## TITLE IX-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT BASED ON SEX PROHIBITED

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, the Community School District prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment as defined by the regulations implementing Title IX (34 C.F.R. § 106.30), against any individual participating in any education program or activity of the District. This prohibition on discrimination applies to students, employees, and applicants for employment.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to adopt procedures for any individual to report sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator, for the provision of supportive measures to anyone who has been subjected to sexual harassment whether or not they proceed with a formal complaint under those procedures, and for the investigation and resolution of such complaints, as required by Title IX. This Title IX grievance process shall be used to respond to all complaints of sexual harassment that fall within the scope of Title IX. For complaints of sexual harassment that do not fall within the scope of Title IX, the District may still offer supportive measures to the subject of such conduct and shall apply any other policy or procedure applicable to the alleged conduct.

Any individual with questions about the District's Title IX policy and procedures, or who would like to make a report or file a formal complaint of sex discrimination or sexual harassment may contact the District's designated Title Coordinator, Brad Schmitt, 5-12 principal; (641)-394-2134; 710 West Main Street; New Hampton, IA 50659; b\_schmitt@new-hampton.k12.ia.us

Retaliation against a person who made a report or complaint of sexual harassment, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a sexual harassment report or complaint is strictly prohibited. Retaliation includes threats, coercion, discrimination, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to employment or education. Any individual who believed they have been retaliated against in violation of this Policy should immediately contact the District's Title IX Coordinator.

## NOTE: This is a mandatory policy.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. 34 C.F.R. § 106 et seq.

20 U.S.C. §§ 1681Education - SC.F.R. - Code of Federal RegulationsDescription34 C.F.R. 106Education - NCross ReferencesCross References

Education - Sex Description Education - Nondiscrimination Based on Sex

**Code** 501.12

Description Pregnant Students

## TITLE IX-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT BAED ON SEX PROHIBITED

The board believes in the importance of creating a learning environment where all students can succeed. For this reason, it is essential that all students and employees have appropriate access to the education program and activities of the district. The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX, including in admission and employment.

Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Conduct that occurs under the district's education program or activity includes but is not limited to conduct that occurs in a building owned or controlled by the district or a student organization that is officially recognized by a postsecondary institution, and conduct that is subject to the recipient's disciplinary authority.

The Superintendent or their designee will develop administrative regulations in furtherance of this policy.

#### **Important Definitions**

*Complainant* means a student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or its regulations; or a person other than a student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or its regulations and who was participating or attempting to participate in the recipient's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex discrimination.

*Complaint* means an oral or written request to the recipient that objectively can be understood as a request for the recipient to investigate and make a determination about alleged discrimination under Title IX or its regulations.

*Respondent* means a person who is alleged to have violated the District's prohibition on sex discrimination.

*Retaliation* means intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the recipient, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the recipient to provide aid, benefit, or service under the recipient's education program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or its regulations, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under the Title IX regulations.

*Sex-based harassment* is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity, that is:

(1) *Quid pro quo harassment*. An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the recipient to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the recipient's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

(2) Hostile environment harassment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:

(i) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the recipient's education program or activity;

(ii) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;

(iii) The parties' ages, roles within the recipient's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;

(iv) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and

(v) Other sex-based harassment in the recipient's education program or activity; or

(3) Specific offenses.

(i) Sexual assault meaning an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(ii) Dating violence meaning violence committed by a person:

(A) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(B) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(1) The length of the relationship;

(2) The type of relationship; and

(3) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship;

(iii) Domestic violence meaning felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a person who:

(A) Is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction of the recipient, or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;

(B) Is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;

(C) Shares a child in common with the victim; or

(D) Commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction; or

(iv) Stalking meaning engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

(A) Fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or

(B) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

*Supportive measures* means individualized measures offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without unreasonably burdening a complainant or respondent, not for punitive or disciplinary reasons, and without fee or charge to the complainant or respondent to:

(1) Restore or preserve that party's access to the recipient's education program or activity, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or the recipient's educational environment; or

(2) Provide support during the recipient's grievance procedures or during an informal resolution process.

Legal Reference :

34 C.F.R. 106

C.F.R Code of Federal Regulations	Description
34 C.F.R. 106	Education - Nondiscrimination Based on Sex

#### PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS

All employees will receive training on the district's obligation to address sex discrimination in the district's education programs and activities. The training will include but not be limited to the scope of conduct that constitutes sex discrimination under Title IX, including the definition of sex-based harassment, pregnancy-related conditions and the district's response to sex discrimination.

Employees who serve as investigators, decision makers, are responsible for implementing grievance procedures, or who can modify or terminate supportive measures will receive training that includes but is not limited to the district's response to sex discrimination, grievance procedures, how to serve impartially (if applicable to their role), and the meaning of the term "relevant" as applied in 34 CFR 106.45 & 46.

Employees who facilitate informal resolutions will receive the training for all employees listed above as well as training on the requirements of the informal resolution process and how to serve impartially.

Employees who serve as the Title IX coordinator or designee must receive all of the training listed above as well as their job specific responsibilities, recordkeeping requirements, and any other training necessary to comply with Title IX.

