

HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE BY STUDENTS

It is the policy of Wakefield School district to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from religious, racial or sexual harassment and violence. The District prohibits any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment and violence. It shall be a violation of this policy for any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel of the School District to harass a pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel through conduct or communication of a sexual nature or regarding religion and race as defined by this policy. (For purposes of this policy, school personnel include school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors or persons subject to the supervision and control of the District.) It shall be a violation of this policy for any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel of the School District to inflict, threaten to inflict, or attempt to inflict religious, racial or sexual violence upon any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel. The School District will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of religious, racial, or sexual harassment or violence, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel who is found to have violated this policy.

Religious, Racial and Sexual Harassment and Violence Defined

1. Sexual Harassment Definition: Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
 - a. Submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining or retaining employment, or of obtaining an education.
 - b. Submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education.
 - c. That conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment.
2. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to:
 - a. Unwelcome verbal or written types of communication of harassment or abuse.
 - b. Unwelcome pressure for sexual activity.
 - c. Unwelcome, sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of pupil(s) by teachers, administrators or other school personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property.
 - d. Unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status.

- e. Unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status.
 - f. Unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of gender.
3. Harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, marital status or disability means conduct of a verbal or physical nature that is designed to embarrass, distress, agitate, disturb or trouble individuals when:

- submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's education or of an individual's participation in school programs or activities;
- submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as the basis for decisions affecting the student; or
- such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance or
- creating an intimidating, offensive or hostile learning or work environment.

Harassment as set forth above may include, but is not limited to the following:

- verbal, physical or written harassment or abuse;
- repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
- implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc.;
- demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at an individual.

4. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression or force or the threat thereof which involves the touching of another's intimate parts, or forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts. Intimate parts include the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks or breast, as well as the clothing covering these areas. Sexual violence may include, but it not limited to:
- a. Touching, patting, grabbing or pinching another person's intimate parts, whether that person is of the same sex or the opposite sex.
 - b. Coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts.
 - c. Coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another.
 - d. Threatening to force or coerce sexual acts, including the touching of intimate parts or intercourse, on another.
5. Racial violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race.
6. Religious violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, religion.
7. Assault is:
- a. An act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death.

- b. The intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another or.
- c. The threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.

Reporting Procedures:

1. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence by a pupil, teachers, administrator or other school personnel of the School District, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence toward a pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate School District official designated by this policy. The School District encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form (FORM R) available from the principal of each building or available from the School District office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to a District Human Rights Officer or to the Superintendent.
2. The building principal is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence at the building level. Any adult School District personnel who receives a report of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence shall inform the building principal immediately.
 3. Upon receipt of a report, the principal must notify the School District Human Rights Officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The principal may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the principal to the Human Rights Officer. If the report was given verbally, the principal shall personally reduce it to a written form within 24 hours and forward it to the Human Rights Officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein will result in disciplinary action against the principals. If the complaint involves the building principals, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the Superintendent of the School District Human Rights Officer by the reporting party or complainant.
 4. The School Board hereby designates the Principal as the School District Human Rights Officer(s) to receive reports of complaints of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence. If the complaint involves a Human Rights Officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the Superintendent.
 - a. The School District shall conspicuously post the name of the Human Rights Officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
 - b. In some School Districts the Superintendent may be the Human Rights Officer. If so, an alternative individual should be designated by the School Board.
5. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.
6. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.
7. The School District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as

possible, consistent with the School District's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

Investigation:

1. By authority of the School District, the Human Rights Officer, upon receipt of a report or complaint alleging religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence, shall immediately undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by School District officials or by a third party designated by the School District.
2. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.
3. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the School District should consider the surrounding circumstance, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances. In addition, the School district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, pupils, teachers, administrators or other school personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence.
4. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The School District Human Rights Officer shall make a written report to the Superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the Superintendent, the report may be filed directly with the School Board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

School District Action

1. Upon receipt of a report, the School District will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. School District action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, state and federal law and School District policies.
2. The result of the School District's investigation of each complaint filed under these procedures will be reported in writing to the complainant by the School District in accordance with state and federal law regarding data or records privacy.

Reprisal

1. The School District will discipline or take appropriate action against any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel who retaliates against any person who reports alleged religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence or

any person who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation, or who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

Right to Alternative Complaint Procedures

1. These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse, which may include filing charges with the State Department of Human Rights, initiating civil action or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

Harassment or Violence as Abuse

1. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under state law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under such statutes may be applicable. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the School District from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence or abuse.

Dissemination of Policy and Training

1. This policy shall be conspicuously posted throughout each school building in areas accessible to pupils and staff members.
2. This policy shall appear in the schools' handbooks.
3. The School District will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.
4. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

Initiations/Hazing

1. The practice of holding initiations into classes, activities, or organizations will not be permitted. Harassment of students, etc., during activities is prohibited as well. Any violation of the policy may be punishable by suspension or expulsion.

Legal References:

- 20 U.S.C. §§ 1221-1234i (1994)
- 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.
- 29 U.S.C. § 794 (1994)
- 42 U.S.C. § 1983
- 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7 (1994).
- 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et. seq. (1994).

Cross References:

- 404.06 Harassment
- 504 Student Rights and Responsibilities
- 505 Student Discipline
- 507 Student Records

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____