassed, or bullied you (or someone else)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of alleged incident(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Names of any witnesses (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of discrimination, harassment, or bullying alleged (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Attribute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical/Mental Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Familial Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economic Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Party Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – Please Specify:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Race/Color		
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Origin/Ethnic Background/Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Creed		

In the space below, please describe what happened and why you believe that you or someone else has been discriminated against, harassed, or bullied. Please be as specific as possible and attach additional pages if necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS DISCLOSURE FORM

Name of Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of initial complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Complainant (include whether the Complainant is a student or employee): \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of alleged incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of discrimination, harassment, or bullying alleged (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Attribute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical/Mental Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Familial Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economic Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Party Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – Please Specify:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Race/Color	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Origin/Ethnic Background/Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Creed	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Description of incident witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINT FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of initial complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Complainant (include whether the Complainant is a student or employee):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of alleged incident(s):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Respondent (include whether the Respondent is a student or employee):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of discrimination, harassment, or bullying alleged (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Attribute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical/Mental Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Familial Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economic Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Party Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – Please Specify:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Race/Color		
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Origin/Ethnic Background/Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Creed		

Summary of Investigation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ANTI-BULLYING/ANTI-HARASSMENT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

The Union Community School District is committed to providing all students with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. Bullying and/or harassment of or by students, staff, and volunteers is against federal, state, and local policy and is not tolerated by the board. Bullying and/or harassing behavior can seriously disrupt the ability of school employees to maintain a safe and civil environment, and the ability of students to learn and succeed. Therefore, it is the policy of the state and the school district that school employees, volunteers, and students shall not engage in bullying or harassing behavior in school, on school property, or at any school function or school-sponsored activity.

### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, the defined words shall have the following meaning:

- “Electronic” means any communication involving the transmission of information by wire, radio, optic cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. “Electronic” includes but is not limited to communication via electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, cell phones, and electronic text messaging.
- “Harassment” and “bullying” shall mean any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student based on the individual’s actual or perceived age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status, and which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:
  - (1) Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or property.
  - (2) Has a substantial detrimental effect on the student’s physical or mental health.
  - (3) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s academic performance.
  - (4) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.
- “Trait or characteristic of the student” includes but is not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status.
- “Volunteer” means an individual who has regular, significant contact with students.

### **Filing a Complaint**

A Complainant who wishes to avail himself/herself of this procedure may do so by filing a complaint with the superintendent or superintendent’s designee. An alternate will be designated in the event it is claimed that the superintendent or superintendent’s designee committed the alleged discrimination or some other conflict of interest exists. Complaints shall be filed within 180 days of the event giving rise to the complaint or from the date the Complainant could reasonably become aware of such occurrence. The Complainant will state the nature of the complaint and the remedy requested. The Complainant shall receive assistance as needed.

School employees, volunteers, and students shall not engage in reprisal, retaliation, or false accusation against a victim, witness, or an individual who has reliable information about an act of bullying or harassment.

### **Investigation**

The school district will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of bullying or harassment. The building principal or designee (hereinafter “Investigator”) will be responsible for handling all complaints alleging bullying or harassment.

If the Complainant is under 18 years of age, the Investigator shall notify his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) that they may attend investigatory meetings in which the Complainant is involved. The complaint and identity of the Complainant, Respondent, or witnesses will only be disclosed as reasonably necessary in connection with the investigation or as required by law or policy. The investigation may include, but is not limited to the following:

- A request for the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint;
- A request for the individual named in the complaint (hereinafter “Respondent”) to provide a written statement;
- A request for witnesses identified during the course of the investigation to provide a written statement; and
- Review and collection of documentation or information deemed relevant to the investigation.

The Investigator shall consider the totality of circumstances presented in determining whether conduct objectively constitutes bullying or harassment. Upon completion of the investigation, the Investigator shall issue a report with respect to the findings.

### **Decision**

If, after an investigation, a student is found to be in violation of the policy, the student shall be disciplined by appropriate measures, which may include suspension and expulsion. If after an investigation a school employee is found to be in violation of this policy, the employee shall be disciplined by appropriate measures, which may include termination. If after an investigation a school volunteer is found to be in violation of this policy, the volunteer shall be subject to appropriate measures, which may include exclusion from school grounds.

A school employee, volunteer, or student, or a student’s parent or guardian who promptly, reasonably, and in good faith reports an incident of bullying or harassment, in compliance with the procedures in the policy adopted pursuant to this section, to the appropriate school official designated by the school district, shall be immune from civil or criminal liability relating to such report and to participation in any administrative or judicial proceeding resulting from or relating to the report.

Individuals who knowingly file false bullying and/or harassment complaints and any person who gives false statements in an investigation may be subject to discipline by appropriate measures, as shall any person who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy. Any student found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. Any school employee found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, termination of employment. Any school volunteer found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds.

DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT BASED ON SEX PROHIBITED

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, the [NAME] Community School District prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment as defined by the regulations implementing Title IX (34 C.F.R. § 106.30), against any individual participating in any education program or activity of the District. This prohibition on discrimination applies to students, employees, and applicants for employment.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to adopt procedures for any individual to report sexual harassment to the District’s Title IX Coordinator, for the provision of supportive measures to anyone who has been subjected to sexual harassment whether or not they proceed with a formal complaint under those procedures, and for the investigation and resolution of such complaints, as required by Title IX. This Title IX grievance process shall be used to respond to all complaints of sexual harassment that fall within the scope of Title IX. For complaints of sexual harassment that do not fall within the scope of Title IX, the District may still offer supportive measures to the subject of such conduct and shall apply any other policy or procedure applicable to the alleged conduct.

Any individual with questions about the District’s Title IX policy and procedures, or who would like to make a report or file a formal complaint of sex discrimination or sexual harassment may contact the District’s designated Title Coordinator:

Wayne Slack, Title IX Coordinator, K-12 Assistant Principal, 200 Adams Street, La Porte City, Iowa 50651. [w\\_slack@union.k12.ia.us](mailto:w_slack@union.k12.ia.us) 319-342-2697

Retaliation against a person who made a report or complaint of sexual harassment, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a sexual harassment report or complaint is strictly prohibited. Retaliation includes threats, coercion, discrimination, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to employment or education. Any individual who believed they have been retaliated against in violation of this Policy should immediately contact the District’s Title IX Coordinator.

