

Idaho State Board of Education

GOVERNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: I. GENERAL GOVERNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SUBSECTION: T. Title IX

June 2016

1. This subsection shall apply to the University of Idaho, Boise State University, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College, Eastern Idaho Technical College, College of Southern Idaho, College of Western Idaho, and North Idaho College (hereinafter "Institutions").

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Sec. 106 ("Title IX"), prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded education programs and activities. Title IX protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and campus visitors from all forms of sexual harassment, including sexual violence and gender-based harassment.

Sexual violence includes sexual intercourse without consent, sexual assault, and sexual coercion. Prohibited gender-based harassment may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping, even if those acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

This Policy is intended to supplement, not duplicate, Title IX guidance from the federal Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights ("OCR") for Institutions regarding their compliance with Title IX, specifically in regard to sexual harassment or sexual violence. Institutions should go beyond the requirements of this policy as necessary to address Title IX issues unique to individual campus populations so that students are able to fully receive the benefits of educational programs.

2. Institution Title IX policies.

Each institution shall publish its Title IX policies and procedures for students, staff and faculty. Such policies and procedures shall be updated as necessary and appropriate to comply with Title IX and guidance from OCR. Title IX coordinators shall be involved in the drafting and revision of such policies to ensure compliance with Title IX. If an institution is represented by legal counsel, its attorney also shall review the institution's policies for compliance with Title IX and OCR guidance. Policies shall clearly describe the process for resolving alleged violations of Title IX.

3. Notification of institution Title IX policy and resources.

Notification of institution Title IX policy and resources shall be readily accessible. Institutions shall ensure that the notices of nondiscrimination on the basis of sex required by Title IX are placed prominently on their website home pages, in addition to the placement of notices in offices where students receive services, and included in printed publications for general distribution. Webpage notices shall include easily accessible links to all applicable institution policies as well as a clear and succinct direction regarding:

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- reporting Title IX violations
- accommodations and services available for complainants
- the investigation and hearing process, including appeal rights, and all applicable time frames
- the institution's Title IX coordinator, including the Title IX coordinator's name and contact information

4. Title IX Coordinators.

Each institution shall designate a Title IX Coordinator who shall be an integral part of an institution's systematic approach to ensuring Title IX compliance. Title IX coordinators shall have the institutional authority and resources necessary to promote an educational environment that is free of discrimination, which includes stopping any harassment and preventing any reoccurring harassment, as well as the authority to implement accommodations during an investigation so that the complainant does not suffer additional effects of the sexual discrimination or violence.

Institutions are encouraged to facilitate regular communication between Title IX coordinators in order for them to share best practices and training resources.

5. Education of Students and Training to Prevent Sexual Violence.

Institutions shall implement evidence informed strategies that seek to prevent sexual harassment, sexual assault, gender based violence and high-risk activities, including alcohol education programming and other student outreach efforts (e.g. bystander education programming). Data shall be collected from an institution's constituency on a regular basis to evaluate and improve on the institution's efforts to prevent sexual discrimination.

6. Education of parties receiving or adjudicating Title IX complaints.

All employees shall receive training pertaining to Title IX and the institution's Title IX policy. Employees likely to witness or receive reports of sexual harassment and sexual violence shall receive enhanced training which, at a minimum, includes the requirements of Title IX, the proper method for reporting sexual harassment and sexual violence, and the institution's responsibilities for responding to reports of sexual harassment and sexual violence. Institution employees who will likely require enhanced training include: Title IX coordinators, campus law enforcement personnel, student conduct board members, student affairs personnel, academic advisors, residential housing advisors, and coaches. All employees who learn of an allegation of sexual harassment, including sexual violence and gender-based harassment, (and are not required by law to maintain the confidentiality of the disclosure, such as

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licensed medical professionals or counselors) are required to report it to the Title IX coordinator within 24 hours.

Fact finders and decision makers involving resolution of Title IX violations shall also have adequate training or knowledge regarding sexual assault, including the interpretation of relevant medical and forensic evidence.

7. Investigation and resolution of Title IX violations

An institution shall take immediate steps to protect a complainant in the educational setting. Individuals reporting being subjected to sexual violence shall be notified of counseling and medical resources, and provided with necessary accommodations such as academic adjustments and support services, and changes to housing arrangements. In some cases, a complainant may need extra time to complete or re-take a class or withdraw from a class without academic or financial penalty. Institutions shall not wait for the conclusion of a criminal investigation or proceeding before commencing a Title IX investigation.

Institution Title IX policies shall include a prompt and equitable process for resolution of complaints as early as possible in order to effectively correct individual or systemic problems. Both the complainant and the respondent shall be provided an opportunity to explain the event giving rise to the complaint. All timeframes shall be clearly communicated with the parties and regular status updates shall be provided. Both parties to a complaint shall be notified in writing of the outcome of the complaint, including whether sexual harassment or violence was found based upon a preponderance of the evidence to have occurred and, in accordance with federal and state privacy laws, the sanction imposed. Both the complainant and respondent shall have the same rights of appeal.

In cases involving a student-respondent, withdrawal from the institution shall not be used as a method to avoid completion of the investigation. An institution may place a hold on a student-respondent's student account or otherwise temporarily restrict his or her ability to request an official transcript until completion of the investigation.

8. Disciplinary Actions

If a student is found to have violated an institution's Title IX policy, disciplinary action shall be imposed in accordance with the institution's student code of conduct. If the student is suspended or expelled, that action shall be noted in the student's education records and communicated to a subsequent institution at which the student seeks to enroll, provided that the subsequent institution or student has requested the student's education record from the prior institution. If an institution employee is found to have violated an institution's Title IX policy, disciplinary action will be imposed in accordance with the applicable institution's human resources policies and procedures.