

BOARD POLICY 4030: NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

Comparison Matrix

Section: Personnel

SUMMARY OF UPDATE

Summary of Update: Policy updated to reflect **NEW FEDERAL REGULATIONS (89 Fed. Reg. 33474)** which (1) clarify that discrimination on the basis of sex, including sex-based harassment, for the purpose of Title IX includes sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; gender identity; sexual orientation; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery; and parental, marital, and family status, and (2) require a district with knowledge of alleged conduct, which occurs in a district program or activity on or after August 1, 2024, that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, to follow Title IX grievance procedures when investigating and resolving a complaint based on the alleged conduct. Additionally, policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 700, 2023)** which prohibits the district from discriminating against an employee in termination, or any term or condition of employment, or otherwise penalizing a person, based on the person's use of cannabis when off the job or away from the workplace. In addition, policy updated to move material related to sex discrimination to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment in order to keep material related to sex discrimination and sex-based harassment together. Policy also updated to provide that employees are required to report incidents of prohibited discrimination within one workday, which may be modified to reflect the district's timeline, in order to maintain consistency of such reporting requirements across the policy manual.

CSBA NOTE: The following Board policy and accompanying administrative regulation are mandated pursuant to 2 CCR 11023. The California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) (Government Code 12900-12996) prohibits districts and district employees from harassing or discriminating against employees and job applicants on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, age, religious creed, marital status, pregnancy, reproductive health decision-making, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression. Pursuant to Government Code 12940, these protections apply to employees, job applicants, persons who serve in an unpaid internship or other limited-duration program to gain unpaid work experience, volunteers, and independent contractors.

Additionally, protections are available under various provisions of federal law, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d-2000d-7), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000e-2000e-17), the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (42 USC 2000gg-2000gg-6), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681-1688), the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC 12101-12213), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (42 USC 2000ff-2000ff-11).

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) April 2024, "Enforcement Guidance on Harassment in the Workplace," provides for components of an effective anti-harassment policy, including that the policy (1) defines what conduct is prohibited, (2) is widely disseminated, (3) is comprehensible to employees, (4) requires supervisors to report harassment when they are aware of it, (5) offers multiple avenues for reporting harassment, enabling employees to contact someone other than their harasser, (6) clearly identifies who complaints can be made to, including contact information, and (7) explains the complaint process, including anti-retaliation and confidentiality protections.

For policy addressing sex discrimination and sex-based harassment of and by employees, see BP/AR 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment, and for language regarding Title IX sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, complaint procedures, see AR/E(1) 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.

CURRENT VERSION			REVISED VERSION	CSBA MODIFICATIONS and/or NOTES	
PARA	Section	Sub-Section	November 2020		July 2024
1			The Governing Board is determined to provide a safe, positive environment where all district employees are assured of full and equal employment access and opportunities, protection from harassment and intimidation, and freedom from any fear of reprisal or retribution for asserting their employment rights in accordance with law. For purposes of this policy, employees include job applicants, interns, volunteers, and persons who contracted with the district to provide services, as applicable.	No change	
2			No district employee shall be discriminated against or harassed by any coworker, supervisor, manager, or other person with whom the employee comes in contact in the course of employment, on the basis of the employee's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, age, religious creed, marital status , pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, military and veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.	No district employee shall be discriminated against or harassed by any coworker, supervisor, manager, or other person with whom the employee comes in contact in the course of employment, on the basis of the employee's actual or perceived race; color; ancestry; national origin; age; religious creed; pregnancy, <i>childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions and recovery; parental, family, or marital status</i> ; physical or mental disability; medical condition; genetic information; veteran or military status; sex; <i>sex stereotypes; sex characteristics</i> ; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; gender expression; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.	CSBA NOTE: 34 CFR 106.2 and 106.10, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, clarify that discrimination on the basis of sex for the purpose of Title IX includes sex stereotypes; sex characteristics; gender identity; sexual orientation; pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation, including related medical conditions or recovery; and parental, marital, and family status.
				<i>Employers are also prohibited from discrimination against employees or job</i>	New paragraph added