Legal References:        20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*  
                                     34 C.F.R. § 106 *et seq.*

Approved September 21, 2020

Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_

Revised \_\_\_\_\_

**Union Community School District**  
**Title IX Form Bank**

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**Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual(s) who engaged in the conduct alleged below:

Describe the conduct that led to this complaint (attach additional pages if needed):

Date(s) of each incident:

Location(s) of each incident:

Names of possible witnesses:

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Reporting Form for Individuals to Report Sexual Harassment**

Name of individual filing this report: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you the target of the conduct alleged in this report?

If no, who was the target of the conduct alleged in this report?

Name of individual who engaged in the conduct alleged below:

Describe the conduct that led to this complaint (attach additional pages if needed):

Date(s) of each incident:

Location(s) of each incident:

Names of possible witnesses:

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notice of Investigation to Complainant

[To be provided by Title IX Coordinator to Complainant at the initiation of an investigation]

[Date]

Dear [Complainant's Name],

The [NAME] Community School District received your complaint alleging that [Respondent's name] (the "Respondent") engaged in conduct that may constitute sexual misconduct under District Policy. Specifically, you submitted a complaint alleging that the Respondent [description of alleged conduct in complaint including time, date, location, and specific acts of respondent alleged in complaint].

The policy Respondent is alleged to have violated is [insert all applicable policy names/numbers – including Title IX and others as applicable], and specifically its prohibition on [specific type of sexual harassment alleged – e.g., hostile environment, stalking, etc.]. A complete copy of the District's Title IX procedures is [insert link or attach to this letter]. Please review these procedures carefully and let me know if you have any questions.

The District must investigate formal complaints of potential sexual misconduct as required by policy and law, to the extent of the information available. We have assigned [NAME(s)] as the Investigator(s) who will gather information and make factual findings in this case. If you have any concerns about the impartiality of the Investigator(s), please let me know immediately.

The Respondent is entitled to a presumption of innocence, which will be maintained throughout the process until a determination of responsibility is made. The Investigator(s) will be in contact with you to schedule a time to formally interview you for the investigation. You may be accompanied by a support person, advisor, or advocate of your choice to the investigation interview, including a lawyer, at your own expense. This person should not be someone who you will also identify as a witness.

As part of this process, you will have a right to provide evidence and witnesses for the Investigator's consideration, and to review and comment on evidence gathered by the Investigator(s) from the other party and witnesses. The District will objectively evaluate all relevant evidence, including inculpatory (proves a violation) and exculpatory (proves no violation) evidence to reach a determination of responsibility.

Consistent with the Policy, you are hereby directed not to delete any potentially relevant evidence, including electronic files, records, or data in your possession. You are further directed not to sell, give away, destroy, or otherwise surrender possession of any personal or District-issued devices. Do not wipe or reformat any personal or District-issued devices. Do not delete any social media or email accounts that you currently have or delete any content or data from the same. These directives are effective immediately and remain in effect until further notice. If you have any questions about this directive, please contact me.

The District works to maintain confidentiality in the resolution process, and we ask for your discretion in minimizing the sharing of information to respect the sensitivity of this matter to all parties. You are directed to refrain from contacting the Respondent throughout this process. Additionally, you are reminded about the District's policy against retaliation, either by you or by someone acting on your

behalf. Any individual who believes they have been retaliated against for participation in this process should immediately report it to \_\_\_\_\_.

You are expected to cooperate in an honest and forthright manner with this investigation. Making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process is prohibited by the District and may constitute an independent basis for disciplinary sanctions against any student or employee, up to and including suspension or expulsion of a student or termination of an employee's employment.

I understand this is a lot of information. Please let me know if you have any questions at any point during the process.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

Title IX Coordinator

[NAME] Community School District

[CONTACT INFORMATION FOR TIX COORDINATOR]

## Notice of Investigation to Respondent

[To be provided simultaneously by Title IX Coordinator to Respondent upon initiation of investigation]

[Date]

Dear [Respondent's Name],

The [NAME] Community School District received a complaint alleging that you engaged in conduct that may constitute sexual misconduct under District Policy. Specifically, [name of complainant] (the "Complainant") submitted a complaint alleging that you [description of alleged conduct in complaint including time, date, location, and specific acts of respondent alleged in complaint].

The policy you are alleged to have violated is [insert all applicable policy names/numbers – including Title IX and others as applicable], and specifically its prohibition on [specific type of sexual harassment alleged – e.g., hostile environment, stalking, etc.]. A complete copy of the District's Title IX procedures is [insert link or attach to this letter]. Please review these procedures carefully and let me know if you have any questions.

The District must investigate formal complaints of potential sexual misconduct as required by policy and law, to the extent of the information available. We have assigned [NAME(s)] as the Investigator(s) who will gather information and make factual findings in this case. If you have any concerns about the impartiality of the Investigator(s), please let me know immediately.

You are entitled to a presumption of innocence, which will be maintained throughout the process until a determination of responsibility is made. The Investigator(s) will be in contact with you to schedule a time to formally interview you for the investigation. You may be accompanied by a support person, advisor, or advocate of your choice to the investigation interview, including a lawyer, at your own expense. This person should not be someone who you will also identify as a witness.

As part of this process, you will have a right to provide evidence and witnesses for the Investigator's consideration, and to review and comment on evidence gathered by the Investigator(s) from the other party and witnesses. The District will objectively evaluate all relevant evidence, including inculpatory (proves a violation) and exculpatory (proves no violation) evidence to reach a determination of responsibility.

Consistent with the Policy, you are hereby directed not to delete any potentially relevant evidence, including electronic files, records, or data in your possession. You are further directed not to sell, give away, destroy, or otherwise surrender possession of any personal or District-issued devices. Do not wipe or reformat any personal or District-issued devices. Do not delete any social media or email accounts that you currently have or delete any content or data from the same. These directives are effective immediately and remain in effect until further notice. If you have any questions about this directive, please contact me.

The District works to maintain confidentiality in the resolution process, and we ask for your discretion in minimizing the sharing of information to respect the sensitivity of this matter to all parties. You are directed to refrain from contacting the Complainant throughout this process. Additionally, you are reminded about the District's policy against retaliation, either by you or by someone acting on your

behalf. Any individual who believes they have been retaliated against for participation in this process should immediately report it to \_\_\_\_\_.

