

NORTHWEST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

REPORT SEXUAL AND OTHER FORMS OF HARASSMENT

Conduct constituting sexual harassment may take different forms, including but not limited to the following:

SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

A. Verbal:

The making of offensive written or oral sexual innuendoes, suggestive comments, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions, threats, or propositions toward a fellow staff member, student, or other person associated with the Corporation.

B. Nonverbal:

Causing the placement of offensive sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or the making of offensive sexually suggestive or insulting gestures, sounds, leering, whistling, and the like to a fellow staff member, student, or other person associated with the Corporation.

C. Physical Contact:

Threatening or causing unwanted touching, contact, or attempts at same, including patting, pinching, pushing the body, or coerced sexual intercourse with a fellow staff member, student, or other person associated with the Corporation.

GENDER-ETHNIC-RELIGIOUS-DISABILITY-HEIGHT-WEIGHT HARASSMENT:

A. Verbal:

Written or oral innuendoes, comments, jokes, insults, threats, or disparaging remarks concerning a person's gender, national origin, religious beliefs, etc. that are offensive to a fellow staff member, student, or other person associated with the Corporation.

B. Nonverbal:

Placing objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures that are offensive to a fellow staff member, student, or other person associated with the Corporation.

REPORTING THREATENING BEHAVIORS

Threatening behavior may take different forms, including but not limited to the following:

- A. face-to-face encounters in which words are used that indicate to the staff member that his/her safety and well-being are in jeopardy
- B. written communications that include comments toward the staff member or his/her family which are disparaging or would imply or state explicitly that the staff member and/or his/her family may be subject to some form of physical or psychological abuse or violence
- C. written or spoken comments to a staff member which could subject him/her to blackmail or extortion
- D. written or spoken communication that would imply or explicitly state that some form of damage may be done to the staff member's property or that of his/her family

Any staff member who believes that he/she is the victim of any of the above actions or has observed such actions taken by a student, parent, fellow staff member, supervisor, co-worker, or other person associated with the Corporation such as vendor, contractor, volunteer, or school official should promptly take the following steps:

- A. If the alleged threatener is the staff member's supervisor, the affected employee should, as soon as possible after the incident, contact the Superintendent.
- B. If the alleged threatener is not the staff member's supervisor, the affected employee should, as soon as possible after the incident, contact his/her supervisor.
- C. If the alleged threatener is a student of the Corporation, the supervisor, if not the student's principal, should immediately inform the student's principal of the alleged threat.

The staff member may make contact by a written report, by telephone, or by personal visit. During this contact, the reporting staff member should provide the name of the person(s) whom he/she believes to be responsible for the harassment and the nature of the harassing incident(s). A written summary of each such report is to be prepared promptly by the staff member receiving the report and forwarded to the Superintendent.

Each report received by the supervisor or the Superintendent as provided above, shall be investigated in a timely and confidential manner. While a charge is under investigation, no information is to be released to anyone who is not involved with the investigation, except as may be required by law or in the context of a legal or administrative proceeding. No one involved is to discuss the subject outside of the investigation.

The purpose of this provision is to:

- A. protect the confidentiality of the staff member who files a complaint;
- B. encourage the reporting of any incidents of threat;
- C. protect the reputation of any party wrongfully charged with threatening conduct.

Investigation of a complaint will normally include conferring with the parties involved and any named or apparent witnesses. All staff members and others involved are to be protected from coercion, intimidation, retaliation, or discrimination for filing a complaint or assisting in an investigation.

If the investigation reveals that the complaint is valid, then prompt, appropriate, remedial and/or disciplinary action will be taken to prevent the continuance of the threat or its recurrence.

The Corporation recognizes that determining whether a particular action or incident is a threat must be based on all of the facts in the matter. Given the nature of this type of intimidation, the Corporation recognizes that false accusations of threat can have serious effects on innocent individuals. Accordingly, all staff members are expected to act responsibly, honestly, and with the utmost candor whenever they present threat allegations or charges against fellow staff members, students, or others associated with the Corporation.