			<i>applicants on the basis of reproductive health decision-making, defined as a person's decision to use or access a particular drug, device, product, or medical service for reproductive health.</i>	CSBA NOTE: Government Code 12940 includes reproductive health decision-making as a characteristic for which employment discrimination is prohibited. Pursuant to Government Code 12926(y) "reproductive health decision-making" includes a person's decision to use or access a particular drug, device, product, or medical service for reproductive health.
3		The district shall not inquire into any employee's immigration status nor discriminate against an employee on the basis of immigration status, unless there is clear and convincing evidence that it is necessary to comply with federal immigration law.	The district shall not inquire into any employee's immigration status nor discriminate against an employee on the basis of immigration status, unless there is clear and convincing evidence that <i>such inquiry</i> is necessary to comply with federal immigration law.	CSBA NOTE: 2 CCR 11028 prohibits inquiry into an employee's immigration status or discrimination on the basis of such status, unless the district provides clear and convincing evidence that such inquiry is necessary to comply with federal immigration law. Districts should consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel as necessary.
			<i>Unless otherwise provided for in law, the district may not discriminate against an employee, including an applicant for employment, in any term or condition of employment, or otherwise penalize a person, including termination, based on the person's use of cannabis off the job and away from the workplace, or on a drug screening which finds that the person has nonpsychoactive cannabis metabolites in the applicant's hair, blood, urine, or other bodily fluid. However, the district retains the right to maintain drug-free schools or prohibit employees from possessing, being impaired by, or using cannabis while on the job.</i>	New paragraph CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Government Code 12954, as amended by SB 700 (Ch. 408, Statutes of 2023), the district may not discriminate against an employee in termination, or any term or condition of employment, or otherwise penalize a person, based on the person's use of cannabis when off the job or away from the workplace. However, Government Code 12954 does not interfere with the district's right to maintain drug-free schools or to prohibit employees from possessing, being impaired by, or using cannabis while at work. Government Code 12954 also does not preempt state or federal laws requiring applicants to be tested for controlled substances as a condition of employment or to applicants in the building and construction trades or for positions requiring a federal background investigation. Districts with questions about employee

				cannabis use or screening should consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel. Also see BP 4111 - Recruitment and Selection, AR 4112.5 - Criminal Record Check, BP/AR 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action, and BP/AR 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action.
4		Discrimination in employment based on the characteristics listed above is prohibited in all areas of employment and in all employment-related practices, including the following:	No change	CSBA NOTE: The following items illustrate unlawful discriminatory practices as specified in Government Code 12940. Labor Code 1197.5 prohibits the payment of different wage rates to employees for similar work based on sex, race, or ethnicity and prohibits the use of prior salary history by itself to justify any disparity in compensation under the bona fide factor exception. Labor Code 1197.5, as amended by SB 497 (Ch. 612, Statutes of 2023), creates a rebuttable presumption in favor of the employee's claim if a district retaliates against an employee within 90 days of the specified protected activity.
	1	Discrimination in hiring, compensation, terms, conditions, and other privileges of employment	Hiring, compensation, terms, conditions, and other privileges of employment	
	2	Taking of an adverse employment action, such as termination or the denial of employment, promotion, job assignment, or training	No change	CSBA NOTE: When disciplining an employee, the district must ensure that all the surrounding facts and circumstances are considered and analyzed within the parameters of any applicable constitutional or legal framework. In Kennedy v. Bremerton School District, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the district could not discipline an employee for non-coercive religious conduct while the employee was

				<p>acting as a private citizen. Also see BP 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action, 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action, and BP 4119.1/4219.1/4319.1 - Civil and Legal Rights.</p> <p>In <i>Groff v. DeJoy</i>, the U.S. Supreme Court held that Title VII's protections against religious discrimination require an employer who denies an employee's religious accommodation to show that the burden of granting the accommodation would result in substantial increased costs in relation to the conduct of its particular business.</p> <p>EEOC's April 2024, "Enforcement Guidance on Harassment in the Workplace," notes that while Title VII requires districts to accommodate an employee's sincerely held religious belief, districts are also responsible for protecting employees against unlawful harassment, including harassment motivated by religion. EEOC's guidance suggests that in order to address the dual obligations under Title VII, a district should accommodate an employee's sincerely held religious practice, unless doing so would create a hostile work environment.</p> <p>In May 2023, the U.S. Department of Education issued, "Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Schools," which includes the extent to which prayer in public schools is legally protected, constitutional principles that relate to religious expression in general, and requirements under federal and state laws relevant to prayer and religious expression. The guidance states that, "Nothing</p>
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				<p>in the First Amendment, however, converts the public schools into religion-free zones, or requires students, teachers, or other school officials to leave their private religious expression behind at the schoolhouse door." The guidance also states that employees may pray when they are not acting in their official capacity and the prayer does not result in any coercion of students.</p> <p>Employee discipline, especially with respect to suspension and dismissal, involves complex legal considerations and districts are advised to consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel, accordingly.</p>
	3	Unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is so severe or pervasive as to adversely affect an employee's employment opportunities, or that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment	Unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is <i>offensive and</i> so severe or pervasive as to adversely affect an employee's employment opportunities or that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the <i>employee's</i> work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment	
	4	Actions and practices identified as unlawful or discriminatory pursuant to Government Code 12940 or 2 CCR 11006-11086, such as:	No change	CSBA NOTE: Item #4 below lists some, but not all, specific practices prohibited under Government Code 12940 or 2 CCR 11006-11086 in relation to certain protected categories. As the specific prohibitions are too numerous to list in policy, it is recommended that districts consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel when questions arise as to any specific claim.
	a	Sex discrimination based on an employee's pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or any related medical condition or on an employee's	Sex discrimination <i>as specified in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment</i>	

