

## POLICY 3015

### Title IX Sexual Harassment

#### A. Purpose

1. Box Elder School District is committed to maintaining an educational environment in which all students and employees are treated with respect and dignity. Paramount to that aim is ensuring that students and employees are not subjected to sexual harassment.
2. Sexual harassment is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which provides that “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” 20 U.S.C. §1681(a). Federal regulations found at [34 CFR 106](#) implementing Title IX further outline the requirements placed upon the District

#### B. Scope

1. This policy is intended to protect District students and employees against sexual harassment, whether by students, employees, volunteers, or others under the District’s control. This policy also subjects those who engage in sexual harassment to disciplinary action.
2. Conduct that does not rise to the level of sexual harassment as defined herein but that constitutes inappropriate or offensive sexual behavior is still prohibited and will be investigated and addressed under [Policy 5005 Safe Schools – Student Behavior](#), [Policy 3010 Employee Bullying and Hazing](#), [Policy 3007 Employment – Staff Code of Conduct](#) or [BESD Employee Relations & Corrective Action Handbook](#).
3. Discrimination on the basis of sex in hiring, benefits, programs, or activities as prohibited by Title IX, Title VII, and the Utah Antidiscrimination Act, is investigated and addressed under [Policy 3000 Employment - Nondiscrimination](#).

#### C. Title IX Coordinator

1. The Box Elder School District Civil Rights Coordinator is designated as the Title IX Coordinator for protection against sexual harassment and is authorized to coordinate the District’s efforts to comply with the requirements of Title IX. All sexual harassment issues should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator.
  - a. Name: Keith Mecham, Title IX Coordinator, Box Elder School District

- b. Address: 960 South Main Street, Brigham City, UT 84302
- c. Telephone: (435) 734-4800
- d. Email: [keith.mecham@besd.net](mailto:keith.mecham@besd.net)

#### D. Definitions

1. "Actual Knowledge" means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator or any District official who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the District, or to any District employee.
2. "Complainant" means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
3. "Formal complaint" means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the District investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in an education program or activity of the District. A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by email, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator above. The formal complaint must contain the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint. A parent or guardian may sign and file a formal complaint on behalf of a minor complainant.
4. "Respondent" means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
5. "Sexual harassment" means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:
  - a. A District employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (*quid pro quo*);
  - b. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity;
  - c. Severe: Based on whether the described occurrence or conduct was severe from the perspective of a reasonable person in the complainant's position.
  - d. Pervasive: A single instance of an offensive comment or joke typically does not meet the Title IX standard for sexual harassment requiring investigation, but

- there may be instances where a single unwelcome act may meet that standard. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to, whether there is a pattern of sexual harassment, the number of people involved, and whether the unwelcome sex-based conduct involves widespread dissemination of offensive material.
- e. Objectively Offensive: Based on whether the described occurrence or conduct was offensive from the perspective of a reasonable person in the complainant's position. Notably, the perspective for offensiveness is based on the reasonableness from the complainant's perspective, and the intent of the respondent is irrelevant in the analysis. "Just joking" is not an accepted excuse.
  - f. Effectively Denies Equal Access: This does not require that a complainant be entirely or physically excluded from educational opportunities, but rather that the sexual harassment has so undermined and detracted from the complainant's educational experience that he or she is effectively denied equal access to the school's resources and opportunities. Thus, a student does not need to have dropped out of school, failed a class, had a panic attack, or otherwise reach a "breaking point." Although no concrete injury is required to show a deprivation of equal educational access, examples of the signs of unequal educational access may include, but are not limited to:
    - 1) Bed-wetting due to sexual harassment;
    - 2) An athlete who quits the team but carries on with other school activities following sexual harassment;
    - 3) Skipping class to avoid a harasser;
    - 4) A decline in student's grade point average, or
    - 5) Having difficulty concentrating in class.
  - g. Any instance of
    - 1) Sexual assault as defined by the Title IX regulations, which is the unwelcome touching of a person's private body parts for the purpose of sexual gratification. In determining whether conduct meets this definition, administrators shall consider all the circumstances surrounding the incident, such as the age and maturity of the parties, the duration of the incident, the location and secretive nature of the actions, the intent of the parties, and the effects on the parties
    - 2) 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 the consent of the victim.