You are expected to cooperate in an honest and forthright manner with this investigation. Making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process is prohibited by the District and may constitute an independent basis for disciplinary sanctions against any student or employee, up to and including suspension or expulsion of a student or termination of an employee's employment.

I understand this is a lot of information. Please let me know if you have any questions at any point during the process.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

Title IX Coordinator

[NAME] Community School District

[CONTACT INFORMATION FOR TIX COORDINATOR]

## Notice of Interview

[to be provided to complainant(s) and respondent(s) prior to any interview or other meeting with sufficient time to prepare for the interview/meeting]

[Date]

Dear [name of party]:

As you know from the Notice of Investigation, the District is conducting an investigation into a complaint of sexual harassment in which you are named as a party.

You will be interviewed by the District's Investigator(s), [insert investigator(s) names] at [location], on [date] at [time]. The purpose of this interview is to ask you questions about what you know or may know about the allegations in the complaint, including identifying and producing any relevant evidence and witness names for the Investigator's consideration.

The individuals present at this interview will be yourself, the Investigator, [include any other names of anticipated attendees, if any]. You are entitled to be accompanied by a support person, advocate, or attorney, at your own expense. However, any person accompanying you may not participate in the interview, answer questions on your behalf, or question the Investigator about any matter.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

---

[name and title of Title IX Coordinator or Investigator]  
[contact information]



## Title IX Investigation Report Form

[to be completed by Title IX Investigator(s)]

**Name of Investigator:**

**Date of report:**

**Scope of investigation:** This investigation considered claims made by [Complainant name and role (student, employee, etc.)] (the “Complainant”) as to whether or not [Respondent name and role] (the "Respondent”) has violated District policy no. [insert name and title of Title IX and other applicable policies].

This report will only provide a summary of the facts as determined by the investigator and is not a final determination of the allegations.

**Jurisdiction:** [state whether the evidence shows that the District exercises substantial control over both the Respondent and the circumstances under which the alleged sexual harassment occurred – if not, then the complaint must be dismissed from the Title IX process, and can be handled under any other applicable District policy or procedure].

**Parties (list all):**

Complainant- NAME

Respondent – NAME

**Nature of Alleged Conduct Constituting Sexual Harassment:**

**Procedural history:**

- A report was made to the District by \_\_\_\_\_ on [date]. A formal complaint was provided by the Complainant to the Title IX Coordinator on [date].
- The Title IX Coordinator assigned this Investigator on [date] to conduct an investigation into the formal complaint. Notices of Investigation were provided to both parties on [date].
- This Investigator interviewed the following individuals:
  - Complainant – name and date of interview
  - Respondent – name and date of interview
  - Any witnesses – names and dates of interview
- This Investigator also reviewed the following evidence:
  - List of any documents, videos, photos, or other evidence provided by any party or witness
- On [date not less than 10 days before the date of this report], this Investigator provided Complainant and Respondent with copies of all evidence obtained by this Investigator. Complainant and Respondent had an opportunity to provide a written response to this evidence, prior to the Investigator completing this Investigation Report. [Indicate whether each party did or did not provide a written response].
- [include any other procedural steps, including if there have been significant delays in the process or other unexpected events]



**Summary of Interviews:**

Complainant Interview:

Witness A interview:

Witness B interview:

Respondent Interview:

**Summary of Other Evidence Received:**

**Feedback from Parties following Receipt of Evidence Directly Relating to Complaint:**

**Investigator’s Observations Regarding Credibility [MVH2] of Parties and Witnesses:**

***Note: Investigator's Observations Regarding Credibility of Parties and Witnesses is optional but not required. Ultimately the decision-maker’s job, but the investigator has the ability to observe firsthand so might be helpful to decision-maker. REMOVE this note once a decision has been made, prior to publishing.***

This report will be provided to the Title IX Coordinator, Complainant and Respondent (and any advocate or attorney for each), and \_\_\_\_\_, who has been designed as the Decision-Maker for this Complaint.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

[Name, title], Investigator

## Decision on Formal Complaint

[to be completed by decision-maker]

**Name of Decision-Maker(s):**

**Date of Determination:**

**Names of Parties to the Complaint:** [Complainant(s) and Respondent(s)]

**List the allegations in the complaint:**

**Procedural history:** [A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination of responsibility – can use what is in the investigation report as a starting point in addition to the following:]

- The parties were provided the investigation report on [date – at least 10 days prior to date of this determination]. The parties had an opportunity to submit written response to the investigation report for consideration prior to this decision-maker reaching a determination regarding responsibility. [indicate whether each party did or did not submit a written response].
- The parties had an opportunity to submit written questions to be asked of the other party and any witnesses. The decision-maker asked all relevant questions and provided the responses to those questions to the parties. The parties had a limited opportunity for follow-up questions [if applicable].
- The decision-maker considered all available, relevant evidence prior to reaching the determination(s) contained in this report.

**Findings of fact for each allegation:**

Statement of undisputed material facts:

Findings on disputed material facts:

**Conclusions:** [Conclusions for each allegation regarding the application of this Policy and any other relevant District policy, procedure, handbook provision, or rule to the facts. Include a statement of whether each allegation is founded or unfounded, and rationale for this determination]

**Sanctions:** [Include any sanctions that will be imposed (or recommended if outside the authority of the decision-maker) on respondent, if any, and a rationale therefor]

**Remedies:** [include any remedies the District will provide to restore or preserve Complainant's access to the District's educational program or activity, if applicable, and a rationale therefor]

**Appeal Procedures:** Within five (5) calendar days of delivery of the written decision to them, either party may appeal this decision and/or any sanction imposed herein to \_\_\_\_\_ or her/his designee. Such appeals will be in writing and will be delivered to the \_\_\_\_\_ or her/his designee. The \_\_\_\_\_ or her/his designee will determine if the written decision will be stayed pending the outcome of the appellate decision. Appeals will be limited to any of the following bases:

- A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the written decision was issued that could affect the outcome of the matter; or
- The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator(s), or Decision-Maker had a conflict of interest or bias that affected the outcome of the matter.