C.F.R Code of Federal Regulations	Description
34 C.F.R. 106	Education - Nondiscrimination Based on Sex

## TITLE IX-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT BASED ON SEX PROHIBITED-NONDISCRIMINATION IN PREGNANCY AND RELATED CONDITIONS

It is a priority of the District that all students have the opportunity to succeed academically. In particular, students who are experiencing pregnancy and related conditions should receive the supports necessary to continue their education through successful completion. For this purpose, the District outlines measures the District will take to ensure opportunity for academic success for pregnant students.

Pregnant students will be treated in the same manner as other students with temporary medical conditions. When a student or their parent informs any employee of the student's pregnancy or related conditions, the employee will provide the Title IX Coordinator's contact information to the student or student's parents, and explain that the Title IX Coordinator can coordinate specific actions to prevent sex discrimination and endure the student's equal access to the recipient's education program or activity.

The Title IX Coordinator will coordinate the following actions:

- Inform the pregnant student of the district's obligations and provide the Title IX Notice of Non-Discrimination.
- Make reasonable modifications to any district policies, practices or procedures as necessary to prevent sex discrimination and help ensure equal access to the district's education program and activities. Modifications will be tailored to the needs of the student and will not fundamentally alter the education program or activities.
- Allow the student to voluntarily access any separate and comparable portion of the education program or activity.
- Permit the student to take a temporary leave of absence from the education program or activity with no loss of academic status, if deemed medically necessary by the student's medical provider.
- Permit access to a lactation space other than a bathroom that is clean, shielded from view, free from intrusion or interruption, and able to be used by a student to express breast milk or breastfeed as needed.

Students affected by this regulation should reach out to the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to the implementation of this regulation.

C.F.R Code of Federal Regulations	Description
34 C.F.R. 106	Education - Nondiscrimination Based on Sex

## TITLE IX-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT BASED ON SEX PROHIBITED-RESPONDING TO COMPLAINTS OF SEX DISCRIMINATION

The district will respond to reports of sex discrimination promptly and efficiently. All district employees are required to immediately notify the Title IX Coordinator when they have information about conduct that may reasonably constitute sex discrimination. Failure to timely notify the Title IX Coordinator may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

The Title IX Coordinator will:

- Treat the complainant and respondent equitably.
- Offer supportive measures for the Complainant as appropriate, and if grievance procedures have been started, offer supportive measures to the Respondent as appropriate.
- Notify the complainant of the grievance process and informal resolution process if appropriate and request by all parties.
- Determine whether to start a complaint of sex discrimination in the absence of a complaint, and in the absence or termination of an informal resolution process.
- Take appropriate and necessary steps to ensure sex discrimination does not continue to occur within the district.

## Meeting with the Complainant

Upon receipt of any report of sexual harassment occurring in the District's educational program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will schedule a meeting with the Complainant in order to provide the Complainant a general understanding of this policy and related processes. At the initial intake meeting with the Complainant, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will seek to determine how the Complainant wishes to proceed. The Complainant may opt for: (1) informal resolution; (2) formal resolution; or (3) not proceeding. Supportive measures may still be offered whether or not the Complainant chooses any of these options.

#### **Supportive Measures**

Supportive measures may vary based on the specific facts of each situation and what the district can reasonably offer. The purpose of supportive measures is to allow equitable access to the education program and activities for the parties involved in a complaint. Supportive measures will not be used as a punishment for any party. They may include but are not limited to counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, campus escort services, increased monitoring of certain areas of campus, restrictions on contact applied to one or more individuals, leave of absence, changes in class/work/extracurricular activity, and training and education programs related to sex-based harassment. The District will review supportive measures and determine whether to modify or terminate these measures at the conclusion of any grievance or informal resolution process.

## **Informal Resolution**

The District may offer to the complainant and respondent the option to engage in an informal resolution process to resolve complaints of sex discrimination unless the complaint is of sexbased harassment by an employee to a student, or if the informal resolution process would conflict with applicable laws. The informal resolution process can occur at any time prior to a determination of whether sex discrimination occurred. The parties to a complaint must voluntarily consent to the informal resolution. Before the parties may consent to this process, the Title IX Coordinator will provide notice to the parties that explains:

- The allegations;
- The requirements of the informal resolution process;
- That, before agreeing to a resolution, either party may withdraw their consent to the informal process and start or resume a grievance process;
- That the parties' agreement to a resolution through the informal process would be a final resolution that would stop any grievance process for those allegations;
- Possible terms that could be included in an informal resolution agreement;
- That resolution is binding only on the parties; and
- What information the District will retain and whether/how that information may be disclosed.

If informal resolution is pursued, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the parties with written notice of the allegations and provide adequate time for the Title IX Coordinator to consult with all parties to gather relevant permissible evidence, discuss supportive measures for each party, if appropriate, and discuss an acceptable resolution to the allegations. Once an agreement is reached, the Title IX Coordinator will commit the terms to writing and each party will sign their commitment to the agreement.

## **Emergency Removal and Administrative Leave**

In rare circumstances, the District may remove a student respondent from the education program or activity after the district performs an individualized safety and risk analysis and decides an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of the complainant or others justifies removal. The District will provide the respondent with notice and the opportunity to challenge the decision immediately after the removal.

