
Note: This policy addresses complaints of sex and gender discrimination, sexual or gender-based harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation made by employees. For legally referenced material relating to this subject matter, see DAA(LEGAL). For sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and retaliation targeting students, see FFDA. For other employee complaints not covered by Title VII or Title IX laws, see DIAB.

Definitions

Solely for purposes of this policy, the term “employee” includes former employees, applicants for employment, and unpaid interns.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any employee on the basis of sex or gender. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy and is prohibited.

Discrimination

Discrimination against an employee is defined as conduct directed at an employee on the basis of sex or gender that adversely affects the employee’s employment.

Sexual Harassment

For purposes of this policy, sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination defined as unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; sexually motivated physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct; or other conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to the conduct is either explicitly or implicitly a condition of an employee’s employment, or when submission to or rejection of the conduct is the basis for an employment action affecting the employee;
2. It is based on unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would determine is so severe, persistent, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee’s work performance or creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive work environment; or
3. Any instance of sexual assault, as defined in the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), and dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, as defined in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Note: Quid pro quo harassment, Clery Act, and VAWA offenses are not evaluated for severity, pervasiveness, offensiveness, or denial of equal educational access because such misconduct is considered sufficiently serious to deprive a student of equal access.

Sexual Violence Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment. Sexual violence includes physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol or due to an intellectual or other disability. For purposes of this policy, consent is defined as an informed, voluntary, affirmative, and mutual agreement between the participants to engage in a specific sexual act. Consent is further defined by the consent guidelines in FFDA(LOCAL).

Examples Examples of sexual harassment may include sexual advances; touching intimate body parts; coercing or forcing a sexual act on another; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; offensive or derogatory language of a sexual nature directed at another person; and other sexually motivated conduct, communication, or contact. Examples may also include forms of dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking. Specific examples may be found in the College District's *Title IX Complaint Resolution Process Handbook for Students and Employees*.

Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking For purposes of this policy, the terms "dating violence," "domestic violence," and "stalking" are incorporated into this policy as defined in FFDA(LOCAL).

Prohibited Conduct In this policy, the term "prohibited conduct" includes dating violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, sex discrimination, sexual or gender-based harassment, and retaliation as defined by this policy, even if the behavior does not rise to the level of unlawful conduct.

Reporting Procedures An employee who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct or believes that another employee has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts. The employee may report the alleged acts to his or her immediate supervisor.

Alternatively, the employee may report the alleged acts to one of the College District officials below or electronically through the College District's online complaint form located on its website.

An employee who experiences prohibited conduct has the right to report the incident to the College District and to receive a prompt and equitable resolution of the report.

For the purposes of this policy, “College District officials” are the Title IX coordinators listed below and the District President.

**College District’s
Mandatory Response
Obligations**

The College District will respond promptly to sexual harassment, as defined in this policy, in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent, which means a response that is not clearly unreasonable in light of known circumstances, or as otherwise required by applicable Title IX regulations. The College District’s response obligations are listed in FFDA(LOCAL).

**Definition of College
District Officials**

Reports of discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment as defined in this policy, may be directed to the Title IX coordinators. The College District designates the following persons to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended:

Title IX Coordinator

Title IX Coordinator: Dr. Jennifer DuPlessis, Chief Human Resources Officer/Title IX Coordinator for Employees

Address: 3452 Spur 399, McKinney, TX 75069

Telephone: (972) 985-3702

Email: [Title IX Coordinator email](#)¹

Webpage: [Title IX/Sexual Misconduct webpage](#)²

Deputy Title IX
Coordinator for
Human Resources

Name: Tonya Jacobson

Position: Manager HR/Employee Relations

Address: 3452 Spur 399, McKinney, TX 75069

Telephone: (972) 758-3856

Email [Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Human Resources](#)³

**Alternative
Reporting
Procedures**

An employee will not be required to report prohibited conduct to the person alleged to have committed the prohibited conduct. Reports concerning prohibited conduct, including reports against the Title IX coordinators, may be directed to the District President or designee.

A report under this policy against the District President may be made directly to the Board. If a report is made directly to the Board, the Board will appoint an appropriate person to conduct an investigation.

Timely Reporting

Employee reports of prohibited conduct will be made immediately after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to promptly report may impair the College District’s ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

**Consolidate Reports
and Other
Requirements**

When the allegations underlying two or more complaints arise out of the same facts or circumstances, the College District may also consolidate the complaints.

