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## AP 3430 Prohibition of Harassment

Procedures for handling complaints of unlawful discrimination under title 5 sections 59300 ET SEQ.

*(Replaces current SBCCD AP 3430)*

### Introduction and Scope

The District is committed to providing an academic and work environment free of unlawful discrimination and harassment. This procedure defines discrimination and other forms of harassment on campus, and sets forth a procedure for the investigation and resolution of complaints of discrimination by or against any staff or faculty member within the District.

This procedure and the related policy protects students and employees in connection with all the academic, educational, extracurricular, athletic, and other programs of the District, whether those programs take place in the District's facilities, a District bus, or at a class or training program sponsored by the District at another location.

These are procedures for filing and processing complaints of unlawful discrimination at San Bernardino Community College District. These procedures incorporate the legal principles contained in nondiscrimination provisions of the California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 59300 et seq. as well as other state and federal substantive and procedural requirements.

A copy of relevant procedures on unlawful discrimination will be displayed in a prominent location in the Office of Human Resources, San Bernardino Valley College President's Office, Crafton Hills College President's Office and other areas where notices regarding the institution's rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.; Ed. Code, §§ 66270, 66271.1, 66281.5; Gov. Code, §§ 11135-11139.5; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59326. Reference: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59300 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. § 106.8(b).

The San Bernardino Community College District hereby implements the provisions of California Government Code sections 11135 through 11139.5, the Sex Equity in Education Act (Ed. Code, § 66250 et seq.), title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d), Board Approved February 2010

U.S.C. § 794), section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794d), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §§ 12100 et seq.) and the Age Discrimination Act (42 U.S.C. § 6101).

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59300; Ed. Code §§ 66250 et seq., 66271.1, 66700, and 70901; Gov. Code § 11138. Reference: Ed. Code §§ 66250 et seq. and 72011; Gov. Code, §§ 11135-11139.5; Penal Code §§ 422.6 and 422.55; 20 U.S.C. § 1681; 29 U.S.C. §§ 794 and 794d; 42 U.S.C. §§ 6101, 12100 et seq. and

## Responsible District Officer

The San Bernardino Community College District has identified the Vice Chancellor Human Resources and Police Services to the State Chancellor's Office and to the public as the single District officer responsible for receiving unlawful discrimination complaints filed pursuant to title 5, section 59328, and for coordinating their investigation and resolution. Informal charges of unlawful discrimination should be brought to the attention of the Vice Chancellor Human Resources and Police Services, who shall oversee the informal resolution process pursuant to section 59327. The actual investigation of complaints may be assigned to other staff or to outside persons or organizations under contract with the District. Such delegation procedures will be used whenever the Vice Chancellor is named in the complaint or is implicated by the allegations in the complaint.

Administrators, faculty members, other District employees, and students shall direct all complaints of unlawful discrimination to the Vice Chancellor Human Resources and Police Services.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59324; 34 C.F.R. § 106.8.

## Informal/Formal Complaint Procedure

(see Complaint Procedure Checklist at the end of the procedure)

When a person brings charges of unlawful discrimination to the attention of the Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and Police Services, he/she will:

- Undertake efforts to informally resolve the charges;
- Advise the complainant that he or she need not participate in informal resolution;
- Notify the person bringing the charges of his or her right to file a formal complaint and explain the procedure for doing so;
- Assure the complainant that he or she will not be required to confront, or work out problems with, the person accused of unlawful discrimination;
- Advise the complainant that he or she may file a nonemployment-based complaint with the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education (OCR) where such a complaint is within that agency's jurisdiction.
- If the complaint is employment-related, the complainant should also be advised that he or she may file a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and/or the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) where such a complaint is within that agency's jurisdiction.