			gender, gender expression, or gender identity, including transgender status		
		b	Religious creed discrimination based on an employee's religious belief or observance, including religious dress or grooming practices, or based on the district's failure or refusal to use reasonable means to accommodate an employee's religious belief, observance, or practice which conflicts with an employment requirement	No change	
		c	Requirement for a medical or psychological examination of a job applicant, or an inquiry into whether a job applicant has a mental or physical disability or a medical condition or as to the severity of any such disability or condition, without the showing of a job-related need or business necessity	<i>Requiring</i> medical or psychological examination of a job applicant or <i>making</i> an inquiry into whether a job applicant has a mental or physical disability or a medical condition or as to the severity of any such disability or condition, without the showing of a job-related need or business necessity	
		d	Failure to make reasonable accommodation for the known physical or mental disability of an employee or to engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with an employee who has requested such accommodations in order to determine the effective reasonable accommodations, if any, to be provided to the employee	No change	
				<i>e. Requiring an applicant or employee to disclose information relating to the employee's reproductive health decision-making</i>	New section added
5			The Board also prohibits retaliation against any district employee who opposes any discriminatory employment practice by the district or its employees, agents, or representatives or who complains, testifies, assists, or in any way participates in the district's complaint process pursuant to this policy. No employee who requests an accommodation for any protected	The Board also prohibits retaliation against any district employee who opposes any discriminatory employment practice by the district or its employees, agents, or representatives or who complains, <i>reports an incident</i> , testifies, assists, or in any way participates in the district's complaint process pursuant to this policy. No employee who requests an accommodation for any protected	CSBA NOTE: Retaliation against complainants or other participants in the grievance procedures is prohibited by Government Code 12940 and 34 CFR 110.34. In addition to the general prohibition against retaliation, Government Code 12940 provides that an employee who requests accommodation for a physical or mental disability or religious belief is protected from retaliation as specified

		characteristic listed in this policy shall be subjected to any punishment or sanction, regardless of whether the request was granted.	characteristic listed in this policy shall be subjected to any punishment or sanction, regardless of whether the request was granted.	below. CSBA recommends that this protection be extended to all protected characteristics, as provided below.
6		No employee shall, in exchange for a raise or bonus or as a condition of employment or continued employment, be required to sign any document that releases the employee's right to file a claim against the district or to disclose information about harassment or other unlawful employment practices.	No employee shall, in exchange for a raise or bonus or as a condition of employment or continued employment, be required to sign <i>a release of the employee's claim or right to file a claim against the district or a nondisparagement agreement or other document that has the purpose or effect of preventing the employee from disclosing information about harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful acts in the workplace, including any conduct that the employee has reasonable cause to believe is unlawful.</i>	CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Government Code 12964.5, the district is prohibited from requiring an employee, in exchange for a raise or bonus or as a condition of employment or continued employment, to sign a nondisparagement agreement or similar document that would deny the employee the right to disclose information about unlawful acts in the workplace or requiring an employee to release the right to file a claim or civil action against the district. Pursuant to Government Code 12964.5, the above prohibition applies not only to claims or complaints of sex-based harassment or sexual assault, but to those involving harassment or discrimination based on any protected characteristic and to other unlawful employment practices under FEHA.
7		Complaints concerning employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation shall immediately be investigated in accordance with procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.	Complaints concerning employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation shall immediately be investigated in accordance with procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. <i>However, complaints alleging sex discrimination under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures specified in 34 CFR 106.44 and 106.45 and Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.</i>	CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.11 and 106.44, as amended by 89 Fed. Reg. 33474, a district with knowledge of alleged conduct, which occurs in a district program or activity on or after August 1, 2024, that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX, including sex-based harassment, is required to follow Title IX grievance procedures when investigating and resolving a complaint based on the alleged conduct. As such a complaint may also fall within the complaint process as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation, it is unclear whether districts would additionally be required to follow the procedures specified in the accompanying administrative