The \_\_\_\_\_ or her/his designee will notify both parties in writing if an appeal is received alleging one of the bases for appeal above. Both parties will be given an opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the written decision. The parties' written statements must be submitted within five (5) calendar days of notice of the appeal.

**Retaliation:** Retaliation against a person who reports sexual misconduct, assists someone with a report of sexual misconduct, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a sexual misconduct report is strictly prohibited. Retaliation includes threats, coercion, discrimination, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to employment or education. Any individual who believed they have been retaliated against in violation of this Policy should immediately contact the District's Title IX Coordinator, [insert name and contact information for Title IX Coordinator].

Sincerely,

---

[name(s) and title(s) of decision-maker(s)]

Date

## Appeal Form

[to be filled out by a party wishing to appeal the initial determination/sanction]

Name of Appealing Party:

Role in complaint: [Complainant or Respondent]

Date:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby appeal the written decision on the grounds that (check at least one):

\_\_\_ A procedural irregularity affected the outcome of the matter. The facts supporting this appeal are (attach additional pages if needed):

\_\_\_ New evidence was not reasonably available at the time the written decision was issued that could affect the outcome of the matter. The facts supporting this appeal are (attach additional pages if needed):

\_\_\_ The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator(s), or Decision-Maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias that affected the outcome of the matter. The facts supporting this appeal are (attach additional pages if needed):

I hereby affirm that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of appealing party

## Notice of Appeal

[to be provided simultaneously to both Complainant and Respondent]

[date]

Dear [party name]:

This is a notice that a timely appeal has been filed by [name of appealing party] challenging the decision issued by [name and title of initial decision-maker] in the formal sexual harassment complaint made by [Complainant's name] against [Respondent's name].

This appeal alleges that [state the basis for appeal provided on the appeal form and briefly summarize the allegations of the appealing party].

This appeal will be reviewed by [name and title of appeal decision-maker]. You have the right to provide a written statement to [the appeal decision-maker] in support of, or challenging, the written decision. Please submit your written statement [indicate whether in-person, email, or other] within five (5) calendar days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

---

[name, title, contact information]

## Determination on Appeal

[to be delivered simultaneously to both Complainant and Respondent]

[date]

Dear [party name]:

I have carefully considered the appeal filed by [name of appealing party], challenging the written decision on the complaint of sexual harassment made by [complainant's name] against [respondent's name].

Based on my review of this matter, it is my determination that the decision should be [affirmed – OR- reversed – OR – modified as follows... - OR – this matter should be remanded back to the investigator or decision-maker to take the following actions...]. I reached this determination [for the following reason(s) – brief description of rationale]. Pursuant to District policy, this decision is final and is not subject to further appeal.

Retaliation against any individual who files or otherwise participates in bringing a complaint is strictly prohibited under federal and state law, as well as District policy. Founded acts of retaliation will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. Any individual who believes they have been retaliated against for participation in this process should report any concerns immediately to

\_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

[Name and Title of Appeal Decision-Maker]

## Informal Resolution

[to be provided to Complainant and Respondent by Title IX Coordinator]

[date]

Re: Informal resolution of complaint involving [complainant's name] and [respondent's name]

Dear [party name]:

This letter sets forth information about the District's informal resolution process. If both parties consent, this process may help you reach a mutually acceptable resolution to the formal complaint.

The formal complaint made by [complainant's name] alleges that [respondent's name] [include the allegations in the formal complaint].

To resolve this complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will meet separately with each party to gather information relevant to the complaint and discuss possible ways to resolve the complaint. If the parties agree to a resolution, the Title IX Coordinator will draft a resolution agreement to be reviewed by both parties. Each party may sign the resolution agreement if they voluntarily agree to the terms. Once the agreement is signed by each party, it is final and is not subject to appeal.

Either party may withdraw from informal resolution at any point prior to signing the resolution agreement. The Complainant may then decide whether to proceed with the formal grievance process under District policy (including investigation and determination of responsibility) or to withdraw the formal complaint. Supportive measures may be provided during informal resolution, during a formal grievance, and/or after the formal complaints is resolved, dismissed, or withdraw.

The Title IX Coordinator will retain a copy of the formal complaint and any resolution agreement for a period of seven (7) years following the closure of the complaint. In order to promote honest, direct, communication, information disclosed during informal resolution will remain confidential, except where disclosure may be required by law or authorized in connection with duties on behalf of the District.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Otherwise, if you voluntarily agree to participate in the informal resolution process, please sign below.

Sincerely,

---

[name], Title IX Coordinator

**By signing below, I, [party name], hereby knowingly and voluntarily agree to participate in informal resolution to the complaint identified above.**

---

Signature

Date

## Notice of Dismissal

[to be provided simultaneously to Complainant and Respondent upon dismissal of a formal complaint]

[date]

Dear [party name]:

This letter hereby notifies you that the sexual harassment complaint filed on [date] is being dismissed by the District for the following reason [check one]:

- \_\_\_\_\_ The conduct alleged in the complaint would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in Section II of this policy, even if proved;
- \_\_\_\_\_ The conduct alleged not occur in the District's education program or activity; or
- \_\_\_\_\_ The conduct did not occur in the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Complainant notified the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant wished to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations;
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the District; or
- \_\_\_\_\_ Specific circumstances exist that prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations. These circumstances are:

\_\_\_\_\_.

This dismissal may be appealed by submitting a written appeal to [name, title, contact information of designated appeal decision-maker] within five (5) calendar days of the date of this Notice of Dismissal. Appeals are limited to the following grounds:

- A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time this dismissal was issued that could affect the outcome of the matter; or
- The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator(s), or Decision-Maker had a conflict of interest or bias that affected the outcome of the matter.

Even after dismissal of a formal complaint from the District's Title IX grievance process, the District may still (1) offer supportive measures to either party and/or (2) investigate and resolve the complaint under any other applicable District policy or process. You will be notified if the District intends to take further action on this complaint.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Name, title, contact information for Title IX Coordinator]



## **Documentation of District Response**

[to be completed and maintained by Title IX Coordinator for 7 years for record-keeping purposes]

[date]

### **Complaint Information:**

Complainant name:

Respondent name:

Was a formal complaint filed?

If so, on what date?