Efforts at informal resolution need not include any investigation unless the responsible District officer determines that an investigation is warranted by the seriousness of the charges. Selecting an informal resolution does not extend the time limitations for filing a formal complaint. Efforts at informal resolution may continue after the filing of a formal written complaint, but after a complaint is filed an investigation is required to be conducted pursuant to title 5, section 59334, and will be completed unless the matter is informally resolved and the complainant dismisses the complaint. Even if the complainant does dismiss the complaint, the responsible district officer may require the investigation to continue if he or she determines that the allegations are serious enough to warrant an investigation. Any efforts at informal resolution after the filing of a written complaint will not exceed the 90-day period for rendering the administrative determination pursuant to title 5, section 59336.

In employment-related cases, if the complainant also files with the Department of Fair Employment and

Housing or with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a copy of that filing will be sent to the State Chancellor's Office requesting a determination of whether a further investigation under title 5 is required. Unless the State Chancellor's Office determines that a separate investigation is required, the District will discontinue its investigation under title 5 and the matter will be resolved through the Department of Fair Employment and Housing or the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The District will allow for representation where required by law and may allow for representation for the accused and complainant in other circumstances on a case by case basis.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59327, 59328, 59334, 59336, and 59339; NLRB v. Weingarten, Inc. (1975) 420 U.S. 251.

## Filing of Formal Written Complaint

If a complainant decides to file a formal written unlawful discrimination complaint against the District, he or she must file the complaint on a form prescribed by the State Chancellor. These approved forms are available from the District and also at the State Chancellor's website, as follows:

<http://www.cccco.edu/SystemOffice/Divisions/Legal/Discrimination/tabid/294/Default.aspx>

The completed form must be filed with the District representative or mailed directly to the State Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges. Complainants may contact the Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and Police Services for assistance in filling out the form, if necessary.

Once a complaint is filed, the individual(s) accused of engaging in prohibited discriminatory conduct shall be advised of that filing and the general nature of the complaint. This should occur as soon as possible and in a manner that is appropriate under the circumstances. The District will also advise the accused that an assessment of the accuracy of the allegations has not yet been made, that the complaint will be investigated, that the accused will be provided an opportunity to present his/her side of the matter, and that any conduct that could be viewed as retaliatory against the complainant or any witnesses must be avoided.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59311 and 59328.

## Threshold Requirements Prior to Investigation of a Formal Written Complaint

When a formal written complaint is filed it will be reviewed to determine if the complaint meets the following requirements:

- The complaint must be filed on a form prescribed by the State Chancellor's Office.
- The complaint must allege unlawful discrimination prohibited under title 5, section 59300.
- The complaint must be filed by one who alleges that he or she has personally suffered unlawful discrimination or by one who has learned of such unlawful discrimination in his or her official capacity as a faculty member or administrator.
- In any complaint alleging discrimination in employment, the complaint shall be filed within 180 days of the date the alleged unlawful discrimination occurred, except that this period will be extended by no more than 90 days following the expiration of that 180 days if the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged violation after the expiration of 180 days.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59328.

## Defective Complaint

If a complaint is found to be defective it will be immediately returned to the complainant with a complete explanation of why an investigation will not be initiated under California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 59300 et seq. The notice will inform the complainant that the complaint does not meet the requirements of section 59328, and shall specify in what requirement the complaint is defective. A copy of the notice to the complainant will also be sent to the State Chancellor's Office.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59328, 59332.

## Notice to State Chancellor or District

A copy of all formal complaints filed in accordance with the title 5 regulations will be forwarded to the State Chancellor's Office immediately upon receipt, regardless of whether the complaint is brought by a student or by an employee. Similarly, when the State Chancellor's Office receives a complaint a copy will be forwarded to the District.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59330.

## Administrative Determination

In any case not involving employment discrimination, within 90 days of receiving an unlawful discrimination complaint filed under title 5, sections 59300 et seq., the responsible District officer will complete the investigation and forward a copy of the investigative report to the State Chancellor, a copy or summary of the report to the complainant, and written notice setting forth all the following to both the complainant and the State Chancellor:

- the determination of the chief executive officer or his/her designee as to whether there is probable cause to believe discrimination occurred with respect to each allegation in the complaint;
- a description of actions taken, if any, to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future;
- the proposed resolution of the complaint; and
- the complainant's right to appeal to the District governing board and to file a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

The District will keep these documents on file for a period of at least three years after closing the case, and make them available to the State Chancellor upon request.

