

NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

The Board of Trustees is determined to provide a safe, positive environment where all district 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 and accompanying administrative regulation, employees include interns, volunteers, contractors, job applicants, and other persons with an employment relationship with the district.

No district employee shall be discriminated against or harassed by any coworker, supervisor, manager, or other person with whom the employee comes in contact in the course of employment, on the basis of one, or a combination of two or more, protected characteristics which include, but may not be limited to, the employee's actual or perceived race or ethnicity, color, ancestry, ethnic group identification, nationality, national origin, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, sex stereotypes, gender, gender identity, gender expression, religion, religious creed, age, disability, medical condition, genetic information, pregnancy, false pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or related conditions or recovery, reproductive health decision-making, breastfeeding or related medical conditions, and parental, marital, and family status, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

The district 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 such an inquiry is necessary to comply with federal immigration law. (2 CCR 11028)

In addition, unless otherwise provided for in law, the district may not discriminate against an employee in any term or condition of employment, or otherwise penalize a person, including termination, based on the person's use of cannabis off the job and away from the workplace, or on a drug screening which finds that the person has nonpsychoactive cannabis metabolites in the person's hair, blood, urine, or other bodily fluid. However, the district retains the right to maintain drug-free schools or prohibit employees from possessing, being impaired by, or using cannabis while on the job. (Government Code 12954)

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. Hiring, compensation, terms, conditions, and other privileges of employment
2. Taking adverse employment actions such as termination or denial of employment, promotion, job assignment, or training

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3. Unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is offensive and 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 employee'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 one, or a combination of two or more protected characteristics, which include, but may not be limited to, an employee's pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or any related medical condition, or on an employee's gender, gender expression, gender identity, or sexual orientation
 - b. Religious creed discrimination based on an employee's religious belief, observance, and practice, including religious dress or grooming practices, or based on the district'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. Requiring medical or psychological examination of a job applicant or making 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
 - e. Requiring an applicant or employee to disclose information relating to the employee's reproductive health decision-making
 - f. Including a statement in a job advertisement, posting, application, or other material that an applicant is required to have a driver's license, unless the district reasonably expects driving to be one of the job functions for the position and reasonably believes that satisfying the job function using an alternative form of transportation would not be comparable in travel time or cost to the district

The Board also prohibits retaliation against any district employee who opposes any discriminatory employment practice by the district or its employees, agents, or representatives or who complains, reports an incident, testifies, assists, or in any way participates in the district's complaint process pursuant to this policy. No employee who

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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 a release of the employee's claim or right to file a claim against the district or a nondisparagement agreement or other document that has the purpose or effect of preventing the employee from disclosing information about harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful acts in the workplace, including any conduct that the employee has reasonable cause to believe is unlawful. (Government Code 12964.5)

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 Superintendent or designated district coordinator within one workday. All other employees shall report such incidents to their supervisor or designated district coordinator within one workday.

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

Any district 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.

Complaints concerning employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation shall immediately be investigated in accordance with procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. However, complaints alleging sex discrimination under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures specified in Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12– Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures.

The district shall maintain and preserve all applications, personnel, membership, or employment referral records and files for at least four years after the records are initially created or received or, for an applicant or a terminated employee, for four years after the date the employment action was taken. However, when the district is notified that a complaint has been filed with the California Civil Rights Department, records related to the employee involved shall be maintained and preserved until the later of the first date after the time for filing a civil action has expired or the first date after the complaint has been fully and finally disposed of and all administrative proceedings, civil actions, appeals, or related proceedings have been terminated. (Government Code 12946)