				<p>regulation. Due to this uncertainty, it is recommended that districts consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel prior to utilizing such a complaint process for this purpose. For more information regarding the Title IX grievance procedures, see AR 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 - Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment Complaint Procedures.</p>
8		<p>Any supervisory or management employee who observes or has knowledge of an incident of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including harassment of an employee by a nonemployee, shall report the incident to the Superintendent or designated district coordinator as soon as practical after the incident. All other employees are encouraged to report such incidents to their supervisor immediately. The district shall protect any employee who reports such incidents from retaliation.</p>	<p>Any supervisory or management employee who observes or has knowledge of an incident of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including harassment of an employee by a nonemployee, shall report the incident to the Superintendent or designated district coordinator <i>within one workday</i>. All other employees <i>shall</i> report such incidents to their supervisor <i>or designated district coordinator within one workday</i>.</p>	<p>CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to 2 CCR 11019, in certain instances, an employee's (especially a supervisor's) knowledge or notice of prohibited conduct of another employee or individual may subject the district to liability. Therefore, it is recommended that the district require its employees with knowledge of harassment or discrimination to report the incident to the appropriate district authorities. In addition, Government Code 12940 provides that a district may be responsible for harassment of employees by nonemployees when the district knows or should have known of the conduct and failed to take immediate and corrective action, taking into consideration the extent of the district's control and other legal responsibility that the district may have with respect to the conduct of those nonemployees. See also BP/AR 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment.</p> <p>See the accompanying administrative regulation for requirements related to the identification of the employee who will be responsible for compliance with nondiscrimination laws.</p>

					The following paragraph should be revised to reflect the district's timeline.
9			The Superintendent or designee shall use all appropriate means to reinforce the district's nondiscrimination policy, including providing training and information to employees about how to recognize harassment, discrimination, or other related conduct, how to respond appropriately, and components of the district's policies and regulations regarding discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the district's employment practices and, as necessary, shall take action to ensure district compliance with the nondiscrimination laws.	No change	<p>CSBA NOTE: Government Code 12940 and 2 CCR 11023 require districts to take all reasonable steps to prevent prohibited discrimination and harassment, including, but not limited to, dissemination of the district's policy on the prevention of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. Government Code 12950 and 2 CCR 11049 require districts to post, in prominent and accessible locations on district premises, posters developed by the California Civil Rights Department (CRD), formerly the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), which are available on CRD's website. In addition, Executive Order 11246 requires contractors and subcontractors who hold a single federal contract or subcontract in excess of \$10,000, or who hold contracts or subcontracts with the federal government in any 12-month period that have a total value of more than \$10,000, to display EEOC's "Know Your Rights: Workplace Discrimination is Illegal" poster in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment and representatives of each labor union with which the covered contractor or subcontractor has a collective bargaining agreement.</p> <p>EEOC's April 2024, "Enforcement Guidance on Harassment in the Workplace," provides for components of effective training, including that it (1) explains the district's anti-harassment policy, complaint process, and confidentiality and anti-retaliation protections, (2) describes and provides examples of prohibited conduct under the</p>

				<p>policy, (3) provides information about employees' rights if they experience, observe, become aware of, or report prohibited conduct, (4) provides supervisors with information about how to prevent, identify, stop, report, and correct harassment, with clear instructions for addressing and reporting harassment, (5) is tailored to the workplace and workforce, (6) is provided on a regular basis to all employees, and (7) is provided in a clear and easily understood format.</p> <p>For further information on prevention strategies, including posting requirements, see the accompanying administrative regulation.</p>
10		Any district employee who engages in prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation or who aids, abets, incites, compels, or coerces another to engage or attempt to engage in such behavior in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.	No change	
			<p><i>The district shall maintain and preserve all applications, personnel, membership, or employment referral records and files for at least four years after the records are initially created or received or, for an applicant or a terminated employee, for four years after the date the employment action was taken. However, when the district is notified that a complaint has been filed with the California Civil Rights Department, records related to the employee involved shall be maintained and preserved until the later of the first date after the time for filing a civil action has expired or the first date after the complaint has been fully and finally disposed of and all administrative proceedings, civil actions,</i></p>	<p>New paragraph added CSBA NOTE: Government Code 12946 makes it an unlawful employment practice for a district to fail to maintain certain records and files for employees, applicants, and terminated employees, as provided in the following paragraph.</p>

				<i>appeals, or related proceedings have been terminated.</i>	
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