The San Bernardino Community College District recognizes the importance of and is therefore committed to completing investigations and resolving complaints as quickly as possible, consistent with the requirements for a thorough investigation.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59336.

## Complainant's Appeal Rights

Complainants have appeal rights that they may exercise if they are not satisfied with the results of the District's administrative determination. At the time the administrative determination and summary is mailed to the complainant, the responsible District officer or his/her designee shall notify the complainant of his or her appeal rights as follows:

- First level of appeal: The complainant has the right to file an appeal to the District's governing board within 15 days from the date of the administrative determination. The District's governing board will review

the original complaint, the investigative report, the administrative determination, and the appeal.

- The District's governing board will issue a final District decision in the matter within 45 days after receiving the appeal. Alternatively, the District's governing board may elect to take no action within 45 days, in which case the original decision in the administrative determination will be deemed to be affirmed and shall become the final District decision in the matter. A copy of the final decision rendered by the District's governing board will be forwarded to the complainant and to the State Chancellor's Office.

Complainants must submit all appeals in writing.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59338 and 59339.

## Extensions

If for reasons beyond its control, the District is unable to comply with the 90-day or 150-day deadlines specified above for submission of materials to the complainant and the State Chancellor's Office, the Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and Police Services will file a written request that the State Chancellor grant an extension of the deadline. Where an extension is deemed necessary by the District, it must be requested from the State Chancellor regardless of whether the case involves employment discrimination. The request will be submitted no later than 10 days prior to the expiration of the deadlines established by title 5 in sections 59336 and/or 59340 and will set forth the reasons for the request and the date by which the District expects to be able to submit the required materials.

A copy of the request for an extension will be sent to the complainant, who will be advised that he or she may file written objections with the State Chancellor within 5 days of receipt. The State Chancellor may grant the request unless delay would be prejudicial to the investigation. If an extension of the 90-day deadline is granted by the State Chancellor the 150-day deadline is automatically extended by an equal amount.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59342.

## Definitions

Definitions applicable to nondiscrimination policies are as follows:

**Appeal** means a request by a complainant made in writing to the San Bernardino Community College District governing board pursuant to title 5, section 59338, and/or to the State Chancellor's Office pursuant to title 5, section 59339, to review the administrative determination of the District regarding a complaint of discrimination.

**Association with a person or group with these actual or perceived characteristics** includes advocacy for or identification with people who have one or more characteristics of a protected category listed under "Unlawful Discrimination Policy" and title 5, section 59300, participation in a group associated with persons having such characteristics, or use of a facility associated with use by such persons.

**Complaint** means a written and signed statement meeting the requirements of title 5, section 59328 that alleges unlawful discrimination in violation of the nondiscrimination regulations adopted by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as set forth at title 5, sections 59300 et seq.

**Days** means calendar days.

**District** means the San Bernardino Community College District or any District program or activity that is funded directly by the state or receives financial assistance from the state. This includes the District Personnel Commission and any other organization associated with the District or its college(s) that receives state funding or financial assistance through the District.

Gender means sex, and includes a person's gender identity and gender related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth.

General Harassment is based on race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation of any person, military and veteran status, or the perception that a person has one or more of these characteristics is illegal and violates District policy. Harassment is found where a reasonable person with the same characteristics as the victim of the harassing conduct would be adversely affected to a degree that interferes with his or her ability to participate in or to realize the intended benefits of an institutional activity, employment, or resource.

Sexually harassing conduct can occur between people of the same or different genders. The standard for determining whether conduct constitutes sexual harassment is whether a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim would perceive the conduct as harassment based on sex.