The College District will also provide other measures required by Title IX and applicable law, including, but not limited to, assistance by advisors, supportive measures, and notices to parties. Such requirements are described in detail in the College District's *Title IX Complaint Resolution Process Handbook for Students and Employees*.

Notice of Report

Any College District supervisor who receives a report of prohibited conduct will immediately notify the appropriate College District official listed above and take any other steps required by this policy.

**Investigation of the
Report**

The College District may request, but will not require, a written report or formal complaint as defined in FFDA(LOCAL). If a report is made orally, the College District official receiving the report will reduce the report to written form.

Upon receipt or notice of a report, the College District official will determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy. If so, the College District official will immediately authorize or undertake an investigation, regardless of whether a criminal or regulatory investigation regarding the same or similar allegations is pending.

If the College District official determines that the allegations, if proven, would not constitute prohibited conduct as defined by this policy but may constitute a violation of other College District rules or regulations, the College District official will refer the complaint for consideration under the appropriate policy. The College District official will also consider requests not to investigate made by a complainant and an informal resolution process as detailed in the College District's *Title IX Complaint Resolution Process Handbook for Students and Employees*.

If appropriate, the College District will promptly take interim action calculated to prevent prohibited conduct during the course of an investigation.

The investigation may be conducted by the College District official or a designee or by a third party designated by the College District, such as an attorney. When appropriate, the supervisor will be involved in or informed of the investigation.

The investigation of prohibited conduct under this policy will be conducted in accordance with the investigation procedures and guidelines contained in FFDA(LOCAL). The College District may

dismiss complaints, as mandated or on a discretionary basis, under the procedures and guidelines listed in FFDA(LOCAL). Investigation and resolution procedures and guidelines are detailed in the College District's *Title IX Complaint Resolution Process Handbook for Students and Employees*.

Concluding the Investigation and Hearing

Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation and live hearing should be completed within 60 College District business days from the date of the report; however, the investigator will take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

The investigator will prepare a written report of the investigation. The written report will be prepared in accordance with the reporting procedures and guidelines contained in FFDA(LOCAL).

Hearings

Consistent with applicable Title IX regulations, the College District will provide for a live hearing of complaints arising under this policy. The live hearing will be conducted in accordance with the procedures and guidelines contained in FFDA(LOCAL) and detailed in the College District's *Title IX Complaint Resolution Process Handbook for Students and Employees*.

College District Action

If the results of an investigation and live hearing indicate that prohibited conduct occurred using a preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e., more likely than not to have occurred), the College District will promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

The College District may take action based on the results of an investigation and live hearing, even if the conduct did not rise to the level of prohibited or unlawful conduct.

Examples of disciplinary or corrective action:

Disciplinary or Corrective Action

1. Implementing the disciplinary measures described in DH and DM Board policies for employees, including but not limited to, coaching and counseling, written disciplinary action, unpaid administrative leave, and/or recommendation for termination;
2. Providing a training program for those involved in the complaint;
3. Permitting the victim or student engaged in the prohibited conduct to drop a course in which they both are enrolled without penalty;
4. Taking other actions allowed by Board policy.

Exception

The College District will minimize attempts to require a complainant to resolve the problem directly with the person who engaged in the harassment; however, if that is the most appropriate resolution

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION
SEX AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

DIAA
(LOCAL)

method, the College District will be involved in an appropriate manner.

Improper Conduct

If the Title IX decision-maker designated by the executive vice president or designee determines that improper conduct occurred that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct, the College District may take disciplinary action in accordance with College District policy and procedures or other corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

Confidentiality

To the greatest extent possible, the College District will respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation and comply with applicable law. Applicable federal Title IX regulations protect the privacy of a party's medical, psychological, and similar treatment records by stating that the College District cannot access or use such records unless the College District obtains the party's voluntary, written consent to do so.

Retaliation

The College District prohibits retaliation against an employee who makes a complaint alleging to have experienced prohibited conduct, or another employee who, in good faith, makes a report, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. This prohibition does not apply to discipline of a person who perpetrated or assists in the perpetration of the prohibited conduct.