Likewise, the District may determine to place employee respondents on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process.

C.F.R Code of Federal Regulations	Description
34 C.F.R. 106	Education - Nondiscrimination Based on Sex

# TITLE IX-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT BASED ON SEX PROHIBITED-GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

This regulation discusses the steps required in handling complaints of sex discrimination when the allegation is that an individual(s) engaged in conduct that constitutes sex discrimination.

The following individuals can make a complaint of sex discrimination, including complaints of sexbased harassment, and request the District to investigate and make a decision about alleged Title IX violations: a complainant, a parent, guardian or other authorized legal representative with the legal right to act on behalf of the complainant, the Title IX Coordinator.

The following individuals can make complaints of sex discrimination but not sex-based harassment: any student or employee, any person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the recipient's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex discrimination.

The district's designated Title IX Coordinator is Brad Schmitt, 5-12 principal; (641)-394-2134; 710 West Main Street; New Hampton, IA 50659; <u>b\_schmitt@new-hampton.k12.ia.us</u>

The District will treat complainants and respondents equitably. The District requires that the Title IX Coordinator and any other District official involved in facilitating these grievance procedures not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. The District presumes that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged sex discrimination until a determination is made at the conclusion of its grievance procedures.

#### I. Timeframes for Investigation, Decision and Appeal

The District has established the following time frames for the major stages of the grievance procedures. Generally, the District will attempt to complete the investigation and make a determination regarding responsibility within twenty (20) calendar days of receipt of a complaint. However, the District may alter or extend this time with notice to both parties. The time it takes to complete the resolution of a sexual harassment complaint may vary based on the complexity of the investigation and the severity and extent of the alleged conduct, as well as on whether there is a parallel criminal investigation, or if school breaks occur during the process. The Investigator will issue a written decision to all parties.

The complaint is closed after the Investigator has issued the written decision, unless within 10 working days after receiving the decision, either party appeals the decision to the superintendent by making a written request detailing why they believe the decision should be reconsidered. Within 30 working days, the superintendent shall affirm, reverse, amend the decision, or direct the Investigator to gather additional information. The superintendent shall notify the complainant, respondent, and the Investigator of the decision within 5 working days of the

decision.

The decision of the superintendent shall be final.

The District has also established the following process that allows for the reasonable extension of time frames on a case-by-case basis for good cause with notice to the parties that includes the reason for the delay. The Investigator will determine whether, based on the complexity of the issues or quantity of the evidence to review, an extension is warranted. If an extension is warranted, the Title IX Coordinator or Investigator will notify all parties to the complaint and provide a reasonable amended time frame by which a decision will be issued.

## II. Privacy and Neutrality of the Grievance Process

The District will take reasonable steps, including requiring the parties to protect the privacy of the parties and witnesses during its grievance procedures, however, absolute confidentiality for the parties cannot be guaranteed. These steps will not restrict the ability of the parties to obtain and present evidence, including by speaking to witnesses; consult with their family members, confidential resources, or advisors; or otherwise prepare for or participate in the grievance procedures. The parties cannot engage in retaliation, including against witnesses.

The District will objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

The following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence, are impermissible (i.e., will not be accessed or considered, except by the District to determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies; will not be disclosed; and will not otherwise be used), regardless of whether they are relevant:

- Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by Federal or State law or evidence provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality;
- A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless The District obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures; and
- Evidence that relates to the complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless evidence about the complainant's prior sexual conduct is offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct or is evidence about specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to the alleged sex-based harassment. The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent to the alleged sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

## III. Notice of Allegations

Upon initiation of the District's Title IX grievance procedures, The District will notify the parties of the following:

- The District's Title IX grievance procedures and any informal resolution process;
- Sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct alleged to constitute sex discrimination, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s);
- Retaliation is prohibited; and
- The parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an accurate description of this evidence. [If the District provides a description of the evidence: The parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence upon the request of any party.]

If, in the course of an investigation, the District decides to investigate additional allegations of sex discrimination by the respondent toward the complainant that are not included in the notice provided or that are included in a complaint that is consolidated, the District will notify the parties of the additional allegations.

## IV. Investigation

The Title IX Coordinator will designate an Investigator to conduct an investigation into any formal complaint. The Investigator must be appropriately trained and serves as a neutral fact-finder, and shall interview both parties, relevant witnesses, and gather and review evidence relevant to the outcome of the complaint.

The District will provide for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints.

The burden is on the District, not on the parties, to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether sex discrimination occurred.

The District will provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that are relevant and not otherwise impermissible.

The District will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance.

- The District will provide each party with an equal opportunity to access the evidence that is relevant to the allegations of sex discrimination and not otherwise impermissible, in the following manner:
- The District will provide an equal opportunity to access either the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, or an accurate description of this evidence. If the District provides a description of the evidence: the District will provide the parties with an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence upon the request of any party;
- The District will provide a reasonable opportunity to respond to the evidence or the accurate description of the evidence; and

• The District will take reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the grievance procedures. Disclosures of such information and evidence for purposes of administrative proceedings or litigation related to the complaint of sex discrimination are authorized.