Gender-based harassment does not necessarily involve conduct that is sexual. Any hostile or offensive conduct based on gender can constitute prohibited harassment if it meets the definition above. For example, repeated derisive comments about a person's competency to do the job, when based on that person's gender, could constitute gender-based harassment. Harassment comes in many forms, including but not limited to the following conduct that could, depending on the circumstances, meet the definition above, or could contribute to a set of circumstances that meets the definition:

**Verbal:** Inappropriate or offensive remarks, slurs, jokes or innuendoes based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, or other protected status. This may include, but is not limited to, inappropriate comments regarding an individual's body, physical appearance, attire, sexual prowess, marital status, or sexual orientation; unwelcome flirting or propositions, demands for sexual favors, verbal abuse, threats or intimidation; or sexist, patronizing or ridiculing statements that convey derogatory attitudes based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation or other protected status.

**Physical:** Inappropriate or offensive touching, assault, or physical interference with free movement. This may include, but is not limited to kissing, patting, lingering or intimate touches, grabbing, pinching, leering, staring, unnecessarily brushing against or blocking another person, whistling or sexual gestures. It also includes any physical assault or intimidation directed at an individual due to that person's gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation or other protected status. Physical sexual harassment includes acts of sexual violence, such as rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion. Sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol. An individual also may be unable to give consent due to an intellectual or other disability.

**Visual or Written:** The display or circulation of visual or written material that degrades an individual or group based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation, or other protected status. This may include, but is not limited to, posters, cartoons, drawings, graffiti, reading materials, computer graphics, or electronic media transmissions.

**Environmental:** A hostile academic or work environment may exist where it is permeated by sexual innuendo; insults or abusive comments directed at an individual or group based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation, or other protected status; or gratuitous comments regarding gender, race, sexual orientation, or other protected status that are not relevant to the subject matter of the class or activities on the job. A hostile environment can arise from an unwarranted focus on sexual topics or sexually suggestive statements in the classroom or work environment. It can also be created by an

unwarranted focus on, or stereotyping of, particular racial or ethnic groups, sexual orientations, genders or other protected statuses. An environment may also be hostile toward anyone who merely witnesses unlawful harassment in his/her immediate surroundings, although the conduct is directed at other(s). The determination of whether an environment is hostile is based on the totality of the circumstances, including such factors as the frequency of the conduct, the severity of the conduct, whether the conduct is humiliating or physically threatening, and whether the conduct unreasonably interferes with an individual's learning or work.

Mental disability includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- Having any mental or psychological disorder or condition, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, or specific learning disabilities, that limits a major life activity. For purposes of this section:
  - Limits shall be determined without regard to mitigating measures, such as medications, assistive devices, or reasonable accommodations, unless the mitigating measure itself limits a major life activity.
  - A mental or psychological disorder or condition limits a major life activity if it makes the achievement of the major life activity difficult.
  - Major life activities shall be broadly construed and shall include physical, mental, and social activities and working.
- Any other mental or psychological disorder or condition not described in paragraph (1) that requires specialized supportive services.
- Having a record or history of a mental or psychological disorder or condition described in paragraph (1) or (2), which is known to the District.
- Being regarded or treated by the District as having, or having had, any mental condition that makes achievement of a major life activity difficult.
- Being regarded or treated by the District as having, or having had, a mental or psychological disorder or condition that has no present disabling effect, but that may become a mental disability as described in paragraph 1 or 2.

Mental disability does not include sexual behavior disorders, compulsive gambling, kleptomania, pyromania, or psychoactive substance use disorders resulting from the current unlawful use of controlled substances or other drugs.

Physical disability includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- Having any physiological disease, disorder, condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss that does both of the following:
  - Affects one or more of the following body systems: neurological, immunological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory, including speech organs, cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin, and endocrine.
  - Limits a major life activity. For purposes of this section:
    - Limits shall be determined without regard to mitigating measures such as medications, assistive devices, prosthetics, or reasonable accommodations, unless the mitigating measure itself limits a major life activity.
    - A physiological disease, disorder, condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss limits a major life activity if it makes the achievement of the major life activity difficult.
    - Major life activities shall be broadly construed and include physical, mental, and social activities and working.