- 3) Fondling: The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.
  - 4) Incest: Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
  - 5) Statutory Rape: Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.
  - 6) Dating violence as defined by the Title IX regulations, which is violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the complainant, which may be determined by (1) the length of the relationship, (2) the type of relationship, and (3) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship;
  - 7) Stalking as defined by the Title IX regulations, which is engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.
- h. Quid pro quo harassment under paragraph D.5.a. and offenses involving sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking under subsection D.e.vii.3 are not evaluated for severity, pervasiveness, offensiveness, or denial of equal educational access, because such misconduct is sufficiently serious to deprive a person of equal access.
6. "Supportive measures" Supportive Measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party and should be designed to protect the safety of all parties or the educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.
- a. Supportive Measures will be offered to the Complainant and the Respondent when the District learns of allegations of Sexual Harassment.
  - b. Supportive Measures may not be punitive or disciplinary.
  - c. Supportive Measures may be individualized depending on the circumstances of the Complainant and/or the Respondent.
  - d. Supportive Measures may include:
    - 1) counseling;

- 2) extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments;
  - 3) modifications of work or class schedules;
  - 4) altering work arrangements for employees or student-employees;
  - 5) school safety plan;
  - 6) mutual restrictions on contact between the parties;
  - 7) changes in work locations;
  - 8) leaves of absence;
  - 9) increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the school; and
  - 10) other similar measures.
- e. The District must maintain as confidential any Supportive Measures provided to the Complainant or Respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the District to provide the Supportive Measures.
- f. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of Supportive Measures with the school principal.
- g. All Supportive Measures offered must be documented by the Title IX Coordinator. In the event a Complainant is NOT offered Supportive Measures under the circumstances, reasons for not offering Supportive Measures must be documented.

#### E. Jurisdiction

1. Box Elder School District will address all allegations of sexual harassment occurring at all schools, district programs and activities, en route to school activities in Box Elder School District, and where the District exercised substantial control over both the respondent and in the context in which the reported sexual harassment occurs, and
2. Allegations of Sexual Harassment that originated off-campus but that have a clear nexus to school and which impact a Complainant's ability to effectively access and continue in their educational program may be addressed under this Policy.

- a. This includes allegations of Sexual Harassment through the internet, electronic mobile devices, and/or social media platforms.
- b. If an allegation of Sexual Harassment originating off campus is not addressed under this Policy, it must be addressed under [Policy 5270 Student Rights and Responsibilities Bullying, Cyberbullying, Hazing, and Abusive Conduct](#).

#### F. Complaint Procedures

1. Individuals who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment should immediately notify a teacher, administrator, or the Title IX Coordinator and may file a formal complaint.
2. A report or notice of alleged sexual harassment may be filed by someone other than a complainant, in which case the procedures for a response and supportive measures under Section H will be followed. However, an investigation under Section I is completed only upon receipt of a formal complaint by a complainant or, if a minor, the complainant's parent.
3. A formal complaint must be in writing and must be delivered to the Title IX Coordinator and include the elements described in paragraph D.3. It should also provide the following information if possible:
  - a. Name, home address, email address, and telephone number of the complainant;
  - b. Identification of the complainant as a student, employee or other person participating in or attempting to participate in a District program or activity;
  - c. Date(s) of incident(s) giving rise to the complaint;
  - d. Name(s) of respondent(s);
  - e. Description of the conduct or incident(s) giving rise to the complaint;
  - f. Description of the harm caused by the incident; and
  - g. Description of the remedy sought. Providing a description of the remedy sought does not confer authority on the complainant or the complainant's parent to determine the discipline imposed on the respondent. The imposition of remedies, including any disciplinary action, lies only within the authority and sole discretion of the District and may not be divested to others.

#### G. Employee Responsibility to Report

1. An employee with actual knowledge of sexual harassment or allegation of sexual harassment shall, as soon as is reasonably possible, notify the Title IX Coordinator.
2. Any school employee who observes or otherwise becomes aware of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment against a student or employee shall report the conduct to the Title IX Coordinator whether the student files a complaint or not.