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State	Description
2 CCR 11006-11086	<i>Discrimination in employment</i>
2 CCR 11023	<i>Harassment and discrimination prevention and correction</i>
2 CCR 11024	<i>Required training and education on harassment based on sex, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation</i>
2 CCR 11027-11028	<i>National origin and ancestry discrimination</i>
5 CCR 4900-4965	<i>Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary educational programs receiving state or federal financial assistance</i>
CA Constitution Article 1,	<i>Section 1 Inalienable rights</i>
Civ. Code 51.7	<i>Freedom from violence or intimidation</i>
Ed. Code 200-262.4	<i>Prohibition of discrimination</i>
Gov. Code 11135	<i>Prohibition of discrimination</i>
Gov. Code 11138	<i>Rules and regulations</i>
Gov. Code 12900-12996	<i>Fair Employment and Housing Act</i>
Gov. Code 12940-12952	<i>Unlawful employment practices</i>
Gov. Code 12960-12976	<i>Unlawful employment practices; complaints</i>
Pen. Code 422.56	<i>Definitions, hate crimes</i>
20 USC 1681-1688	<i>Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination based on sex</i>
28 CFR 35.101-35.190	<i>Americans with Disabilities Act</i>
29 USC 621-634	<i>Age Discrimination in Employment Act</i>
29 USC 794	<i>Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Section 504</i>
34 CFR 100.6	<i>Compliance information</i>
34 CFR 104.7	<i>Designation of responsible employee for Section 504</i>
34 CFR 104.8	<i>Notice</i>
34 CFR 106.8	<i>Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievance procedures</i>
34 CFR 106.9	<i>Severability</i>
34 CFR 110.1-110.39	<i>Nondiscrimination on the basis of age</i>
42 USC 12101-12213	<i>Americans with Disabilities Act</i>
42 USC 2000d-2000d-7	<i>Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964</i>
42 USC 2000e-2000e-17	<i>Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended</i>
42 USC 2000ff-2000ff-11	<i>Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008</i>
42 USC 2000h-2-2000h-6	<i>Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964</i>
42 USC 6101-6107	<i>Age discrimination in federally assisted programs</i>
<i>U.S. Constitution Amendment 1, Free exercise, free speech, and establishment clauses</i>	
Management Resources	Description
CA Dept of Fair Employment and Housing Publication	<i>California Law Prohibits Workplace Discrimination and Harassment</i>
CA Dept of Fair Employment and Housing Publication	<i>Transgender Rights in the Workplace</i>
CA Dept of Fair Employment and Housing Publication	<i>Workplace Harassment Guide for California Employers</i>
CA Dept of Fair Employment and Housing Publication	<i>Your Rights and Obligations as a Pregnant Employee</i>
Court Decision	<i>Kennedy v. Bremerton (2022) 142 S.Ct. 2407</i>
Court Decision	<i>Shepard v. Loyola Marymount, (2002</i>
	<i>Cal.Appl 4th 837</i>
Court Decision	<i>Thomson v. North American Stainless LP, (2011)</i>

BIGGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Biggs, California

Adopted: January 4, 2012

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All complaints alleging discrimination in employment, as defined in the accompanying Board policy, shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with procedures specified in this administrative regulation. However, complaints alleging sexual harassment under Title IX shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures specified in Administrative Regulation 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 – Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 3312 - Contracts)

(cf. 3600 - Consultants)

(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

The district designates the position identified below as its coordinator for nondiscrimination in employment (coordinator) to organize and manage the district's efforts to comply with state and federal nondiscrimination laws and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies. The coordinator may be contacted at:

HR Director
300 B STREET
BIGGS, CA 95917
530-868-1281

Measures to Prevent Discrimination

To prevent unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation in district employment, the Superintendent or designee shall implement the following measures:

1. Display in a prominent and accessible location at every work site where the district has employees, and post electronically in a conspicuous location on computers for employee use, up-to-date California Civil Rights Department (CRD) posters on the prohibition of workplace discrimination and harassment, the rights of transgender employees, and the rights and obligations of employees who are pregnant, have a related medical condition, or are recovering from childbirth (Government Code 12950; 2 CCR 11013, 11023, 11049)

(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave)

2. Publicize the district's nondiscrimination policy and regulation, including the complaint procedures and the coordinator's contact information, by: (Education Code 234.1, 5 CCR 4960; 34 CFR 100.6, 106.8)

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- a. Including them in each announcement, bulletin, or application form that is used in employee recruitment
- b. Posting them in all district schools and offices, including staff lounges and other prominent locations
- c. Posting them on the district's web site and providing easy access to them through district-supported social media, when available

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 1114 - District-Sponsored Social Media)

(cf. 4111/4211/4311 - Recruitment and Selection)

- 3. Disseminate the district's nondiscrimination policy and administrative regulation to all employees by one or more of the following methods: (2 CCR 11023)
 - a. Printing and providing a copy to all employees, with an acknowledgment form for each employee to sign and return
 - b. Sending a copy via email with an acknowledgment return form
 - c. Posting a copy on the district intranet with a tracking system ensuring all employees have read and acknowledged receipt of the policies
 - d. Discussing the policy and regulation with employees upon hire and/or during a new hire orientation session
 - e. Any other way that ensures employees receive and understand the policy

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

- 4. Provide to employees a handbook which contains information that clearly describes the district's nondiscrimination policy, procedures for filing a complaint, and resources available to employees who believe they have been the victim of any discriminatory or harassing behavior
- 5. Provide training regarding the district's nondiscrimination policy, including what constitutes unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and how and to whom a report of an incident should be made

The district may also provide bystander intervention training to employees that includes information and practical guidance on how to recognize potentially problematic behaviors and which may motivate them to take action when they observe such behaviors. The training and education may include exercises to provide employees with the skills and confidence to intervene as appropriate and to provide them with resources they can call upon that support their intervention. (Government Code 12950.2)

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6. Periodically review the district's recruitment, hiring, and promotion processes and regularly monitor the terms, conditions, and privileges of employment to ensure district compliance with law and Board Policy 4111- Recruitment and Selection
7. For any district facility where 10 percent of employees have a language other than English as their spoken language, translate the policy into every language spoken by at least 10 percent of the workforce (2 CCR 11023)

Complaint Procedure

Any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination or harassment covered by this administrative regulation and accompanying Board policy shall be addressed in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Notice and Receipt of Complaint: A complainant may inform a direct supervisor, another supervisor, the coordinator, the Superintendent or, if available, a complaint hotline or an ombudsman

The complainant's direct supervisor may be bypassed in filing a complaint when the supervisor is the subject of the complaint.