- Any other health impairment not described in paragraph (1) that requires specialized supportive services.
- Having a record or history of a disease, disorder, condition, cosmetic disfigurement, anatomical loss, or health impairment described in paragraph (1) or (2), which is known to the District.
- Being regarded or treated by the District as having, or having had, any physical condition that makes achievement of a major life activity difficult.
- Being regarded or treated by the District as having, or having had, a disease, disorder, condition, cosmetic disfigurement, anatomical loss, or health impairment that has no present disabling effect but may become a physical disability as described in paragraph 1 or 2.

Physical disability does not include sexual behavior disorders, compulsive gambling, kleptomania, pyromania, or psychoactive substance use disorders resulting from the current unlawful use of controlled substances or other drugs.

Quid Pro Quo sexual harassment occurs when a person in a position of authority makes educational or employment benefits conditional upon an individual's willingness to engage in or tolerate unwanted sexual conduct.

Responsible District Officer means the officer identified by the District to the State Chancellor's Office as the person responsible for receiving complaints filed pursuant to title 5, section 59328, and coordinating their investigation. The Responsible District Officer for San Bernardino Community College District is the Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and Police Services.

Sex includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, or medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth. 'Sex' also includes, but is not limited to, a person's gender, as defined in section 422.56 of the Penal Code. Discrimination on the basis of sex or gender also includes sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is unlawful discrimination in the form of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone for or in the workplace or in the educational setting, and includes but is not limited to:

- Making unsolicited written, verbal, physical, and/or visual contacts with sexual overtones. (Examples of possible sexual harassment that appear in a written form include, but are not limited to: suggestive or obscene letters, notes, and/or invitations. Examples of possible visual sexual harassment include, but are not limited to: leering, gestures, display of sexually aggressive objects or pictures, cartoons, or posters.)
- Continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome.
- Making reprisals, threats of reprisal, or implied threats of reprisal following a rebuff of harassing behavior. The following are examples of conduct in an academic environment that might be found to be sexual harassment: threatening to withhold, or actually withholding, grades earned or deserved; suggesting a poor performance evaluation will be prepared; or suggesting a scholarship recommendation or college application will be denied.
- Engaging in explicit or implicit coercive sexual behavior within the work environment which is used to control, influence, or affect the employee's career, salary, and/or work environment.
- Engaging in explicit or implicit coercive sexual behavior within the educational environment that is used to control, influence, or affect the educational opportunities, grades, and/or learning environment of a student.
- Offering favors or educational or employment benefits, such as grades or promotions, favorable performance evaluations, favorable assignments, favorable duties or shifts, recommendations, reclassification, etc., in exchange for sexual favors.
- Awarding educational or employment benefits, such as grades or duties or shifts, recommendations, reclassification, etc., to any student or employee with whom the decision maker has a sexual relationship

and denying such benefits to other students or employees.

- Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone from, or in, the work or educational setting when:
  - Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic status, or progress.
  - Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as a basis of employment or academic decision affecting the individual.
  - The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work or educational environment.
  - Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decisions affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the community college.

Sexual orientation means heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.

Unlawful discrimination means discrimination based on a category protected under Title 5, section 59300, including retaliation and sexual harassment.

Authority: Gov. Code, § 12926; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59300, 59311; Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties, Title IX, Office for Civil Rights, January 19, 2001.

## Consensual Relationships

Romantic or sexual relationships between supervisors and employees, or between administrators, faculty, or staff members and students are discouraged. There is an inherent imbalance of power and potential for exploitation in such relationships. A conflict of interest may arise if the administrator, faculty or staff member must evaluate the student's or employee's work or make decisions affecting the employee or student. The relationship may create an appearance of impropriety and lead to charges of favoritism by other students or employees. A consensual sexual relationship may change, with the result that sexual conduct that was once welcome becomes unwelcome and harassing. In the event that such relationships do occur, the District has the authority to transfer any involved employee to eliminate or attenuate the supervisory authority of one over the other, or of a teacher over a student. Such action by the District is a proactive and preventive measure to avoid possible charges of harassment and does not constitute discipline against any affected employee.