### **District Response:**

Were supportive measures provided to Complainant? If so, list all supportive measures that were provided.

If not, please explain why it was not clearly unreasonable for the District not to provide Complainant with supportive measures.

What other steps were taken in response to the report or formal complaint? E.g., resolved through informal resolution, resolved through formal grievance process (indicate whether founded or unfounded).

What sanctions were issued as a result of the report or formal complaint, if any?

What remedies were issued as a result of the report or formal complaint, if any?

In light of the above, do you believe the District's response was not deliberately indifferent? Briefly explain.

---

[Name], Title IX Coordinator

Date

**UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT PROCEDURES MANUAL**

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## I. THE POLICY

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, the Union Community School District prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, against any individual participating in any education program or activity of the District. This prohibition on discrimination applies to students, employees, and applicants for employment. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to adopt procedures for any individual to report sex discrimination or sexual harassment, and for the investigation and resolution of such complaints.

Any individual with questions about the District's Title IX policy and procedures, or who would like to make a report or file a formal complaint of sex discrimination or sexual harassment may contact the District's designated Title IX Coordinator, Wayne Slack, K-12 Assistant Principal 200 Adams Street, La Porte City, Iowa 50651 319-342-2697 [w\\_slack@union.k12.ia.us](mailto:w_slack@union.k12.ia.us)

The District will utilize this Policy and Procedure to respond to all claims of sex discrimination or sexual harassment as defined in Section II of this policy. If the District determines that a report or complaint does not allege conduct within the scope of Title IX, it may still proceed to investigate or respond to that report or complaint under any other applicable District policy or procedure.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Sexual harassment** means unwelcome behavior or conduct (physical, verbal, written, electronic) that is directed at someone because of that person's sex or gender, and that meets any of the following definitions:
1. **“Quid Pro Quo” Harassment.** A District employee explicitly or implicitly conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; **OR**
  2. **Hostile Educational/Work Environment.** Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; **OR**
  3. **Sexual assault.** An offense that meets the definition any one of the following offenses:
    - Rape: the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus, with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person without consent of the victim;
    - Fondling: the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification without consent of the victim;
    - Incest: sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law; or

- Statutory rape: sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent; **OR**

4. **Stalking:**

- Purposefully engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person ("target") that would cause a reasonable person to fear bodily injury to, or the death of, the target or a member of the target's immediate family;
- when the person ("stalker") knows or should know that the target will be placed in reasonable fear of bodily injury to, or the death of, the target or a member of the target's immediate family by the course of conduct; and
- the stalker's course of conduct induces fear in the target of bodily injury to, or the death of, the target or a member of the target's immediate family; **OR**

5. **Dating Violence:** violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of:

- The length of the relationship.
  - The type of relationship.
  - The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship;
- OR**

6. **Domestic Violence:** any felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed:

- By a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;
- By a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;
- By a person who is cohabiting with, or has cohabited with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- By a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the State of Iowa; or
- By any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the State of Iowa.

**B. Consent** means knowing and voluntary agreement to engage in conduct or an activity with another individual. Silence or an absence of resistance does not imply consent. Past consent to engage in conduct or an activity does not imply future consent; consent can be revoked at any time. An individual who is incapacitated (e.g., when a person is asleep, unconsciousness, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or disability) cannot give consent. Coercion, force, or the threat of either invalidates consent. Under no circumstances can a student give consent to engage in any sexual conduct or activity with an employee of the District.

**C. Complainant** means any person who alleges that they have been subjected to sexual harassment as defined by this Policy. At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the District's education program or activity.

**D. Respondent** means any person who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment under this Policy, and over whom the District is able to exercise substantial control.

### **III. POLICY SCOPE**

This Policy applies to all persons participating in the District's education program or activity, including students and employees and applicants for employment. Under Title IX, the District has jurisdiction over locations, events or circumstances over which it substantially controls the Respondent and the context in which the harassment occurs. The District's jurisdiction is limited to conduct against a person that occurs in the United States.

Any person may make a report of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

### **IV. CONFIDENTIALITY**

The District is committed to creating an environment that encourages individuals to come forward if they have experienced or witnessed sexual harassment. However, the District cannot promise absolute confidentiality to any party. District employees cannot promise confidentiality to any student who reports possible sexual harassment to them.

The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, or has been identified as the perpetrator or respondent to any such report or complaint, or is a witness to any complaint or investigation, **except** as required to carry out the purposes of this Policy (including the conduct of any complaint resolution process), applicable law, or as permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g.

### **V. REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, INCLUDING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

#### **A. Employee Reporting Obligations**

Any District employee who witnesses or becomes aware of sexual harassment has an affirmative obligation to report immediately to the District's Title IX Coordinator or to their building principal or immediate supervisor. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action against the employee, up to and including termination of employment.

#### **B. Reporting to Law Enforcement**

Because sexual misconduct may constitute both a violation of District policy and criminal activity, individuals who have been subject to criminal sexual misconduct may wish to report their concerns to law enforcement. An individual may proceed under this Policy whether or not they elect to report to law enforcement.

### **C. Reporting to the District**

Any individual who wishes to make a report or file a formal complaint of sexual harassment may contact the District's Title IX Coordinator: Wayne Slack, K-12 Assistant Principal 200 Adams Street, La Porte City, Iowa 50651 319-342-2697 [w\\_slack@union.k12.ia.us](mailto:w_slack@union.k12.ia.us)

**Allegations that an employee of the District has engaged in sexual harassment toward a student must be immediately reported or referred to the District's designated Level 1 Investigator[MVH1], and must be handled in accordance with 281 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 102 (Procedures for Charging and Investigating Incidents of Abuse of Students by School Employees).** The Level 1 Investigator shall be responsible for complying with the requirements of Chapter 102, including with respect to reporting the alleged conduct to law enforcement or other appropriate state agencies. The Level 1 Investigator shall work with the District's Title IX Coordinator to determine how to preserve or restore the student's access to the District's education program and activities.

### **D. Amnesty for Complainants and Participants in Investigations**

The District will not pursue disciplinary action for improper possession or use of alcohol or other drugs against a student who reports in good faith an incident of sexual misconduct, or who participates in good faith in an investigation into an incident of sexual misconduct.[MVH2] The District may still notify the parent/guardian of the student(s) involved in such possession/use to promote the student safety and well-being or otherwise report such possession or use as required by law.