#### H. Initial Response, Supportive Measures, and Emergency Removal

1. The Title IX Coordinator must be notified whenever any employee becomes aware of an allegation of, or conduct that may constitute, sexual harassment. Actual knowledge of such conduct or allegation may be made known through a variety of means, including but not limited to verbal complaints by students or parents, notice from an employee, direct observation, or as facts are disclosed during normal disciplinary proceedings. Any school employee with actual knowledge of sexual harassment shall promptly report directly to the Title IX Coordinator.
2. If a school administrator becomes aware of sexual conduct, the administrator shall conduct an initial assessment to determine whether the conduct might meet the definition of sexual harassment under this policy. If there is evidence that the conduct constitutes sexual harassment, or if a reasonable person would consider the conduct sexual harassment under this policy, the school administrator shall report the conduct to the Title IX Coordinator. For situations involving students, either the Title IX Coordinator or the school administrator shall contact the parents.
3. Upon receipt of actual knowledge of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, explain to the complainant the process for filing and investigating a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant that the parties may have an adult advisor of their choice throughout the investigation of a formal complaint.
4. The Title IX Coordinator should consult with the school administrator and implement supportive measures. In addition, the school administrator may provide, upon receiving an allegation of sexual harassment, appropriate and immediate supportive measures to the complainant even before the Title IX Coordinator contacts the complainant.
5. The District must maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures.

6. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.
7. The Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with the school administrator and applicable director, may conduct an emergency removal of a respondent from the District's education program or activity. To remove a respondent on an emergency basis, the District must undertake an individualized safety and risk analysis and determine that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of a student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies the removal. The respondent must be given notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. An emergency removal may not constitute or be documented as disciplinary action.
8. If the Title IX Coordinator receives a report from a student, parent, school employee, and/or school administrator before receiving a formal complaint, he or she shall interview the complainant and determine whether to sign a formal complaint on behalf of the complainant.
9. The Title IX Coordinator may consolidate formal complaints against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

#### I. Investigation

1. The procedures outlined in this section are detailed and constitute the recommended best practice. Minor omissions and other procedural inconsistencies do not invalidate an otherwise equitable investigation. Investigators must be flexible and adapt to the circumstances of each complaint.
2. Dismissal
  - a. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator determines whether the complaint must or may be dismissed. A dismissal may occur at any point in the investigation.
    - 1) The Title IX Coordinator must dismiss the complaint if any of the following conditions apply:
      - a) The conduct alleged would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in this policy even if proved;
      - b) The conduct alleged did not occur in a District program or activity;



- c) The conduct alleged did not occur against a person in the United States;  
or
  - d) The complainant is not enrolled or employed, or seeking to be enrolled or employed at the District
- 2) The Title IX Coordinator may dismiss the complaint or any of the allegations therein if any of the following conditions apply:
- a) A complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein;
  - b) The respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the District; or
    - i. Specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the allegations contained in the formal complaint.
- 3) Dismissal under this paragraph does not preclude action under another District policy. The District has the flexibility to provide supportive measures in response to allegations of conduct, and to investigate such conduct, that does not involve sexual harassment but is otherwise prohibited under District policy, including bullying, discrimination, harassment, and other sexually inappropriate conduct.
- 4) If dismissed, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly notify both parties in writing of a dismissal decision and shall give both parties equal right to appeal a dismissal decision.
3. Assignment of Investigator
- a. The Title IX Coordinator shall notify the applicable Assistant Superintendents of Secondary or Elementary Education, the Director of Student Services, or any other applicable administrator when opening an investigation and designating an investigator.
  - b. The Title IX Coordinator may conduct the investigation or, in consultation with the applicable director, assign it to a designated investigator who has been trained to conduct sexual harassment investigations. Investigators may include any Assistant Superintendent, Director or Administrator or Independent contractors who has been trained in accordance with this policy:
  - c. The investigator must receive training on the definition of sexual harassment under this policy, the scope of the District's education programs and activities,

- how to conduct an investigation, how to determine relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence, how to write and issue an investigative report, and how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudice of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.
- d. The investigator should begin each investigation by documenting the alleged conduct and creating an investigation file. The investigator completes the checklist as the investigation proceeds.
  - e. The investigator shall refer the matter to law enforcement authorities or the Utah State Division of Child and Family Services, where appropriate or required by law. The investigator must continue to conduct the investigation even if the matter has been referred to another agency. The investigator should coordinate with the other agency and may adjust timelines and procedures accordingly.
4. Investigative Procedures
- a. The District must ensure that investigations include the following steps. If an investigation is reassigned to a new investigator after it has begun, the new investigator shall gather all evidence and information from the previous investigator. The new investigator may, but is not required to, repeat interviews or other investigative procedures conducted by the previous investigator.
  - b. The investigator shall ensure that the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rests on the District and not on the parties. Access to a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in their capacity in connection with the party's treatment can only be obtained through the party's voluntary, written consent (if the party is a minor, consent must be from the parent).
  - c. Notice of Allegations
    - 1) Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide the following written notice to the parties who are known. If, in the course of the investigation, the District decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the initial notice, the Title IX Coordinator must provide notice of the additional allegations, including the details identified in subsection 8.3.2.2, to the parties whose identities are known.
    - 2) Notice of the District's complaint and investigation process, including any informal resolution process available;

