



## PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALL EMPLOYEES

### BOARD POLICY – **NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT**

BP 5030

The County Superintendent is determined to provide a safe, positive environment where all County Education Office employees are assured of full and equal employment access and opportunities, protection from harassment and intimidation, and freedom from any fear of reprisal or retribution for asserting their employment rights in accordance with law. For purposes of this policy, employees include job applicants, interns, volunteers, and persons contracted with the County Education Office to provide services, as applicable.

No County Education Office employee shall be discriminated against or harassed by any co-worker, supervisor, manager, or other person with whom the employee comes in contact in the course of employment, on the basis of the employee's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, age, religious creed, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, military and veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

The County Education Office shall not inquire into any employee's immigration status nor discriminate against an employee on the basis of immigration status, unless there is clear and convincing evidence that it is necessary to comply with federal immigration law. (2 CCR 11028)

Discrimination in employment based on the characteristics listed above is prohibited in all areas of employment and in all employment-related practices, including the following:

1. Discrimination in hiring, compensation, terms, conditions, and other privileges of employment
2. Taking of an adverse employment action, such as termination or the denial of employment, promotion, job assignment, or training
3. Unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is so severe or pervasive as to adversely affect an employee's employment opportunities, or that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment
4. Actions and practices identified as unlawful or discriminatory pursuant to Government Code 12940 or 2 CCR 11006-11086, such as:
  - a. Sex discrimination based on an employee's pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding,

or any related medical condition or on an employee's gender, gender expression, or gender identity, including transgender status

- b. Religious creed discrimination based on an employee's religious belief or observance, including the employee's religious dress or grooming practices, or based on the County Education Office's failure or refusal to use reasonable means to accommodate an employee's religious belief, observance, or practice which conflicts with an employment requirement.
- c. Requirement for a medical or psychological examination of a job applicant, or an inquiry into whether a job applicant has a mental or physical disability or a medical condition or as to the severity of any such disability or condition, without the showing of a job-related need or business necessity.
- d. Failure to make reasonable accommodation for the known physical or mental disability of an employee, or to engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with an employee who has requested such accommodations in order to determine the effective reasonable accommodations, if any, to be provided to the employee.

The County Superintendent also prohibits retaliation against any County Education Office employee who opposes any discriminatory employment practice by the County Education Office or its employees, agents, or representatives or who complains, testifies, assists, or in any way participates in the County Education Office's complaint process pursuant to this policy. No employee who requests an accommodation for any protected characteristic listed in this policy shall be subjected to any punishment or sanction, regardless of whether the request was granted. (Government Code 12940; 2 CCR 11028)

No employee, shall, in exchange for a raise or bonus or as a condition of employment or continued employment, be required to sign any document that releases the employee's right to file a claim against the County Education Office or to disclose information about harassment or other unlawful employment practices. (Government Code 12964.5)

Complaints concerning employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation shall immediately be investigated in accordance with procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Any supervisory or management employee who observes or has knowledge of an incident of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including harassment of an employee by a nonemployee, shall report the incident to the County Superintendent or designated County Education Office coordinator as soon as practical after the incident. All other employees are encouraged to report such incidents to their supervisor immediately. The County Education Office shall protect any employee who reports such incidents from retaliation.

The County Superintendent or designee shall use all appropriate means to reinforce the County Education Office's nondiscrimination policy, including providing training and information to employees about how to recognize harassment, discrimination, or other related conduct, how to respond appropriately, and components of the County Education Office's policies and regulations regarding discrimination. The County Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the County Education Office's employment practices and, as necessary, shall take action to ensure County Education Office compliance with the nondiscrimination laws.

Any County Education Office employee who engages in prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation or who aids, abets, incites, compels, or coerces another to engage or attempt to engage in such behavior in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

CIVIL CODE

51.7 Freedom from violence or intimidation

GOVERNMENT CODE

11135 Unlawful discrimination

11138 Rules and regulations

12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act, especially:

12940-12952 Unlawful employment practices

12960-12976 Unlawful employment practices; complaints

PENAL CODE

422.56 Definitions, hate crimes

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

11006-11086 Discrimination in employment

11013 Recordkeeping

11019 Terms, conditions and privileges of employment

11023 Harassment and discrimination prevention and correction

11024 Sexual harassment training and education

11027-11028 National origin and ancestry discrimination

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

621-634 Age Discrimination in Employment Act

794 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000d-2000d-7 Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended

2000e-2000e-17 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended  
2000ff-2000ff-11 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008  
2000h-2-2000h-6 Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
6101-6107 Age discrimination in federally assisted programs  
12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.101-35.190 Americans with Disabilities Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

100.6 Compliance information  
104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504  
104.8 Notice  
106.8 Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievance procedures  
106.9 Dissemination of policy  
110.1-110.39 Nondiscrimination on the basis of age

COURT DECISIONS

Thompson v. North American Stainless LP, (2011) 131 S.Ct. 863  
Shephard v. Loyola Marymount, (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 837

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING PUBLICATIONS

California Law Prohibits Workplace Discrimination and Harassment  
Transgender Rights in the Workplace  
Workplace Harassment Guide for California Employers  
Your Rights and Obligations as a Pregnant Employee

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Notice of Non-Discrimination, August 2010

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

EEOC Compliance Manual  
Enforcement Guidance: Vicarious Employer Liability for Unlawful Harassment by Supervisors, June 1999

WEB SITES

California Department of Fair Employment and Housing: <http://www.dfeh.ca.gov>  
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>  
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: <http://www.eeoc.gov>

ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARD: July 3, 1975  
REVISED: October 7, 1976, February 7, 1991, May 7, 1992, April 7, 1994, September  
2, 1999, May 6, 2004, February 2, 2012, December 12, 2013, September 7, 2017,  
December 13, 2019, December 11, 2020