### **E. Retaliation Prohibited**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or complaint of sexual harassment, or who assists, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a sexual harassment report or complaint is strictly prohibited. Retaliation includes threats, coercion, discrimination, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to employment or education. Any individual who believes they have been retaliated against in violation of this Policy should immediately contact the District's Title IX Coordinator.

This Policy's antiretaliation protections do not apply to any individual who makes a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of any complaint, investigation, hearing, or other proceeding under this Policy. However, a determination that an individual made a materially false statement in bad faith must be supported by some evidence other than the determination of whether the Respondent violated this Policy alone. An individual who makes a materially false statement in bad faith may be subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion of a student or termination of an employee's employment.

## **F. Time Frames for Reporting and Response**

The District strongly encourages prompt reporting of complaints and information. While there is no time limit in invoking this Policy in responding to complaints of alleged sexual harassment, a complaint should be submitted as soon as possible after the event takes place in order to maximize the District's ability to respond promptly and equitably.

The District may not be able to fully investigate a formal complaint against an individual who is no longer affiliated with the District. Under those circumstances, the District will still consider whether it can offer supportive measures to the Complainant or proceed under another applicable law, policy, procedure, handbook provision, or rule.

In all cases, the District will conduct a prompt and equitable investigation of allegations of sexual misconduct. Generally the District will attempt to complete the investigation and make a determination regarding responsibility within sixty (60) [MVH3] calendar days of receipt of a formal complaint. However, the District may alter or extend this time with notice to both parties. The time it takes to complete the resolution of a sexual harassment complaint may vary based on the complexity of the investigation and the severity and extent of the alleged conduct, as well as on whether there is a parallel criminal investigation, or if school breaks occur during the process.

## **VI. PROCESS FOR RESPONDING TO REPORTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

### **A. Initial Meeting with the Complainant**

Upon receipt of any report of sexual harassment occurring in the District's educational program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will schedule a meeting with the Complainant in order to provide the Complainant a general understanding of this Policy and to identify forms of supportive measures available to the Complainant with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and to explain the process for filing a formal complaint. The intake meeting may also involve a discussion of any specific supportive measures that may be appropriate.

At the initial intake meeting with the Complainant, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will seek to determine how the Complainant wishes to proceed. The Complainant may opt for: (1) informal resolution; (2) formal resolution; or (3) not proceeding. Supportive measures may still be offered whether or not the Complainant chooses any of these options.

If the Complainant wishes to proceed with either informal or formal resolution, a written document must be filed by the Complainant or signed by the Title IX coordinator alleging harassment against a respondent (the "formal complaint"). Where the Title IX Coordinator signs a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not the complainant or otherwise a party to a complaint proceeding under this Policy.

## **B. Informal Resolution**<sup>[MVH4]</sup>

Upon filing of a formal complaint, a Complainant who does not wish to pursue formal resolution may request a less formal proceeding, known as “Informal Resolution.” Informal resolution is available to the parties any time prior to a determination of responsibility being issued.

Informal resolution is a voluntary process that requires the written consent of the Complainant and Respondent. The District will not require the parties to participate in the Informal Resolution process as a condition of enrollment, employment, or of any other right conferred by the District. The Title IX Coordinator will assess the severity of the alleged harassment and the potential risk for others in the District community to determine whether informal resolution may be appropriate. Informal Resolution will **never** be used to resolve allegations involving an employee sexually harassing a student.

The Title IX Coordinator will provide the parties with a written notice setting forth the allegations, the requirements of the informal resolution process set forth in this Policy, the right of any party to withdraw from the informal process and proceed with the formal grievance process at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution; and any consequences resulting from the participation in the informal process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared by the District.

Upon receipt of written consent from the parties to participate in informal resolution, the Title IX Coordinator will consult separately with the Complainant and Respondent and gather additional relevant information as necessary. The Title IX Coordinator may also put in place any appropriate supportive measures to protect the educational and work environment of the parties.

The Title IX Coordinator will work with parties to determine a mutually acceptable resolution to the complaint. This resolution will be reduced to writing and signed by the Complainant and the Respondent. Once signed, the written resolution becomes final and neither party can initiate the formal grievance process for the allegations in the formal complaint. The written resolution is not subject to appeal.

Either party may, at any time prior to signing an informal resolution agreement, elect to end the informal resolution process and initiate formal resolution instead.

In order to promote honest, direct, communication, information disclosed during informal resolution will remain confidential, except where disclosure may be required by law or authorized in connection with duties on behalf of the District.



## C. Formal Resolution

Upon submission of a formal complaint, Complainant may elect to pursue a formal resolution, which is described more specifically in this section.

### 1. Consolidation of Complaints

The District may consolidate formal complaints of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against another party, where the allegations arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

### 2. Required Notices

**Notice of Investigation.** If a Complainant elects to pursue a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide a written Notice of Investigation simultaneously to both parties notifying the parties of:

- the identities of the parties involved in the incident;
- the conduct alleged;
- the date and location of the incident;
- Respondent's entitlement to a presumption of innocence;
- The parties' rights to have an advisor of their choice at the party's expense, who may be an attorney;
- The parties' rights to review and comment on investigative evidence; and
- The effect of making materially false statements in bad faith during this process.

If, during the course of investigation, the District determines that additional allegations will be investigated as part of the pending complaint, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide written notice of the additional allegations to any identified Complainant(s) or Respondent(s).

**Notice of Interviews, Hearings, or Other Meetings.** The Title IX Coordinator shall provide to Complainant and Respondent a written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of any interview, hearing, or meeting with sufficient time for the party to prepare.

### 3. Dismissal

The District shall dismiss any formal complaint made under this Policy if at any time it determines that it lacks jurisdiction under Title IX because the conduct alleged in the formal complaint:

- Would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in Section II of this policy, even if proved,
- Did not occur in the District's education program or activity; or
- Did not occur against a person in the United States.

The District, in its sole discretion, may dismiss any formal complaint under this Policy if at any time:

- The Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations;
- The Respondent is no longer enrolled in or employed by the District; or
- Specific circumstances exist that prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations. Examples include, but are not limited to, a significant passage of time from the date of the allegation(s) in the complaint to the date the complaint is filed that makes investigation impracticable, or where the Complainant has stopped participating in the process.