The District will provide a process that enables the Investigator to question parties and witnesses to adequately assess a party's or witness's credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations of sex discrimination. The District will provide to the parties prior written notice of the date, time, and location, of any interview of that party. Advisors may attend the interview in an observational capacity only. Advisors will not be permitted to ask questions, intervene, or answer on behalf of any party or witness.

# V. Determination of Responsibility

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, The District will:

- Use the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof to determine whether sex discrimination occurred. The standard of proof requires the decisionmaker to evaluate relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence for its persuasiveness. If the decisionmaker is not persuaded under the applicable standard by the evidence that sex discrimination occurred, whatever the quantity of the evidence is, the decisionmaker will not determine that sex discrimination occurred.
- Notify the parties in writing of the determination whether sex discrimination occurred under Title IX including the rationale for such determination, and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal, if applicable;
- Not impose discipline on a respondent for sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX unless there is a determination at the conclusion of the grievance procedures that the respondent engaged in prohibited sex discrimination.
- If there is a determination that sex discrimination occurred, the Title IX Coordinator will, as appropriate:
  - Coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to a complainant and other people the District identifies as having had equal access to the District education program or activity limited or denied by sex discrimination;
  - Coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions; and
  - Take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the District education program or activity.
- Comply with the grievance procedures before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions against a respondent; and
- Not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the grievance procedures for making a false statement or for engaging in consensual sexual conduct based solely on the determination whether sex discrimination occurred.

# VI. Dismissal and Appeal of a Complaint:

The District may dismiss a complaint of sex discrimination if:

- The District is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;
- The respondent is not participating in the District education program or activity and is not employed by the District;
- The complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all of the allegations in the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint, and the District determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX even if proven; or
- The District determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX. Before dismissing the complaint, the District will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

Upon dismissal, the District will promptly notify the complainant of the basis for the dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then the District will also notify the respondent of the dismissal and the basis for the dismissal promptly following notification to the complainant, or simultaneously if notification is in writing.

The District will notify the complainant that a dismissal may be appealed and will provide the complainant with an opportunity to appeal the dismissal of a complaint. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then The District will also notify the respondent that the dismissal may be appealed. Dismissals may be appealed on the following bases:

- Procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;
- New evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the dismissal was made; and
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decisionmaker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome.

If the dismissal is appealed, the District will:

- Notify the parties of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent;
- Implement appeal procedures equally for the parties;
- Ensure that the decisionmaker for the appeal did not take part in an investigation of the allegations or dismissal of the complaint;
- Ensure that the decisionmaker for the appeal has been trained consistent with the Title IX regulations;
- Provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome; and
- Notify the parties of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.

When a complaint is dismissed, The District will, at a minimum:

- Offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate;
- If the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measures to the respondent as appropriate; and

• Take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, through the Title IX Coordinator to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within The District education program or activity.

# VII. Appeal of Determinations, if offered

The District offers the following process for appeals from a determination for whether sex discrimination occurred. Within ten (10) working days of receipt of the written determination, any party may appeal the determination and/or any sanction imposed. Appeals will be made in writing to the Superintendent or their designee.

Appeals will be limited to any of the following bases:

- A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the written determination was issued that could affect the outcome of the matter; or
- The Title IX Coordinator or Investigator(s), had a conflict of interest or bias that affected the outcome of the matter.

Once an appeal has been received, the Investigator shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the superintendent. Within 30 working days, the superintendent shall affirm, reverse, amend the decision, or direct the Investigator to gather additional information. The superintendent shall notify the complainant, respondent, and the Investigator of the decision within 5 working days of the decision. Notification shall be by U.S. mail, first class.

The decision of the superintendent shall be final.

## VIII. Supportive Measures

The District will offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate for the complainant and/or respondent to restore or preserve that person's access to the District education program or activity or provide support during the District Title IX grievance procedures or during the informal resolution process.

# IX. Disciplinary Sanctions and Remedies

Following a determination that a student(s) committed sex-based harassment, the District may impose disciplinary sanctions on the student(s), which may include but not be limited to education and training related to Title IX, removal from the educational environment in accordance with all other applicable laws, change of classroom assignment or class schedule, suspension, expulsion.

Following a determination that an employee(s) committed sex-based harassment, the District may impose disciplinary sanctions on the employee(s), which may include but not be limited to termination of employment.

The District may also provide remedies, which may include counseling, training, changes or modifications to class or work schedules or assignments, provision of additional supervision.

C.F.R. - Code of Federal RegulationsDescription34 C.F.R. 106Education - Nondiscrimination Based on Sex

# TITLE IX-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT BASED ON SEX PROHIBITED-INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

This regulation discusses the steps required in handling complaints of sex discrimination when the parties have mutually agreed to pursue informal resolution of complaints of sex discrimination.

Informal resolution is available unless the complaint is of sex-based harassment by an employee to a student, or if the informal resolution process would conflict with applicable laws. Prior to consenting to the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice to the parties as described in 106.01R3 and will obtain written consent from both parties to participate in Informal Resolution. If either party declines to consent to Informal Resolution, the Complainant will be given the option of withdrawing the Title IX complaint and proceeding with supportive measures only (if applicable) or proceeding with the formal grievance procedure described in 106.01R4.