- 3) Notice of the allegations of sexual harassment, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the following, if known:
    - a) The identities of the parties involved in the incident;
    - b) the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment under this policy;  
and
    - c) the date and location of the alleged incident;
  - d. A statement that the respondent is presumed innocent until a determination has been made at the conclusion of the investigation;
  - e. A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and that the parties may inspect and review evidence as described below;
  - f. A statement that District policy prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the investigation and that a party found to have done so is subject to disciplinary action;
  - g. The standard of evidence that will be applied; and
  - h. Directives to the respondent not to retaliate.
5. Interviews
- a. The investigator shall provide written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews to a party whose participation is invited or expected, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.
  - b. The investigator shall provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
  - c. Each of the following persons shall be interviewed, and a record made of their conversations.
    - 1) The complainant. The complainant may be accompanied by an adult representative, including legal counsel. The complainant may present evidence supporting the complaint.

- a) In cases of sexual assault or other severe trauma, the investigator should seek assistance from professionals trained in interviewing children. Such professionals may include designated officials from the Children's Justice Center, the Department of Child and Family Services, or some other private or governmental agency.
  - b) The investigator shall comply with the reporting requirements found in [Policy 5090 Child Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention Training and Reporting](#).
- 2) The respondent. The respondent may be accompanied by an adult representative, including legal counsel. The respondent may present evidence refuting the allegations set forth in the complaint. The investigator should gather a signed, written statement from the respondent.
  - 3) Anyone who witnessed the alleged conduct. The investigator should gather a signed witness statement from each witness using the District's Sexual Harassment Witness Statement form.
  - 4) Anyone mentioned as having related information. The investigator should document all conversations related to the alleged incident.
- d. The investigator may have additional conversations with any of the individuals listed in subsection I.5.a. to ensure that all relevant facts have been gathered.
6. Preservation of Evidence
- a. The investigator shall gather and preserve all evidence, including video footage from surveillance cameras, photos, physical evidence, documents, correspondence, and any relevant electronic information such as text messages, videos, and social media postings.
7. Informal mediation may be appropriate in cases of sexual harassment under Title IX according to the following requirements:
- a. Informal mediation can never be offered to resolve complaints alleging that an employee sexually harassed a student;
  - b. Facilitators must be free from conflicts of interest or bias and be trained to serve impartially;
  - c. Informal resolution processes must have reasonably prompt time frames;

- d. The initial written notice of allegations sent to both parties must include information about the informal resolution processes, which may be utilized any time before a final determination regarding responsibility is made; and
- e. Both parties must consent to an informal mediation in writing. Parties retain their right to a formal resolution process, and can withdraw from informal resolution and resume a formal process at any time before agreeing to a resolution.

#### 8. Investigative Report

- a. Prior to completing the investigative report, the investigator shall send to each party and the party's advisor (if applicable) the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least ten (10) calendar days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.
  - b. The investigator shall objectively evaluate all relevant evidence, including the credibility of all statements,
  - c. The investigator shall prepare a written report of the investigation. The report should be completed using the Sexual Harassment Investigative Report Form. The report must fairly summarize relevant evidence, and should include the following:
    - 1) A description of the complaint;
    - 2) A description of the interim supportive measures provided to the complainant and/or the respondent;
    - 3) A detailed description of the investigation, including names and dates of individuals interviewed; receipt of written statements; and evidence considered, including video and audio recordings, correspondence, etc.; and
    - 4) Findings of fact. This section should describe with sufficient detail the events and actions found by the investigator to be true and include both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence considered relevant.
9. The investigator shall provide a copy of the investigative report simultaneously to the parties and notify them that they have ten (10) calendar days to provide a response, including written questions they would like asked of any party or witness. The investigator notifies the parties that their response and questions should be submitted to the applicable decision-maker. The investigator also submits a copy of the investigative report to the Title IX Coordinator and to the decision-maker.

