

Harassment  
(Employees and Students)

Harassment of employees and students will not be tolerated in the school district. School district includes school district facilities, school district premises, and nonschool property if the employee or student is at any school sponsored, school approved or school related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the control of the school district or where the employee is engaged in school business.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, actual or perceived age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status or familial status which creates an objectively hostile school environment. Harassment by board members, administrators, employees, parents, vendors, and others doing business with the school district is prohibited. Employees whose behavior is alleged to be in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the building principals or board.

Sexual harassment shall include, but not be limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Other types of harassment may include, but not be limited to, jokes, stories, pictures or objects that are offensive, tend to alarm, annoy, abuse or demean certain protected individuals or groups.

Employees and students who believe they have suffered harassment shall report such matters to the investigator for harassment complaints. However, claims regarding harassment may also be reported to the alternate investigator for harassment complaints.

Upon receiving a complaint, the investigator shall confer with the complainant to obtain an understanding and a statement of the facts. It shall be the responsibility of the investigator to promptly and reasonably investigate claims of harassment and to pass the findings on to the building principal who shall complete such further investigation as deemed necessary and take such final action as deemed appropriate. Information regarding an investigation of harassment shall be confidential to the extent possible, and those individuals who are involved in the investigation shall not discuss information regarding the complaint outside the investigation process.

No one shall retaliate against an employee or student because they have filed a harassment complaint, assisted or participated in a harassment investigation, proceeding, or hearing regarding a harassment charge or because they have opposed language or conduct that violates this policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the board members, administrators, licensed and classified employees, students, and others having business or other contact with the school district to act appropriately under this policy. It shall be the responsibility of the building principal and investigator to inform and educate employees or students and others involved with the school district about harassment and the school district's policy prohibiting harassment.

This policy and accompanying regulations shall only apply when an employee is the victim of an alleged harasser or an employee is the alleged harasser. It shall be the responsibility of the building principals, in conjunction with the investigator, to develop administrative rules regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986).  
Hall v. Gus Const. Co., 842 F.2d 1010 (8th Cir. 1988).  
Lynch v. City of Des Moines, 454 N. W. 2D 827 (Iowa 1990).  
42 U.S.C. 2000 et seq. (1994).  
29 C.F.R. Pt. 1604.11 (1996).  
Iowa Code ch. 216 (1999).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3 (6)

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