Dismissal of a complaint from proceeding under this Policy does not preclude the District from offering supportive measures to any party or from proceeding under any other applicable policy, procedure, rule, or handbook provision applicable to students and/or employees of the District.

Upon dismissal of any formal complaint under this section, written notice of this dismissal and the reason(s) therefor will be provided simultaneously to Complainant and Respondent.

#### **4. Investigation**

The Title IX Coordinator shall designate an Investigator to conduct an investigation into any formal complaint. The Investigator must be appropriately trained in conducting Title IX investigations, unbiased, and have no conflict of interest in the present case. The Investigator serves as a neutral fact-finder, and shall interview both parties, relevant witnesses, and gather and review evidence relevant to the outcome of the complaint.

The burden of proof and the burden of gathering sufficient evidence to reach a determination of responsibility rests with the District and not with the parties. Both parties will have an equal opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence (both inculpatory and exculpatory) to the Investigator. Neither party will be restricted in their ability to discuss the allegations or to gather and present relevant evidence; provided, however, that such communications shall not constitute harassment or retaliation against any party otherwise violate applicable law, rule, or regulation.

The Investigator will evaluate all relevant evidence, both inculpatory and exculpatory, and will not make credibility determinations based solely on a person's status as complainant, respondent or witness.

The Investigator will only access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's treatment records made or maintained by a health care provider, or other records protected under a legally recognized privilege, with that party's voluntary, written consent.

Prior to completion of the Investigative Report, the Investigator will provide each party with copies of any evidence obtained by the Investigator that is directly related to the allegations in the complaint. Both parties will have ten (10) calendar days to submit a written response to the

evidence to the Investigator. By accepting receipt of this information, the parties and their representatives, if any, agree that the use or dissemination of evidence for any purpose other than those directly related to the parties' participation in the Title IX grievance process is prohibited and may result in appropriate discipline in accordance with District policy.

## **5. Investigative Report**

After conducting the investigation, the Investigator will complete an investigative report that summarizes all relevant evidence, including statements and interviews with the parties and any witnesses, and any documents, records, photographs, recordings, or other evidence obtained by the investigator.

The investigative report will be distributed simultaneously to both of the parties at least ten (10) calendar days prior to a Determination of Responsibility being made.

## **6. Determination of Responsibility**

The Decision-Maker is responsible for determining whether the conduct alleged in the complaint constitutes a violation of this Policy and any other applicable District policies, procedures, handbook provisions, or rules. The Decision-Maker shall be the building principal (Specific to the incident) or his/her designee. [MVH5] The Decision-Maker shall not be the Title IX Coordinator or Investigator, and must be impartial and unbiased, have no conflict of interest in the particular case, and have training required by Title IX and this policy.

After receipt of the investigative report and prior to reaching a decision, each party shall be permitted to submit to the Decision-Maker relevant questions to be asked of the other party and/or any witnesses, including those challenging the credibility of the party or witness. The Decision-Maker shall review the questions with the party or witness to whom the questions are directed, but shall not ask any questions that are irrelevant or improperly inquire about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or past sexual conduct (other than where the incidents occurred between the Complainant and Respondent and are asked for purposes of demonstrating consent, where applicable). The Decision-Maker will provide a written explanation to the party of why any question was excluded. The Decision-Maker shall provide the responses of the party or witness in writing to both parties. The parties shall be provided with an opportunity for limited additional follow-up questioning.

If any party or witness does not cooperate with responding to these questions, the Decision-Maker will not rely on any statement of that party or witness in reaching a determination of responsibility. The Decision-maker cannot draw an inference about responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to answer questions.

## **7. Standard of Proof and Determination**

The determination of whether or not a violation of this Policy occurred will be made on the preponderance of the evidence, or whether it is more likely than not that the Respondent violated this Policy.

## **8. Sanction**

Sanctions and remedies will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Decision-Maker, where authorized to do so. Where applicable federal or state law, Board policy, contract, handbook provision, or other rule gives authority for issuing of a particular sanction to a different District decision-making body (e.g., school board, IEP team) the Decision-Maker will recommend sanctions to that decision-making body or official, or the Board for further action.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to a written warning, suspension or expulsion of a student, or suspension or termination of an employee's employment with the District. The Decision-Maker may impose or recommend any sanction that it finds to be fair and proportionate to the violation and in accordance with Board Policy.

Remedies may include, but are not limited to, offers of counseling, training, changes or modifications to class or work schedules or assignments, provision of additional supervision, and other actions as deemed appropriate under the circumstances present in the case. The Title IX Coordinator shall be responsible for implementing any proposed remedies. [MVH6]

## **9. Written Determination Regarding Responsibility**

The Decision-Maker will issue a written determination regarding responsibility, which shall be determined by a preponderance of the evidence. The written determination will include:

- Identification of the allegations;
- A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including notifications to the parties, interviews, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held (if applicable);
- Findings of fact;
- Conclusions regarding the application of this Policy and any other relevant District policy, procedure, handbook provision, or rule to the facts;
- A statement of and rationale for the Decision-Maker(s) determination regarding responsibility for each allegation;
- A statement of and rationale for any disciplinary sanctions that will be imposed on Respondent, if applicable;
- A statement of and rationale for any remedies the District will provide to restore or preserve Complainant's access to the District's educational program or activity, if applicable; and
- A statement of the District's appeal policy and procedures.

The Decision-Maker will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously. The written determination shall be final, subject to the parties' right to appeal in Section 10, below.

## **10. Appeals**

Within five (5) calendar days of delivery of the written determination to them, either party may appeal the dismissal of a formal complaint, or the Decision-Maker's written determination and/or any sanction imposed by the Decision-Maker to the Title IX Coordinator [MVH7] or her/his designee. Such appeals will be in writing and will be delivered to The Title IX Coordinator or her/his designee, who will deliver the appeal to the Appeal Decision-Maker (Superintendent). The Appeal Decision-Maker or her/his designee will determine if the written determination will be stayed pending the outcome of the appellate decision. Appeals will be limited to any of the following bases:

- A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the written determination was issued that could affect the outcome of the matter; or
- The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator(s), or Decision-Maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias that affected the outcome of the matter.