#### J. Decision-Making

1. Decision-Makers

- a. The Assistant Superintendents over Secondary and Elementary Education are designated as decision-makers for Title IX sexual harassment complaints.
- b. The decision-maker cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator.
- c. The decision-maker may not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.
- d. The decision-maker must receive training on the definition of sexual harassment under this policy, the scope of the District's education programs and activities, how to conduct an investigation, how to issue a written determination, and how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.

2. Parties' Response to Investigative Report

- a. Upon receipt of the investigative report, the decision-maker may contact the parties and provide direction for the submission of responses and questions.
- b. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant unless such questions and evidence are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent.
- c. The decision-maker must explain to a party proposing a question any decision to exclude the question as not relevant.
- d. Upon receipt of relevant questions from a party, the decision-maker submits the questions to the witness or party to whom they are directed and establishes a timeframe in which the questions must be answered. Upon receipt of the answers, the decision-maker provides them to the parties who proposed the questions.
- e. At the decision-maker's discretion, the decision-maker may permit limited follow-up questions from the parties.

3. Decision-Making Process

- a. The decision-maker must issue a written determination as to whether the respondent committed sexual harassment.
- b. The decision-maker objectively evaluates all relevant evidence gathered and presented during the investigation, as found in the investigative report, along with the answers to any written questions and follow-up questions to parties and witnesses as a response to the investigative report. The decision-maker evaluates the evidence, judging credibility based on factors of plausibility and consistency in party and witness statements, and then reaches a determination regarding responsibility.
- c. The decision-maker may consult with the investigator, District Legal Counsel, and other administrators as applicable in making a determination, except for the Superintendent and his/her designee to whom an appeal would be directed.
- d. The decision-maker shall base the determination on the preponderance of the evidence standard. The District shall apply the same standard to all formal complaints of sexual harassment, whether the complaint involves a student or employee.
- e. The Written Determination must include:
  - 1) Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in this policy;
  - 2) A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, and methods used to gather other evidence;
  - 3) Findings of fact supporting the determination;
  - 4) Conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct to the facts;
  - 5) A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity will be provided by the District to the complainant; and
  - 6) The District's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

- f. If the respondent is a student and found to have committed sexual harassment, the decision-maker shall ensure that the behavior and resulting disciplinary action is documented in the Student Information System.
- g. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies under a decision regarding sexual harassment.

#### 4. Issuance of Written Determination

- a. At the conclusion of the decision-making process, the decision-maker shall provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously.
- b. The decision-maker also provides a copy of the written determination to the Title IX Coordinator.

### K. Appeals

#### 1. Appeal of Decision

- a. Investigative procedures conducted under this policy may be appealed by both complainants and respondents. The purpose of an appeal under this section is to determine whether the investigative procedures outlined in this policy were followed. An appeal may also be filed to introduce new evidence not available during the investigation, or if a party believes there was a conflict of interest of the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision-maker. If an appeal does not introduce new evidence or allege a conflict of interest or violation of the investigative procedures of this policy, it will be denied. Disagreement with the outcome of an investigation or with an investigator's interpretation or findings of the facts is not grounds for an appeal under this policy.
- b. A party may appeal by giving written notice to the Superintendent within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date the written determination is issued. Failure to submit written notice of appeal to the Superintendent within fifteen (15) calendar days constitutes forfeiture of any right to appeal. The Superintendent or his/her designee will hear the appeal and issue a written decision as to whether the investigative procedures of this policy were followed, whether there was a conflict of interest, or whether new evidence would change the outcome of the investigation. The decision of the Superintendent or his/her designee is final.