The District will provide a process where the Title IX Coordinator or a trained Informal Resolution facilitator designated by the Title IX Coordinator, will meet with each party to gather information about each party's perspective on the complaint and proposed resolution to the complaint. If necessary, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will gather additional information from other individuals, where relevant to developing a proposed resolution to the complaint.

The Title IX Coordinator will propose a resolution in writing to both parties after taking into consideration the requests of the parties and appropriate resolution and supportive measures as determined by the Title IX Coordinator or designee. The Title IX Coordinator or designee will work with the parties to finalize the terms of the resolution agreement. Once agreed upon by the parties, both parties will sign the resolution agreement, which will affirm that they have voluntarily agreed to the resolution agreement and that it is the final, binding resolution of the Title IX complaint. If both parties sign the Agreement, the Title IX complaint will be closed and no further action will be taken by the District (other than to ensure compliance with the resolution agreement). In general, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will attempt to complete the Informal Resolution process within ten (10) school days after the parties consent in writing to participate. The signed Informal Resolution Agreement will be provided to both parties, the building administrator or supervisor responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Agreement, and other District employees only on a need-to-know basis. A copy will be maintained by the Title IX Coordinator in compliance with the timelines required by Title IX.

If an acceptable agreement cannot be developed, or if either or both parties decline to sign the resolution agreement, the Title IX Coordinator will notify both parties that Informal Resolution has not been successful. If the Complainant wishes to proceed with the formal grievance procedure described in 106.01R4, the Title IX Coordinator will assign the complaint to an Investigator who was not involved in the Informal Resolution process to conduct the investigation into the complaint. All procedures and timelines in 106.01R4 will apply once the matter is moved to the formal grievance process.

C.F.R. - Code of Federal RegulationsDescription34 C.F.R. 106Education - Nondiscrimination Based on Sex

## NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in all education programs and activities operated by the district, as required by Title IX, including in admission and employment.

Inquiries about the application of Title IX to the district may be referred to the district's Title IX coordinator; Brad Schmitt, 5-12 principal; (641)-394-2134; 710 West Main Street; New Hampton, IA 50659; b\_schmitt@new-hampton.k12.ia.us the Office of Civil Rights, or both.

The district's Title IX Nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures are located in electronic format within the district's policy reference manual, accessible through the district's website. For questions locating this policy please contact the Board Secretary.

Individuals wishing to report conduct that may constitute sex discrimination and/or make a complaint of sex discrimination should contact the district's Title IX Coordinator; Brad Schmitt, 5-12 principal; (641)-394-2134; 710 West Main Street; New Hampton, IA 50659; b schmitt@new-hampton.k12.ia.us

Note: The language in this exhibit is mandatory and should be included in the district's registration materials, all student and employee handbooks, published on the district's website, and included in all employment and open enrollment applications.

## COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Parents within the school district who have children over age six and under age sixteen by September 15, in proper physical and mental condition to attend school, will have the children attend the school district at the attendance center designated by the board. Students will attend school the number of days or hours school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. Students of compulsory attendance age will attend school a minimum of 160 days or 1,065 hours. Students not attending the minimum days or hours must be exempted by this policy as listed below or, referred to the county attorney. Exceptions to this policy include children who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- are excused for sufficient reason by any court of record or judge;
- are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- are unable to attend school due to legitimate medical reasons;
- has an individualized education program that affects the child's attendance;
- has a plan under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794, that affects the child's attendance;
- are attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- are attending an accredited nonpublic school;
- are receiving independent private instruction; or,
- are receiving competent private instruction.

It is the responsibility of the parent of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school or of the child's qualifications for one of the exceptions listed above.

Note: This is a mandatory policy. The compulsory attendance law does not require school districts to have a truancy officer.

Note: The compulsory attendance law does not require school districts to have a truancy officer.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 259A; 279.10-.11; 299; 299A.

Approved December 11, 2017 Reviewed March 13, 2023 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY

The district believes that traditional, in-person school attendance leads to the greatest learning opportunities for students. Students who are present in school and engaged active learners take greater ownership over their educational outcomes. For this reason, it is the priority of the district to foster regular student attendance throughout the school year and reduce barriers to regular attendance for students in the district.

Chronic absenteeism/absences means any absence from school for more than ten percent of the hours in the semester established by the district.

Truant/truancy means a child of compulsory attendance age who is absent from school for any reason for at least twenty percent of the hours in the semester grading period. Truancy does not apply to the following students who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or has obtained a high school equivalency diploma are excused for sufficient reason by any court of record or judge;
- are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- are attending a private college preparatory school accredited or probationally accredited;
- are excused under lowa Code §299.22; and
- are exempt under lowa Code §299.24.

Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy including suspension and expulsion. It is within the discretion of the principal to determine, in light of the circumstances, whether a student may make up work missed because of truancy. Students receiving special education services will not be assigned to supervised study hall, in-school suspension unless the goals and objectives of the student's Individualized Education Program are capable of being met.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the designated school officials, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. The administrative regulations will indicate the disciplinary action to be taken for truancy.

