

## **STUDENTS**

### **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES – Harassment of Students Prohibited**

#### **Harassment of Students Prohibited**

No person, including a District employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate, or bully a student on the basis of actual or perceived: race, color, national origin, military status, unfavorable discharge state from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic. The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, electronic, physical, sexual, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

#### **Sexual Harassment Prohibited**

Sexual harassment of students is prohibited. Any person, including a district employee or agent, or student, engages in sexual harassment whenever he or she makes sexual advances, requests sexual favors, and/or engages in other verbal or physical conduct, including sexual violence, of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that:

1. Denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or that makes such conduct a condition of a student's academic status; or
2. Has the purpose or effect of:
  - a. Substantially interfering with a student's educational environment;
  - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
  - c. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or
  - d. Making submission to or rejection of such conduct the basis for academic decisions affecting a student.

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The terms intimidating, hostile, and offensive include conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities, taking and/or sharing photos and/or videos or sharing text messages or other communication related to a person's alleged sexual activities. The term sexual violence includes a number of different acts. Examples of sexual violence include, but are not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

#### **Making a Complaint; Enforcement**

Students and parents are encouraged to report claims or incidences of bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, or a Complaint Manager. A bullying incident reporting form is available at any school or on the District's website under Information at [www.sps186.org](http://www.sps186.org). A student may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

An allegation that a student was a victim of any prohibited conduct perpetrated by another student shall be referred to the Building Principal, or Assistant Building Principal for appropriate action.

The Superintendent or designee shall insert into this policy the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers. At least one of these individuals will be female, and at least one will be male.

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**RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES – Student Conduct – Bullying/Harassment**

**Nondiscrimination Coordinator:**

Gina McLaughlin Schurman  
Director of Human Resources  
1900 West Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
[gmmac@sps186.org](mailto:gmmac@sps186.org)  
217/525-3006

**Complaint Managers:**

Jason Wind  
Director of School Support  
1900 West Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
[jwind@sps186.org](mailto:jwind@sps186.org)  
217/525-7911

Cheree Morrison  
Director of Secondary Schools  
1900 West Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
[chereemo@sps186.org](mailto:chereemo@sps186.org)  
217/525-3017

The Superintendent shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy, such as, by including it in the appropriate handbooks.

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with the discipline policy. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

Citation: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12, 10-22.5, 5/27-1, and 5/27-23.7

Cross Ref: 500.20, 600.01, 710.0651, 710.07, 715, 730.02