### L. Confidentiality

- 1. It is District policy to respect, as far as possible, the privacy and anonymity of all parties and witnesses to complaints brought under this policy. However, because an individual's right to confidentiality must be balanced with the District's obligations to cooperate with law enforcement, government agency investigations, or legal



proceedings, or to investigate and take necessary action to resolve a complaint, including by allowing each party the chance to provide information to the investigator, information about the complaint may be disclosed in appropriate circumstances, and for other good reasons that apply to the particular situation. The investigator also may discuss the complaint with one or more of the following persons:

- a. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent over Personnel, Assistant Superintendent over Secondary or Elementary Teaching and Learning, Director of Student Services, Director of Special Education / Federal Programs, Director of Facilities, District Legal Counsel, or other applicable school or District administrators;
  - b. The parent/legal guardian of a student complainant;
  - c. The parent/legal guardian of a student respondent;
  - d. A teacher or staff member whose knowledge of the students involved may help in determining who is telling the truth.
  - e. Utah State Division of Child and Family Services for purposes of investigating child abuse reports; and
  - f. Law enforcement agencies where the investigator has reasonable suspicion that the alleged conduct involves criminal activity.
2. Where a complaint involves allegations of child abuse, the complaint shall be immediately reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities or the Utah State Division of Child and Family Services. The anonymity of both the complainant and school officials involved in the investigation will be strictly protected as required by [Utah Code § 62A-4a-412](#).

#### M. Retaliation Prohibited

1. Retaliation against any person who has filed a complaint, or has testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy is prohibited, and therefore, subject to disciplinary action. Retaliation may include, but is not limited to, continued harassment, threats, taunting, spreading rumors, unauthorized disclosure of the details of an investigation, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, or other negative conduct toward participants in response to an investigation and the events causing it. Anyone found to have engaged in retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action. Participants in an investigation, including victims, respondents, and witnesses, must report to the investigator any conduct that might reasonably constitute retaliation.

#### N. Discipline and Remedial Action

1. Any student who engages in sexual harassment of anyone at school or at any school-related activity or event is in violation of this policy and shall be subject to disciplinary action consistent with [Policy 5275](#). Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, suspension, expulsion, exclusion or loss of extracurricular activities, probation, or alternate educational placement. In imposing such discipline, all facts and circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account.
2. Any employee who engages in sexual harassment of any student at school or at a school-related activity or event is in violation of this policy and shall be subject to disciplinary action consistent with [Policy 3007](#) and [BESD Employee Relations and Corrective Action Handbook](#). Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, warnings, reprimands, probation, disciplinary transfer, suspension, reduction in pay or hours, or termination. In imposing such discipline, all facts and circumstances of the incidents(s) shall be taken into account.
3. If the investigator has reasonable suspicion that the harassment involves sexual assault, rape, or any other activity of a criminal nature, the District shall notify appropriate law enforcement authorities and immediately initiate proceedings to remove the accused party from the situation.
4. If an investigation finds evidence of sexual harassment, the District shall implement remedial action necessary to eliminate its effects upon the victim and the school environment. Remedial action may include changes to school or District programs, offerings, facilities, rules, policies, or practices.

#### O. False Complaints

1. Intentionally false, malicious, or frivolous complaints of sexual harassment shall result in corrective or disciplinary action taken against the complainant.

#### P. Record Keeping

1. The Title IX Coordinator shall maintain a confidential record separate from the individual's educational or personnel file that includes the complaint, response, witness statements, evidence, investigative report, written determination, any appeal and the result therefrom, and any informal resolution and the result therefrom for the later of seven years or two years after a student complainant or student respondent has graduated.
2. All student discipline issued for violations of this policy shall be documented by the Decision Maker on the District's Student Information System ("SIS"). Consistent with the U.S. Department of Education Civil Rights Data Collection, the documentation

must indicate that sexual harassment served as the basis for which the student was disciplined.

3. All complaints made under this policy involving a student must be documented by an administrator on the District's Student Information System ("SIS"). Complaints must be documented even if the investigation results in a finding that this policy was not violated. Consistent with the U.S. Department of Education Civil Rights Data Collection, the documentation must indicate that the violation constituted sexual harassment.
4. All complaints and allegations of sexual harassment shall be kept confidential except as necessary to carry out the investigation, per Section M of this policy, or take other subsequent necessary action.
5. Records of complaints and investigations shall be retained in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

#### Q. Training

1. Box Elder School District recognizes the importance of educating its employees and students regarding the prevention of sexual harassment and the observance of high ethical standards. To these ends, the District will provide ongoing training and education in this area. Notice of this policy will be distributed, and training will be conducted for employees and students of the District.

#### R. Dissemination of Policy

1. This policy may be posted on the District's website and published in student registration materials, student and employee handbooks, parent information guides, and other appropriate school publications as directed by the District. The following nondiscrimination notice shall be disseminated.