Legal Reference: 34 C.F.R. sec. 300 28 C.F.R. Pt. 35 Iowa Code §§ 294.4; 299. 281 I.A.C. 12.3(4).

I.C. Iowa Code Iowa Code § 294.4 Iowa Code § 299 Description Teachers - Daily Register Compulsory Education I.A.C. Iowa Administrative CodeDescription281 I.A.C. 12.3AdministrationC.F.R. - Code of Federal RegulationsDescription28 C.F.R. 35Judicial - Dis34 C.F.R. Pt. 300Education - I

Description Administration Description Judicial - Disability - Nondiscrimination Education - Disabilities/Children/Assistance to States

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY--REGULATION

Daily, punctual attendance is an integral part of the learning experience. The education that goes on in the classroom builds from day to day and absences can cause disruption in the educational progress of the absent student. Irregular attendance or tardiness by students not only limits their own studies, but also interferes with the progress of those students who are regular and prompt in attendance. Attendance is a shared responsibility that requires cooperation and communication among students, parents and the school.

This regulation is divided into two sections: Section I addresses legal requirements related to chronic absenteeism and truancy and Section II addresses additional academic, disciplinary and extracurricular consequences students face due to chronic absenteeism and truancy. It is important for students to recognize that chronic absenteeism and truancy impacts all these facets of their educational experience.

## **SECTION I – Legal Requirements**

## **Chronic Absenteeism**

When a student meets the threshold to be considered chronically absent, the school official will send notice by mail or e-mail to the county attorney where the district's central office is located. The school official will also notify the student, or if a minor, the student's parent, guardian or legal or actual custodian via certified mail that includes information related to the student's absences from school and the policies and disciplinary processes associated with additional absences.

School officials will send notice when the student's absences meet the threshold, but before the student is deemed chronically absent.

#### School Engagement Meeting

If a student is absent from school for at least fifteen percent of the days in the grading period, the school official will attempt to find the cause of the absences and start and participate in a school engagement meeting. All of the following individuals must participate in the school engagement meeting:

- The student;
- The student's parent, guardian or legal or actual custodian if the student is an unemancipated minor; and
- A school official.

The purpose of the meeting is to understand the reasons for the student's absences and attempt to remove barriers to the student's ongoing absences; and to create and sign an absenteeism prevention plan.

## **Absenteeism Prevention Plan**

The absenteeism prevention plan will identify the causes of the student's absences and the future responsibilities of each participant. The school official will contact the student and student's parent/guardian at least once per week for the remainder of the school year to monitor the performance of the student and the student's parent/guardian under the plan. If the student and student's parent/guardian do not attend the meeting, do not enter into a plan or violate the terms of the plan, the school official will notify the county attorney.

## **SECTION II - Academic and Disciplinary Requirements**

Students who are absent without a reasonable excuse, as determined by the principal, will be assigned to supervised study hall, detention, early bird school, Saturday school, in-school suspension, or other appropriate disciplinary sanction. Reasonable excuses include illness, family emergencies, recognized religious observances and school-sponsored or approved activities. Reasonable excuses may also include family trips or vacations approved by the building principal if the student's work is finished prior to the trip or vacation. Supervised study hall, detention, early bird school, Saturday school, in-school suspension, or other appropriate disciplinary sanction will be assigned on a two-for-one basis.

A student who is unexcused for one or more classes for less than a whole school day, will be assigned to supervised study hall, detention, early bird school, Saturday school, in-school suspension or other appropriate disciplinary sanction for the next two days during the class period(s) missed. If a student is unexcused for a whole day of classes, he or she will spend the next two days in supervised study hall, detention, early bird school, Saturday school, in-school suspension or other appropriate disciplinary sanction. Parents are expected to telephone the school office to report a student's absence prior to 8 a.m. on the day of the absence. Students with unexcused absences may also be referred to the at-risk coordinator.

School work missed because of absences must be made up within two times the number of days absent, not to exceed 10 days. The time allowed for make-up work may be extended at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

Students will be allowed to make up all work missed due to any absence and will receive full credit for make-up work handed in on time. Teachers will not have attendance or grading practices that are in conflict with this provision.

I.C. Iowa CodeDescriptionIowa Code § 294.4Teachers - DIowa Code § 299CompulsoryI.A.C. Iowa Administrative CodeDescription281 I.A.C. 12.3AdministrationC.F.R. - Code of Federal RegulationsDescription

Description <u>Teachers - Daily Register</u> <u>Compulsory Education</u> Description <u>Administration</u> Description 28 C.F.R. 35 34 C.F.R. Pt. 300 <u>Judicial - Disability - Nondiscrimination</u> <u>Education - Disabilities/Children/Assistance to States</u>

#### WEAPONS

The board believes weapons, other dangerous objects and look-a-likes in school district facilities cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

School district facilities are not an appropriate place for weapons, dangerous objects and look-a-likes. Weapons and other dangerous objects and look-a-likes will be taken from students and others who bring them onto the school district property or onto property within the jurisdiction of the school district or from students who are within the control of the school district.