False Claims

An employee who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a College District investigation regarding harassment or discrimination is subject to appropriate discipline. Charging an individual with a violation(s) for making a false claim, materially false statement, or refusing to cooperate during the course of an investigation regarding discrimination or harassment does not constitute retaliation. However, a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a false claim or a materially false statement.

Appeal

A party who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal on the grounds listed in FFDA(LOCAL) through the applicable grievance policy beginning at the appropriate level. [See DGBA(LOCAL) for employees and GB(LOCAL) for community members]. Appeals under this policy will be submitted to the appeals officer or administrator designated by the College District. The applicable appeal deadlines and guidelines of DGBA(LOCAL) or GB(LOCAL) will be followed for appeals made under this policy.

Informal Resolution

After a formal complaint is filed, the College District may permit the voluntary use of an information resolution process at any time prior to a final determination. The parties must provide their voluntary consent in writing to participate in such a process. The informal resolution process will be handled in accordance with the procedures and guidelines contained in FFDA(LOCAL).

Informal resolution is prohibited in any case where a College District employee is accused of sexual harassment against a student.

The College District will not require the parties to waive their rights to a formal process and agree to information resolution as a condition of enrollment or employment.

The party may have a right to file a complaint with appropriate state or federal agencies.

Records Retention

Retention of records will be in accordance with the College District's records retention procedures. [See CIA]

Records of formal complaint resolutions and informal resolutions will be retained by the College District for a period of seven years. The College District will retain all materials used to train institutional participants in the various phases of the resolution process, including the Title IX coordinators and decision-makers. All materials utilized to train Title IX coordinators, investigators, hearing panel participants, and decision-makers will be made available in accordance with applicable federal Title IX regulation requirements.

In instances where the College District receives a report of sexual harassment, but a formal complaint is not filed, the institution will maintain a record of all actions taken, including supportive measures, for a period of seven years. In these instances, the College District will include a written rationale explaining why a formal complaint was not filed.

Access to Policy, Procedures, and Related Materials

Information regarding this policy and any accompanying procedures, as well as relevant educational and resource materials concerning the topics discussed in this policy, will be distributed to applicants for employment and annually to College District employees and students in compliance with law and in a manner calculated to provide easy access and wide distribution, such as through electronic distribution and inclusion in the employee and student handbooks and other major College District publications. Information regarding the policy, procedures, related materials, and required training will also be prominently published on the College District's website, taking into account applicable legal requirements. Copies of the policy and procedures will be readily available at the College

District's administrative offices and will be distributed to an employee who makes a report.

Mandatory Reporting under State Law for Incidents of Dating Violence, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment, and Stalking

In accordance with the Education Code Section 51.252, an employee who, in the course and scope of employment, witnesses or receives information regarding the occurrence of an incident that the employee reasonably believes constitutes sexual harassment as defined in this policy, and is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who was a student enrolled at or an employee of the College District at the time of the incident, will promptly report the incident to the College District's Title IX coordinator or deputy Title IX coordinator. The report must include all information concerning the incident known to the reporting person that is relevant to the investigation and, if applicable, redress of the incident, including whether an alleged victim has expressed a desire for confidentiality in reporting the incident.

An employee who is designated by the College District as a person with whom students may speak confidentially concerning sexual harassment as defined in this policy or who receives information regarding such an incident under circumstances that render the employee's communications confidential or privileged under other law will, in making a report under this section, state only the type of incident reported and may not include any information that would violate a student's expectation of privacy. This requirement does not affect the employee's duty to report an incident under any other law.

Exceptions

An employee is not required to make a report concerning:

1. An incident in which the employee was a victim of dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or stalking; or
2. An incident in which the employee received information due to a disclosure made at a dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or stalking public awareness event sponsored by the College District or by a student organization affiliated with the College District.

Peace Officer

A College District peace officer who received information regarding the incident from an employee who chooses to complete a pseudonym form as described by law will only be required to disclose the type of incident reported and may not disclose the employee's name, phone number, address, or other information that may directly or indirectly reveal the employee's identity.

Anonymous Reports

In accordance with Education Code Section 51.9365, College District students and employees can report prohibited conduct anonymously as provided on the Dean of Students page on the College

District's website. However, the submission of an anonymous report may impair the College District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

¹ Title IX Coordinator email: <mailto:jduplessis@collin.edu>

² Title IX/Sexual Misconduct webpage: <https://www.collin.edu/titleix>

³ Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Human Resources email: <mailto:tjacobson@collin.edu>