

Mission – Goals – Objectives

Nondiscrimination

The District shall promote nondiscrimination and an environment free of harassment based on an individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, national origin, ancestry, disability, (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, marital status or age or because of the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability, genetic information, marital status or age of any other persons with whom the individual associates. The District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

In keeping with requirements of federal and state law, the District strives to remove any vestige of discrimination in employment, assignment and promotion of personnel; in educational opportunities and services offered to students; in student assignment to schools and classes; in student discipline; in location and use of facilities; in educational offerings and materials; and in accommodating the public at public meetings.

The Board encourages staff to improve human relationships within the schools and to establish channels through which citizens can communicate their concerns to the administration and the Board.

The Superintendent shall appoint and make known the individuals to contact on issues concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, Title VI, Title VII, Title IX and other civil rights or discrimination issues. The Board will adopt and the District will publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints.

Federal civil rights laws prohibit discrimination against an individual because he/she has opposed any discrimination act or practice or because that person has filed a charge, testified, assisted or participated in an investigation, proceeding or hearing. ADA further prohibits anyone from coercing, intimidating, threatening or interfering with an individual for exercising the rights guaranteed under the Act.

- (cf. 4111 – Recruitment and Selection)
- (cf. 4111.1/4211.1 – Affirmative Action)
- (cf. 4118.11 – Nondiscrimination)
- (cf. 4118.113/4218.113 – Harassment)
- (cf. 5145.4 – Nondiscrimination)
- (cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)
- (cf. 5145.51 – Peer Sexual Harassment)
- (cf. 5145.52 – Harassment)
- (cf. 5145.6 – Student Grievance Procedure)
- (cf. 6121 – Nondiscrimination)
- (cf. 6121.1 - Equal Educational Opportunity)

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Nondiscrimination

Legal Reference: Title VII, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, et seq.
 29 CFR 1604.11, EEOC Guidelines on Sex Discrimination.
 Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.
 34 CFR Section 106.8(b), OCR Guidelines for Title IX.
 Definitions, OCR Guidelines on Sexual Harassment, Fed. Reg. Vol 62, #49, 29 CFR Sec. 1606.8 (a) 62 Fed Reg. 12033 (March 13, 1997) and 66 Fed. Reg. 5512 (January 19, 2001)
 20 U.S.C. 7905 (Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act contained in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001)
Meritor Savings Bank. FSB v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986)
 Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, No. 97-282 (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)
Gebbser v. Lago Vista Indiana School District, No. 99-1866, (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)
Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, No. 97-843, (U.S. Supreme Court, May 24, 1999.)
 The Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Act of 1974, as amended, 38U.S.C. §4212
 Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008
 Connecticut General Statutes
 46a-60 Discriminatory employment practices prohibited.
 10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year olds. (Amended by P.A. 97-247 to include “sexual orientation” and P.A. 11-55 to include “gender identity or expression”)
 10-153 Discrimination on account of marital status.
 17a-101 Protection of children from abuse.
 The Americans with Disabilities Act as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008
 Public Law 111-256
Meacham v. Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory 128 S.Ct. 2395, 76 U.S.L.W. 4488 (2008)
Federal Express Corporation v. Holowecki 128 S.Ct. 1147, 76 U.S.L.W. 4110 (2008)
Kentucky Retirement Systems v. EEOC 128 S.Ct. 2361, 76 U.S.L.W. 4503 (2008)
Sprint/United Management Co. v. Mendelsohn 128 S.Ct. 1140, 76 U.S.L.W. 4107 (2008)

Policy adopted: December 8, 2014

THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Thomaston, Connecticut

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Thomaston, Connecticut**

Non-Discrimination Notice

The Thomaston Public Schools doesn't not discriminate on the basis of a disabling condition as it applies under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

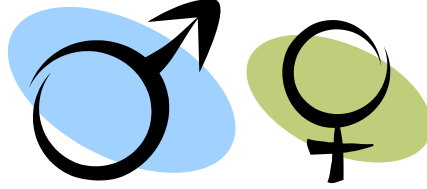
The Thomaston Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national/ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability in its programs, activities, and employment practices. Equal access is provided to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following individuals are coordinators for Title IX (sex discrimination), Title VI (race, creed and color) and Section 504 (disabled):

Title IX and Title VI Coordinator: Director of Pupil Personnel Services – 860-283-3050

Section 504 Coordinator: Director of Pupil Personnel Services – 860-283-3050

Harassment Is ILLEGAL



SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS PROHIBITED based on Federal Law - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and State Law – Sec. 10-15c. Harassment based on sexual orientation is also protected under State Law – Sec. 10-15c.

FOR STUDENTS: Sexual harassment is **unwanted and unwelcome** behavior of a sexual nature which interferes with a student’s right to learn, study, work, achieve, or participate in school activities in a comfortable and supportive atmosphere. You have a right to participate in all school and classroom activities in an atmosphere free from sexual harassment. You have a responsibility not to engage in sexual behaviors that are unwelcome or offensive to others.

Examples of Sexual Harassment include: unwelcome sexual advances, suggestive or lewd remarks, unwanted hugs, touches, kisses; requests for sexual favors; retaliation for complaining about sexual harassment, derogatory or pornographic posters, cartoons or drawings.