## Confidentiality of the Process

Investigative processes can best be conducted within a confidential climate. Therefore, the District does not reveal information about such matters except as necessary to fulfill its legal obligations.

Potential complainants are sometimes reluctant to pursue a complaint if their names will be revealed. The inability to reveal the name of a complainant or facts that are likely to reveal the identity of the complainant can severely limit the ability of the District to respond. Complainants must also recognize that persons who are accused of wrongdoing have a right to present their side of the matter, and this right may be jeopardized if the District is prohibited from revealing the name of the complainant or facts that are likely to disclose the identity of the complainant.

If a complainant insists that his or her name not be revealed, the responsible officer should take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint consistent with the complainant's request as long as doing so does not jeopardize the rights of other students or employees.

It is also important that complainants and witnesses understand the possibility that they may be charged with allegations of defamation if they circulate the charges outside of the District's process. In general, persons who are participating in a District investigative or disciplinary process that is related to a charge of discrimination are protected from tort claims such as defamation. However, persons who make allegations outside of these processes or who discuss their claims with persons outside of the process may expose themselves to tort charges. Complainants, witnesses, and those accused of discrimination will all be asked to sign a confidentiality acknowledgement statement.

Where an investigation reveals the need for disciplinary action, the complainant may wish to have information about what disciplinary actions the District took. However, the privacy rights of the persons involved often prevent the District from providing such information. In student disciplinary actions for sexual assault/physical abuse charges, Education Code section 76234 provides that the victim shall be informed of the disciplinary action, but that the victim must keep the information confidential. Disciplinary actions taken against employees are generally considered confidential.

Authority: Cal. Const. Art. I, § 1; Civil Code § 47; Ed. Code, §§ 76234 and 87740; *Silberg v. Anderson* (1990) 50 Cal.3d. 205; Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties, Title IX, Office for Civil Rights, January 19, 2001.

## **Notice, Training, and Education for Students and Employees**

The San Bernardino Community College District's Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and Police Services shall make arrangements for or provide training to employees and students on the District's unlawful discrimination policy and procedures. Faculty members, members of the administrative staff, and members of the support staff will be provided with notice of online access to the District's written procedure on unlawful discrimination at the beginning of the first semester of the college year each time the procedure is revised.

All District employees will receive this training and a copy of the unlawful discrimination policies and procedures during the first year of their employment. Because of their special responsibilities under the law, supervisors will undergo mandatory training within six months of assuming a supervisory position and annually thereafter. In years in which a substantive policy or procedural change has occurred all District employees will attend a training update and/or receive a copy of the revised policies and procedures.

Authority: Ed. Code, § 66281.5; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59324 and 59326. Reference: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59300 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. § 106.8(b).

## **Academic Freedom**

The San Bernardino Community College District Governing Board reaffirms its commitment to academic freedom, but recognizes that academic freedom does not allow any form of unlawful discrimination. It is recognized that an essential function of education is a probing of opinions and an exploration of ideas that may cause some students discomfort. It is further recognized that academic freedom ensures the faculty's right to teach and the student's right to learn. Finally, nothing in these policies and procedures shall be interpreted to prohibit bona fide academic requirements for a specific community college program, course or activity.

When investigating unlawful discrimination complaints containing issues of academic freedom San Bernardino Community College District will consult with a faculty member appointed by the Academic Senate with respect to contemporary practices and standards for course content and delivery.

No provision of this Administrative Procedure shall be interpreted to prohibit conduct that is legitimately related to the course content, teaching methods, scholarship, or public commentary of an individual faculty member or the educational, political, artistic, or literary expression of students in classrooms and public forums. Freedom of speech and academic freedom are, however, not limitless and this procedure will not protect speech or expressive conduct that violates federal or California anti-discrimination laws.

