



MILLWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

G-14

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Millwood Public School District does not tolerate sexual harassment. All employees, students and patrons must avoid offensive behavior at work. All employees must keep the workplace and educational environment free of sexual harassment.

District policy prohibits unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, with or without accompanying promises, threats, or reciprocal favors or actions; or other conduct of a sexual nature which has the purpose or effect of adversely affecting an employee's or student's performance or which creates a hostile or offensive working environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited to, lewd or sexually suggestive comments; vulgar or obscene language or jokes of a sexual nature; slurs and other verbal, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's sex; or any display of sexually explicit pictures, greeting cards, articles, books, magazines, photos, or cartoons.

Sexual harassment can occur in a variety of circumstances, including but not limited to the following:

1. The victim as well as the harasser may be female or male. The victim does not have to be of the opposite sex.
2. The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, an agent or the employer, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, a subordinate, or a non-employee.
3. The victim does not have to be the person harassed but could be directly affected by the offensive conduct.
4. Unlawful sexual harassment may occur without economic injury to or discharge of the victim.
5. The harasser's conduct must be unwelcome.
6. A school employee explicitly or implicitly conditions a student's participation in an education program or activity or bases an educational decision on the student's submission to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Quid pro quo harassment is equally unlawful when the student resists and suffers the threatened harm or submits and thus avoids the threatened harm.

7. *Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment*

Sexually harassing conduct (which can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature) by an employee, by another student, or by a third party that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an education program or activity, or to create a hostile or abusive educational environment.

It is in the complainant's interest to inform the harasser that the conduct is unwelcome. If the behavior continues, the complainant should use the appropriate complaint or grievance procedures.

Complaints of sexual harassment will be promptly investigated and all employees filing complaints will be free from retaliation. Employees using their positions to obtain sexual favors to imply that submission to or rejection of sexual advances will be used as a basis for employment decisions or those who create or allow a hostile work environment will be subject to disciplinary measures, including dismissal.

Reference: Board Policy G-25, Grievance/Complaint Procedures



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Any employee or student who has a complaint of sexual harassment at work by anyone, including supervisors, co-workers, visitors, clients, vendors, or students, should immediately bring the problem to the attention of the principal or Educational Equity Officer.

The investigation will include interviews with all relevant persons including the complainant, the accused, and other potential witnesses. Employees and students are assured that the privacy of the complainant and the person accused of sexual harassment will be protected and that any information obtained will be kept strictly confidential.

At the conclusion of the investigation, if the investigation reveals that the complaint appears to be valid, immediate and appropriate corrective or disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, will be taken to stop the harassment and prevent its recurrence. If the validity of the complaint cannot be determined, immediate and appropriate action will be taken to assure that all parties are reacquainted with the sexual harassment policy and regulation and advised to avoid sexual harassment in the future.

Reference: Board Policy G-25, Grievance/Complaint Procedures

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Effective November 3, 1997 Revised January 8, 2007