Parents of students found to possess weapons, dangerous objects or look-a-likes on school property are notified of the incident. Possession or confiscation of weapons, dangerous objects or look-a-likes will be reported to law enforcement officials, and students will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Students bringing firearms to school or knowingly possessing firearms at school will be expelled for not less than one year. The superintendent has the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for students on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term "firearm" includes, but is not limited to, any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, any explosive, incendiary or poison gas, or otherwise defined by applicable law.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials or other individuals specifically authorized by the board are exempt from this policy. Students and individuals approved in writing by the Superintendent who are actively engaging in a school district approved firearms safety course, hunter education course or shooting sports activity are exempt from this policy. The superintendent will develop an administrative process or procedures to implement the policy and communicate with law enforcement relevant exemptions to this policy as appropriate.

#### NOTE: This is a mandatory policy.

NOTE: The board may specifically authorize individuals to be armed with, carry, or transport a firearm on school grounds under limited circumstances outlined in law. Reasons for this authorization may include, conducting instructional programs regarding firearms or for conducting an lowa Department of Natural Resources approved hunter education course or shooting sports activities course on school property. Legal Reference: 18 U.S.C. § 921 Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.21B; 483A.27(11), 724 281 I.A.C. 12.3(6)

## I.C. Iowa Code

# Iowa Code § 279.8 Iowa Code § 280.21B Iowa Code § 483A.27 Iowa Code § 724 I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code 281 I.A.C. 12.3 U.S.C. - United States Code 18 U.S.C. § 921

# Description Directors - General Rules - Bonds of Employees Expulsion-weapons Hunter Education Program Weapons Description Administration Description Crimes - Criminal Procedures - Firearms

## STUDENT PROMOTION - RETENTION - ACCELERATION

Students will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each school year based on the student's achievement, age, maturity, emotional stability, and social adjustment.

The district shall adhere to the following:

- **Retention/Promotion in kindergarten eighth grade:** The retention of a student will be determined based upon the judgment of the district's professional staff. When it becomes evident a student in grades kindergarten through eight may be retained in a grade level for an additional year, the parents will be informed prior to making the retention decision. It is within the sole discretion of the district to retain students in their current grade level and to deny promotion to a student.
- Retention/Promotion in ninth twelfth grade: Students in grades nine through twelve will be informed of the required coursework necessary to be promoted each year. When it becomes evident a student in these grades will be unable to meet the minimum credit requirements for the year, the student and parents will be informed. It is within the sole discretion of the district to retain students in their current grade level and to deny promotion to a student.
- Acceleration in kindergarten twelfth grade: Students in grades kindergarten through twelve with exceptional talents may, with the permission of the principal and parents, take classes beyond their current grade level. Enrichment opportunities outside the school district may be allowed when they do not conflict with the school district's graduation requirements.
- **Retention or Acceleration in kindergarten twelfth grade** may also occur in additional instances as provided by law.

For students in grades kindergarten through sixth, if a student is not reading at a proficient level, the district will notify a student's parent or guardian of the student's reading level, and the option for parents to request that the student be retained in the student's current grade level for the subsequent school year. The district is prohibited from promoting a student to the next grade level if the student is not reading proficiently, and the student's parent or guardian requests the student be retained at their current grade level for the next year.

Any student or parent who is not satisfied with the decision of the district's professional staff may seek recourse through policy 502.4 – Student Complaints and Grievances.

Legal Reference: lowa Code §§ 256.11, .41; 279.8; .68. 281 I.A.C. 12.5(16).

I.C. Iowa Code	Description
Iowa Code § 256.11	<u>DE - Educational Standards</u>
Iowa Code § 256.41	DE - Online Learning Requirements
Iowa Code § 279.8	Directors - General Rules - Bonds of Employees
lowa code §279.68	Student Progression-intensive reading instruction-
	reporting requirements
I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code	Description
281 I.A.C. 12.5	General Accreditation Standards - Education Program
Cross References	
Code	Description
410.02	Summer School Licensed Employees
603.02	Summer School Instruction

#### BASIC INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The basic instruction program will include the courses required for each grade level by the lowa Department of Education. The instructional approach will be gender fair and multicultural.

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in kindergarten is designed to develop healthy emotional and social habits, language arts and communication skills, the capacity to complete individual tasks, character education and the ability to protect and increase physical well-being with attention given to experiences relating to the development of life skills and human growth and development.

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in grades one through six will include Englishlanguage arts, social studies, mathematics, science, health, human growth and development, physical education, traffic safety, music, visual art and computer science. Computer science will be offered during at least one grade level

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in grades seven and eight will include Englishlanguage arts, social studies including instruction related to civics, mathematics, science, health, human growth and development, family and consumer, career, technology education, physical education, music, visual art and computer science. Computer science will be offered during at least one grade level

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in grades nine through twelve will include English language arts (6 units), social studies (5 units), mathematics (6 units), science (5 units), health (1 unit), physical education (1 unit), fine arts (3 units), foreign language (4 units), financial literacy (1/2 unit) and vocational education (12 units) and computer science (1/2 unit).

The board may, in its discretion, offer additional courses in the instruction program for any grade level.

