

Title IX of the Education Acts of 1972

Your Rights Under Title IX

Pursuant to Education Code 221.8 you have the right to:

1. Fair and equitable treatment and you shall not be discriminated against based on your sex.
2. Be provided with an equitable opportunity to participate in all academic extracurricular activities, including athletics.
3. Inquire of the athletic director or your school as to the athletic opportunities offered by the school.
4. Apply for athletic scholarships.
5. Receive equitable treatment and benefits in the provision of all of the following:
 - equipment and supplies
 - scheduling of games and practices
 - transportation and allowances
 - access to tutoring
 - coaching
 - locker rooms
 - practice and competitive facilities
 - medical and training facilities and services
 - publicity
6. Have access to gender equity coordinator to answer questions regarding equity.
7. Contact the State Department of Education and the California Interscholastic Federation to access information on gender equity laws.
8. File a confidential discrimination complaint with the United States Office for Civil Rights or the State Department of Education if you believe you have been discriminated against or if you believe you have received unequal treatment on the basis of your sex.
9. Pursue remedies if you have been discriminated against.
10. Protected against retaliation if you file a discrimination complaint.

Notice of Student Nondiscrimination/Notice of Nondiscrimination

Sierra Sands Unified is committed to making the schools free from unlawful discrimination and providing equal opportunities for all individuals in education. The district prohibits discriminatory practices whose purpose or effect has a negative impact on the student's academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. The district promotes programs that ensure that discriminatory practices are eliminated in all district activities. Any student who engages in discrimination of another student or anyone from the district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Any employee who permits or engages in discrimination may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. A student or parent/guardian who believes that discrimination has occurred may contact the principal for immediate resolution at the site. A student or parent/guardian is not required to attempt resolution through the school site before contacting the District Title IX Coordinator.

Filing a Report or Informal Complaint of Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Based on Sex

The district believes discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying issues may be resolved at the school site. As such, students, parents, or guardians may report any act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying based on sex (in any area covered by Title IX, including sexual harassment) by a student, staff member or third party directly to the school site's principal for immediate resolution at the school site.

- **Investigation of Reports or Informal Complaints:** The responsible school official will conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the complaint which will include, but is not limited to, interviewing the accuser and the accused, asking each to provide names of witnesses, interviewing potential witnesses, and gathering relevant evidence. When sex-based discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying is reported, interim steps will be taken to stop harassment and protect the accuser from further harassment pending outcome of the investigation and/or complaint. A thorough investigation is required to protect the accuser, afford due process to the accused, and to ensure resolution of the issue(s). A student, or parent or guardian, is not required to attempt resolution through the school site before contacting the District Title IX Coordinator.

At any time during the process students, parents, or guardians, may contact the Title IX Coordinator to report or file an informal complaint directly with the district at:

David Ostash, Title IX Coordinator
Sierra Sands Unified School District
113 W. Felspar Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
dostash@ssusd.org
760-499-1620
FAX: 760-375-1253

Filing a Formal or Uniform Complaint

Pursuant to Board Policy 1312.3 at any time during the site resolution process students, parents, or guardians may file a Uniform Complaint. Completing the Uniform Complaint Form is not required to file a complaint, however the complaint must be in writing and state that it is a formal complaint or a Uniform Complaint. Uniform Complaint Forms can also be obtained from the District Office.

The Uniform Complaint may be mailed to or filed at:

Sierra Sands Unified School District
Attn: Compliance Officer
113 W. Felspar Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

- **Statute of Limitations** - Uniform complaints alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying based on sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence) must be filed no later than six months from the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged sexual harassment. The six-month period may be extended for good cause, not to exceed an additional 90 days.
- **Investigation of Uniform Complaints** - The district will undertake an effective, thorough, and objective investigation of the allegations and provide a written report within 60 days of the date of receipt of the Uniform Complaint. The report will include a summary of the facts, a decision on the complaint, reason for the decision and corrective actions (if applicable) that have or will be taken, including remedies for the victim. The complainant has the right to present witnesses and evidence.
- **Action** - If the district determines that its policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying based on sex have been violated, disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion (for students) or dismissal (for employees) will be taken. Remedial actions which are designed to end the harassment, prevent its recurrence and address its effects on the harassed student, will be provided to the victim. Remedial action(s) will also be required of the school site.

- **Retaliation** - The district prohibits retaliation against any participant in the complaint process including witnesses. A separate Uniform Complaint may be filed if retaliation occurs against any individual involved in the processing of discrimination, harassment, or bullying complaint. Each complaint shall be investigated promptly and in a way that respects the privacy of all parties concerned. Follow up with the student will occur to ensure the harassment has stopped and that there is no retaliation.

A student or parent/guardian is not required to attempt resolution through the school site before contacting the District Title IX Coordinator and/or filing a formal Uniform Complaint.

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Office for Civil Rights

[Main Page-Office for Civil Rights \(OCR\)](#)

[How to File a Discrimination Complaint with the OCR](#)