If you have questions or believe that you or others are being harassed, contact:

District Title IX Coordinator:
Office Address:
Telephone number:
Email Address:

Building Title IX Coordinator:
Office Address:
Telephone number:
Email Address:

You may also contact: The Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106 (Tel: 860-541-3400 or 800-477-5737) Connecticut law requires that a formal complaint be filed with the Commission within 180 days of the date under which the alleged harassment occurred.

You may also contact: Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109-3921, Telephone: 617-289-0111, FAX: 617-289-0150; TDD: 877-521-2172

Email: OCR.Boston@ed.gov, Filing complaints electronically:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html>.

Sexual harassment is not limited to prohibited behavior by a male toward a female, or by a supervisory employee toward a non-supervisory employee, or a teacher to a student. The victim does not have to be the opposite sex of the harasser. Harassment may be student to student, teacher to student, student to teacher or teacher to teacher. The gender of the complainant and/or the alleged harasser is irrelevant, even if they are of the same gender. Sexual harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity is also prohibited under State Law.

► ***What should I do if I believe I am being sexually harassed?***

- Find out about your school or school district's policy and procedures for handling sexual harassment issues. Follow those procedures.
- Take action and get help when needed. Ignoring sexual harassment is not an effective way to stop it.
- Whenever possible, tell the harasser verbally or in writing what the specific behaviors are that you find offensive. Ask him or her to stop.
- Report the offensive behaviors to a teacher, counselor, Title IX coordinator, or school administrator.
- Keep a detailed record of the harassing behavior to share with school officials who investigate your complaint.
- If not satisfied with the resolution of your concerns, contact one of the appropriate organizations listed.

The victim does not have to be the person at whom the unwelcome sexual conduct is directed; the victim may be someone who is a witness to and personally offended by such conduct although directed toward another. Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct that is personally offensive, lowers morale, and interferes with educational performance. This unwelcome sexual behavior is defined from the perspective of the victim, not the harasser.

► ***Where to Get Help***

- **State Title IX Coordinator:** Dr. William A. Howe, Connecticut State Department of Education, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106 (860-713-6752)
email: william.howe@ct.gov
- **Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)**
18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106 (860-240-8300)
<http://www.cga.state.ct.us/PCSW/>
- **Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)**
75 Charter Oak Avenue, Suite 1-300, Hartford, CT 06106, <http://www.cwealf.org/>

THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Thomaston, Connecticut

Discrimination Grievance Form

Any student, parent/guardian, employee or employment applicant who feels that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, disability or equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups may discuss and/or file a grievance with the Civil Rights Coordinator of the Thomaston Public Schools. Reporting should take place within 40 calendar days of the alleged discrimination. Civil Rights Coordinator:

Director of Pupil Personnel Services – 860-283-3050

Name of Presenter/Complainant: _____

Employee _____ Employment Applicant _____ Student _____ Parent/Guardian _____

Home address _____

Phone _____ Date of Claim _____ Date of Incident _____

1. Statement of Incident/Issue (include all pertinent information: who, how, where, when, how often, feelings, witness).
2. Please attach any additional information/documentation as necessary.

Signature of Presenter: _____

Signature of Civil Rights Coordinator: _____

Date Received: _____

*Forms are available from the Civil Rights Coordinator,
Administrators and Guidance Offices.*

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The Thomaston School District does not discriminate in educational programs, services or employment on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation, learning disability or physical disability, or any other legally protected class, under the provisions of the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Act of 1987, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 and appropriate state laws. Under the provisions of the Boy Scouts Equal Access Act, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Sexual harassment, which is a form of discrimination, is a violation of School District policy and may also violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and state law.

Complaints related to discrimination shall follow the guidelines set forth in the Thomaston Board of Education Policy Manual.

Sexual Harassment

Definition

Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual attention from peers, subordinates or supervisors, customers, clients or anyone the victim may interact with in order to fulfill job or school duties, where the victim's responses may be restrained by fear of reprisals. The following behaviors are grounds for disciplinary action:

1. Abusing the dignity of a student or employee through insulting or degrading sexual remarks or conduct such as but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, suggestive or lewd remarks, unwanted hugs, touches, kisses, requests for sexual favors and derogatory or pornographic pictures, cartoons, or drawings.
2. Threats, demands or suggestions that a student's or employee's status is contingent upon his/her tolerance or acquiescence to sexual advances; or
3. Retaliation against a student or employee for complaining about the behaviors described above.

Grievance Procedure

Any complaint related to sexual harassment should be initiated within forty calendar days of the alleged occurrence. It should be referred to the Title IX/Equity Officer or to a designee at the building level. If some reason exists that a person feels uncomfortable with the Title IX/Equity Officer, he/she may request the Superintendent to review the situation. The complaint procedure is available on request at all school offices and at the office of the Title IX/Equity Officer. Investigation should be undertaken by the smallest possible group to protect the confidentiality of the information. Should the complaint be against the Superintendent, the complaint should be referred to the Board of Education.

Mission - Goals - Objectives

Nondiscrimination (continued)

Retaliation

Retaliation in any form against a person who has filed a sexual harassment complaint will be grounds for serious disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal of staff personnel and/or expulsion for students.

Confidentiality

Those involved with a sexual harassment investigation are expected to protect the confidentiality of all individuals and of information related to the case.

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