The Title IX Coordinator or her/his designee will notify both parties in writing if an appeal is received alleging one of the bases for appeal above. Both parties will be given an opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the written determination. The parties' written statements must be submitted within five (5) calendar days of notice of the appeal.

Except as required to explain the basis of new information, an appeal will be limited to a review of the written record of the investigation, the written determination, and the parties' written statements on appeal.

The Appeal Decision-Maker or her/his designee may affirm, reverse, or modify the written determination and/or sanctions imposed, or may remand to the Investigator or Decision-Maker for further action. A written appeal decision will be issued simultaneously to the parties describing the result of the appeal and the rationale therefor. The written appeal decision of the Appeal Decision-Maker or her/his designee is the final decision of the District, and no further appeals are permitted under this Policy.

### **C. Complainant Does Not Wish to Pursue Resolution or Requests Confidentiality**

If the Complainant does not wish to pursue formal or informal resolution and/or requests that his or her report remain confidential, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will inform the Complainant that the District's ability to respond to the alleged sexual harassment may be limited. The Title IX Coordinator or designee may weigh the Complainant's request against the following factors:

- The seriousness of the alleged sexual misconduct,

- Whether there have been other complainants of sexual misconduct against the same Respondent, and
- The Respondent's right to receive information about the allegations, including the name of the complainant.

The Title IX Coordinator will only initiate a formal complaint under these procedures against the wishes of the Complainant where required by federal or state law, regulation, or rule, or where doing so is not clearly unreasonable based on known circumstances, based on the potential impact to the District community if the allegations were true.

The Title IX Coordinator or designee will inform the Complainant if the District cannot ensure confidentiality. Even if the District cannot take disciplinary action against the Respondent because the Complainant insists on confidentiality or that the complaint not be resolved, the District reserves the authority to implement supportive measures or other appropriate actions to promote a safe learning environment for the complainant and/or the entire District community.

#### **D. Advisors**

Complainants and Respondents have equivalent rights to be accompanied at any stage of the process by an advisor of their choice, who may be a parent or guardian, union representative (where applicable), other support person, or an attorney at the party's sole expense. Advisors may not answer questions on behalf of any party or otherwise participate in any interview or meeting, other than to confer with the party they are supporting/representing.

#### **E. Supportive Measures**

The District may implement supportive measures to preserve or restore the Complainant's access to the District's education program or activity. Supportive measures will be individualized, provided at no cost to the parties, and are non-disciplinary in nature.

Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

- Counseling,
- Extension of deadlines or other course-related adjustments,
- Modifications of work or class schedules,
- Mutual restrictions on contact between the parties,
- Leaves of absence,
- Increased security and monitoring,
- Increased supervision and/or escort services, and/or
- Other similar measures.

The District may temporarily remove a student accused of violation this policy on an emergency basis, following an individualized safety and risk analysis that finds an immediate threat to the physical safety of any individual. Any student so removed will be provided with notice and an opportunity to challenge this action immediately following the removal, and any other rights

conferred by law[MVH8]. Emergency removals must be consistent with other applicable laws. The District, in its sole discretion, may place an employee accused of violating this policy on administrative leave pending the outcome of the informal or formal complaint process.

## VII. RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

There are resources available to individuals regardless of whether or not they choose to report a violation of this Policy to the District or local law enforcement. Any person may obtain information about services and supports offered to students and employees by contacting the District's Title IX Coordinator.

### A. Community Resources[MVH9]

There are resources in the community where an individual may seek support outside of the District. Use of any of these services is solely at the discretion of the individual. The District does not make any representations regarding the effectiveness or appropriateness of any of these resources, and does not assume responsibility, financial or otherwise, for these resources.

### B. External Reporting Resources

A Complainant may choose to file a complaint with the state and federal agencies listed below[MVH10].

#### **Office for Civil Rights (OCR) – Chicago Office**

U.S. Department of  
Education  
Citigroup Center  
500 W. Madison Street,  
Suite 1475  
Chicago, IL 60661  
Phone: (312) 730-1560  
Fax: (312) 730-  
1576 TDD: (877) 521-  
2172  
Email: [OCR.Chicago@ed.  
gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)  
Web: [www.ed.gov/ocr](http://www.ed.gov/ocr)

#### **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)**

Reuss Federal Plaza  
310 W. Wisconsin  
Avenue, Suite 800  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-  
2292  
Phone: (800) 669-4000  
Fax: (414) 297-4133  
TTY: (800) 669-6820  
Web: [www.eeoc.gov/](http://www.eeoc.gov/)

#### **Iowa Civil Rights Commission (ICRC)**

Grimes State Office  
Building  
400 E. 14th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
Toll free: (800) 457-4416  
Phone: (515) 281-4121  
Fax: (515) 242-5840  
TDD: (877) 521-2172  
Web:  
<https://icrc.iowa.gov/>

## VIII. PREVENTION, TRAINING, AND POLICY COMMUNICATION

The District is committed to education, communication, and training of students and employees in order to prevent sexual harassment and to assure an appropriate response when incidents occur. The District will provide information to students and employees on:

- The definitions of sexual harassment;
- District procedures for responding to incidents of sexual harassment; and
- Employee obligation to report any sexual harassment of which the employee becomes aware.

The District will also ensure that individuals who serve as Title IX Coordinators, Title IX Investigators, Decision-Makers, Appeal Decision-Makers, and facilitators of the informal resolution process have adequate training as required by Title IX<sup>[MVH11]</sup>.

## **IX. RECORDKEEPING**

The District will maintain the following records for seven years:

- Each sexual harassment investigation, including determinations, audio or video recordings, disciplinary sanctions, and any remedies provided to the Complainant;
- Any appeal and the result therefrom;
- Any informal resolution; and
- Materials used by the District to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and those who facilitate informal resolution under this Policy.

Additionally, the District will create and maintain for seven years:

- Any actions, including supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment;
- Documentation of the basis for the District's conclusion that its response to any such report or complaint was not deliberately indifferent;
- Documentation that the District has taken measures designed to restore or preserve access to the District's educational program or activity;
- Where no supportive measures are provided to Complainant, documentation of why it was not clearly unreasonable to do so.