Reference: Cohen v. San Bernardino Valley College (1995) 883 F.Supp. 1407, 1412-1414, affd. in part and revd. in part on other grounds, (1996) 92 F.3d 968; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59302.

## Record Retention

Unlawful discrimination records that are part of an employee's employment records may be classified as Class-1 Permanent records and retained indefinitely or microfilmed in accordance with title 5, California Code of Regulations, section 59022. Unlawful discrimination records of a student that are deemed worthy of preservation but not classified as Class-1 Permanent may be classified as Class-2 Optional records or as Class-3 Disposable records. Class-2 Optional records shall be retained until reclassified as Class-3 Disposable Records. Class-3 Disposable Records shall be retained for a period of three years after being classified as Class-3 Disposable records.

Records related to a student discrimination complaint will be deemed worthy of preservation if, at the end of three years after the case is closed, a complaint on similar grounds has been filed against the same employee. In such cases, the records shall continue to be classified as Class 2 records and shall not be reclassified as Class-3 Disposable Records until complaints against that particular employee have been resolved.

## Retaliation

It is unlawful for anyone to retaliate against someone who files an unlawful discrimination complaint, who refers a matter for investigation or complaint, who participates in an investigation of a complaint, who represents or serves as an advocate for an alleged victim or alleged offender, or who otherwise furthers the principles of this unlawful discrimination procedure.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. Sections 1681 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. Section 106; Cal. Code Regs., titl 5, Sections 59300 et Seq.;

## Complaint Procedure Checklist

- Complaint received by Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and Police Services
  - Acting in role of Equal Opportunity Officer
  - Within 180 days of occurrence
  - Extension of 90 days if knowledge attained after 180 days
- Acknowledgement of receipt in writing to complainant and State Chancellor's Office (SCO)
  - Within 10 days of complaint receipt
  - Designate resolution/investigation coordinator
  - Advise of formal complaint filing with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH).
- Advise individual accused
  - General nature of complaint
  - Assessment of accuracy has not yet been made
  - An investigation will be conducted
  - Accused will be provided an opportunity to present his/her side of the matter

- Retaliation of complainant or witnesses must be avoided
- District schedules informal resolution efforts or impartial investigation
  - Complete within 90 days of complaint receipt (extensions may be requested from SCO)
    - Extension requests must
      - Be filed at least 10 days prior to the original 90-day deadline
      - State reason why extension is necessary
      - The date by which District expects a determination
      - Corresponding copy sent to complainant
      - Notice to complainant of right to send objection to SCO within 5 days
  - Factual description of the matter
  - Summary of testimony provided by each witness
  - Analysis of data or evidence collected
  - Probable cause determination for each allegation in the complaint
  - Other appropriate information
- If a formal complaint is filed with EEOC or DFEH, send complaint copy to SCO and request whether to continue with District formal investigation
- Investigative report and administrative determination letter forwarded to complainant and SCO
  - Within 90 days of complaint receipt
  - Pertinent information in letter
    - Ultimate determination on probable cause
    - Description of actions taken to prevent similar future allegations
    - Proposed resolution
    - Complainant's appeal DFEH rights
- Complainant may file appeal to governing board
  - Within 15 days from date of administrative determination
  - Board issues final district decision within 45 days of receiving appeal
    - Forwarded to complainant with DFEH appeal rights
- Governing board determination is final
  - No appeal rights to SCO

## References:

Education Code Sections 212.5; 44100; 66281.5;

Government Code Sections 12940 and 12923;

Civil Code Section 51.9;

Title 2 Sections 10500 et seq.;

Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; Title 5 Sections 59320 et seq.;

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S. Code Annotated Section 2000e

## Attachments

[AP 3430 Prohibition of Harassment - Comments](#)

[AP 3430 Prohibition of Harassment - Legal Citations](#)

[AP3430-OLD.pdf](#)

## Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
	Policy Stat	01/2020
	Policy Stat	01/2020

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