Each instruction program is carefully planned for optimal benefit taking into consideration the financial condition of the school district and other factors deemed relevant by the board or superintendent. Each instruction program's plan should describe the program, its goals, the effective materials, the activities and the method for student evaluation.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations stating the required courses and optional courses for kindergarten, grades one through six, grades seven and eight, and grades nine through twelve.

NOTE: This policy reflects the educational standards. The financial literacy requirement is effective with the 2021 graduation class. The computer science requirement for grades one through eight are effective with the school year beginning July 1, 2023. The computer science requirement for grades nine through twelve is effective with the school year beginning July 1, 2022. Districts must also develop and implement a kindergarten through grade twelve computer science plan by July 1, 2022 which incorporates the educational standards.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h. 34 C.F.R. Pt. 98. Iowa Code §§ 216.9; 256.11; 279.8; 280.3-.14. 281 I.A.C. 12.5, 11.

I.C. Iowa Code	Description	
Iowa Code § 216.9	Unfair/Discriminatory Practices	
Iowa Code § 256.11	DE - Educational Standards	
lowa Code § 279.8	Directors - General Rules - Bonds of Employees	
Iowa Code § 280	Uniform School Requirements	
I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code	Description	
281 I.A.C. 12.11	General Accreditation Standards - Computer Science	
281 I.A.C. 12.5	General Accreditation Standards - Education Program	
U.S.C United States Code	Description	
20 U.S.C. § 1232h	Education - Protection of Pupil Rights	
C.F.R Code of Federal Regulations	Description	
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98	Education - Research, Experimental Programs, Testing -	
	Student Rights	
Cross References		
Code	Description	
102	Equal Educational Opportunity	
102-R(1)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Grievance Procedure	
102-E(1)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Annual Notice of	
	Nondiscrimination	
102-E(2)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Continuous Notice of	
	Nondiscrimination	
102-E(3)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Notice of Section 504	
	Student and Parental Rights	
102-E(4)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Discrimination	
	Complaint Form	
102-E(5)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Witness Disclosure	
	Form	
103	Long-Range Needs Assessment	
103-R(1)	Long-Range Needs Assessment - Regulation	
903.02	Community Resource Persons and Volunteers	

#### POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COUNSELING

The district believes in the importance of education to shape the lives of all students. Some students may consider postsecondary education and training beyond their secondary education, and have questions related to the cost of education programs and the future employability of graduates. It is valuable for students who express an interest in postsecondary education to make informed decisions related to their future options.

The district will ensure that students in grades eleven and twelve who express interest in postsecondary education will be provided with basic information to assist in their decision-making. This information includes but may not be limited to:

- A link to the annual report published by the State Board of Regents pursuant to *lowa Code* 262.9(38); and
- a link to the Iowa Student Outcomes internet site maintained by the Department of Education.

If the district employs a college and career transition counselor, this staff member will provide the information to interested students. If the district does not employ this type of counselor, the superintendent will designate a staff member to ensure this information is provided to interested students.

Legal Reference :	Iowa Code § 279
Legal Reference.	IOWA COUR § Z / 9

#### **Cross References**

**Code** 603.07

Description Career Education

## WEAPONS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The board believes weapons, other dangerous objects and look-a-likes in school district facilities and at school district-approved events cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

All weapons, dangerous objects and look-a-likes are prohibited to be carried, possessed, transported or otherwise stored on school district property and to school district-approved events. Exceptions to this policy include weapons carried by the following individuals in performance of their official duties:

- law enforcement;
- military personnel;
- corrections officers;
- individuals approved in writing by the Superintendent;
- students and individuals approved in writing by the Superintendent who are actively engaging in a school district approved firearms safety course, hunter education course or shooting sports activity; and
- School security officers and/or school resource officers in accordance with all applicable laws.

Individuals found to be in violation of this district policy will be required to immediately remove the weapon, dangerous object or look-a-likes from the school district property or event. Students found to be in violation of this policy or any other board policies related to weapons will be subject to disciplinary proceedings. Employees found in violation of this policy may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

The district shall not authorize staff members to carry firearms on school grounds in accordance with Iowa Code 724.6.

Note: The legislature made changes to decriminalize the carrying of firearms on campus by certain individuals if certain circumstances are met. However, much like creating tobacco-free campuses, schools maintain the authority to choose whether to place additional limitations on the carrying of firearms on district property as needed to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

NOTE: Districts that wish to consider arming staff should work closely with their insurance providers and legal counsel to craft appropriate regulations necessary to fit this option. Any regulations should be customized to suit the needs of individual districts, and developed closely with input from the same stakeholders the district uses to craft their emergency operations plans. Legal Reference: 18 U.S.C. § 921 Iowa Code §§ 279.8; .84; 280.21B; 483A.27(11), 724 281 I.A.C. 12.3(6)

## I.C. Iowa Code

# Description

Iowa Code § 279.8 Iowa Code § 280.21B Iowa Code § 483A.27 Iowa Code § 724 I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code 281 I.A.C. 12.3 U.S.C. - United States Code 18 U.S.C. § 921 Directors - General Rules - Bonds of Employees Expulsion-weapons Hunter Education Program Weapons Description Administration Description Crimes - Criminal Procedures - Firearms