

NONDISCRIMINATION/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

No pupil enrolled in the district schools shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity of this district on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, national origin, place of residence in the district, social or economic condition, nonapplicable disability or because of genetic information or refusal to submit to or make available the results of a genetic test. The affirmative action team as led by the affirmative action officer shall be responsible for planning, implementing and monitoring the district's affirmative action program with respect to school and classroom practices.

Reporting to the chief school administrator, the affirmative action team shall review the following areas for compliance with state department of education regulations and make suggestions and/or recommendations when necessary.

A. Curriculum content

The team shall examine the following areas to ensure that curricula eliminate discrimination and promote understanding and mutual respect among students, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, affectional or sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, socio-economic status or disability:

1. School climate
2. Courses of study
3. Instructional materials
4. Instructional strategies
5. Library materials
6. Software and audio-visual materials
7. Guidance and counseling
8. Extracurricular programs and activities
9. Testing and other assessments

The team shall monitor the curriculum to ensure inclusion of instruction on African-American history in the teaching of United States history and inclusion of instruction on the Holocaust and genocide in the curriculum for all elementary and secondary school pupils.

B. Staff training

The affirmative action officer shall suggest a program of inservice training for school personnel designed to identify and solve problems of bias in all aspects of the school program. An equity inservice program shall be held annually for all staff and for parents and community members as needed to facilitate participation and support.

C. Pupil access

The team shall review all school facilities, courses, programs, activities and services to ensure that all pupils are provided equal and bias-free access to them. Particular attention shall be paid to the following:

1. Ensuring equal access to all school and classroom facilities;
2. Assigning pupils in such a way that the racial/national origin composition of each school's enrollment reflects the composition of the districtwide enrollment at each grade level;
3. Refraining from locating new facilities in areas that will contribute to imbalanced, isolated or racially identifiable school enrollments;
4. Assigning pupils so that school and classroom enrollments are not identifiable on the basis of race, national origin or gender;
5. Ensuring that pupils are not separated or isolated within the schools, courses, classes, programs or extracurricular activities;
6. Ensuring that minority and male pupils are not over-represented in detentions, suspensions, dropouts or special needs classifications;
7. Ensuring equal and bias-free access for all pupils to computers, computer classes and other technologically-advanced instructional assistance;
8. Ensuring that all limited English-proficient pupils and pupils with disabilities have equal and bias-free access to all school programs and activities;
9. Ensuring equal and bias-free access for language-minority pupils and pupils with disabilities to multiple measures for determining special needs;
10. Ensuring that pupil support services (such as school-based youth services, health care, tutoring and mentoring) are available to all pupils, including LEP pupils;
11. Ensuring that all pregnant pupils are permitted to remain in the regular school program and activities.

D. District support

The team shall ensure that like aspects of the school program receive like support as to staff size and compensation, purchase and maintenance of facilities and equipment, access to such facilities and equipment, and related matters and that all grades within the district are comparable in those areas.

The chief school administrator will report to the board annually on continuing compliance.

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq. Law Against Discrimination
N.J.S.A. 18A:4A-1 et seq. New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-17 Facilities for handicapped persons
N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 Course in history of the United States in high school
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-20 Discrimination; prohibition
N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.1 et seq. Equality in educational programs
See particularly:
N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.3, -1.5, -1.7 Reporting requirements
N.J.A.C. 6:8-2.1 Review of mandated programs and services
N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.1 Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
20U.S.C.A. 1681 et seq. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
29 U.S.C.A. 794 et seq. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
20 U.S.C.A. 1401 et seq. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
42 U.S.C.A. 12101 et seq. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

Approved: October 20, 1975
Revised: July 17, 1989
Revised: November 18, 2002
Revised: April 26, 2004