The complainant may first attempt to resolve the situation informally with the complainant's supervisor before filing a complaint.

A supervisor or manager who has received information about an incident of discrimination or harassment, or has observed such an incident, shall report it to the coordinator, whether or not the complainant files a complaint.

The complaint should contain the complainant's name, the name of the individual who allegedly committed the act, a description of the incident, the date and location where the incident occurred, any witnesses who may have relevant information, any available evidence of the discrimination or harassment, and any other pertinent information which may assist in investigating and resolving the complaint.

2. Investigation Process: The coordinator shall initiate an impartial investigation of an allegation of discrimination or harassment within five business days of receiving notice of the alleged discriminatory or harassing behavior, regardless of whether a complaint has been filed or whether the complaint is complete.

The coordinator shall meet with the complainant to describe the district's complaint procedure and discuss the actions being sought by the complainant in response to the allegation. The coordinator shall inform the complainant that the investigation of the allegations will be fair, timely, and thorough and will be conducted in a manner that provides all parties due process and reaches reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected. The coordinator shall also inform the parties that the investigation

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will be kept confidential to the extent possible, but that some information may be disclosed as necessary to conduct an effective investigation.

If the coordinator determines that a detailed fact-finding investigation is necessary, the investigation shall begin immediately. As part of this investigation, the coordinator should interview the complainant, the person(s) accused, and other persons who could be expected to have relevant information.

The coordinator shall track and document the progress of the investigation to ensure reasonable progress and shall inform the parties as necessary.

When necessary to carry out the investigation or to protect employee safety, the coordinator may discuss the complaint with the Superintendent or designee, district legal counsel, or the district's risk manager.

The coordinator shall also determine whether interim measures, such as scheduling changes, transfers, or leaves, need to be taken before the investigation is completed in order to prevent further incidents. The coordinator shall ensure that such interim measures do not constitute retaliation.

3. **Written Report on Findings and Remedial/Corrective Action:** No more than 20 business days after receiving the complaint, the coordinator shall conclude the investigation and prepare a written report of the findings.

This timeline may be extended by the coordinator for good cause. If an extension is needed, the coordinator shall notify the parties and explain the reasons for the extension.

The report shall include the decision and the reasons for the decision and shall summarize the steps taken during the investigation. If a determination has been made that discrimination or harassment occurred, the report shall also include any corrective action(s) that have been or will be taken to address the behavior, provide appropriate options for remedial actions and resolutions for the complainant, and ensure that retaliation or further discrimination or harassment is prevented. The report shall be presented to the Superintendent or designee.

A summary of the findings shall be presented to the complainant and the person accused.

4. **Appeal to the Governing Board:** The complainant or any of the person(s) accused may appeal any findings to the Board within 10 business days of receiving the written report of the coordinator's findings.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with all information presented during the investigation and the Board shall schedule a hearing as soon as practicable. Any complaint against a district employee shall be addressed in closed

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session in accordance with law. The Board shall render its decision within 10 business days.

(cf. 1312.1 - *Complaints Concerning District Employees*)

(cf. 9321 - *Closed Session*)

Other Remedies

In addition to filing a discrimination or harassment complaint with the district, a person may file a complaint with either CRD or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The time limits for filing such complaints are as follows:

1. For filing a complaint with CRD alleging a violation of Government Code 12940-12952, within three years of the alleged discriminatory act(s), unless an exception exists pursuant to Government Code 12960 (Government Code 12960)
2. For filing a complaint with EEOC, within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act(s) (42 USC 2000e-5)
3. For filing a complaint with EEOC after first filing a complaint with CRD, within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory act(s) or within 30 days after the termination of proceedings by CRD, whichever is earlier (42 USC 2000e-5)

An employee may also file a complaint with the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor for an alleged violation of the PUMP Act and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for failure to provide reasonable accommodations pursuant to the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. (29 USC 218c, 218d, 42 USC 2000gg-2)

Additionally, an employee may file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner at the California Department of Industrial Relations for any alleged violation of Labor Code 1030-1034. (Labor Code 1034)

Regulation

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BIGGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Biggs, California