

NONDISCRIMINATION AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Nondiscrimination

The district is committed to an educational and working environment free from discrimination and harassment as described in this policy. This policy and accompanying procedure prohibits discrimination and harassment of any staff member, volunteers, and contractors who work on behalf of the district.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The district will provide equal employment opportunity and treatment for all applicants and staff in recruitment, hiring, retention, assignment, transfer, promotion and training. Such equal employment opportunity shall be provided without discrimination with respect to a legally protected characteristic, which include the following: race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, marital status disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability.

Discriminatory Harassment

Discriminatory harassment is unwelcome conduct that is:

1. Directed toward a person based on a protected characteristic,
2. Sufficiently severe or pervasive;
3. Unreasonably interferes with a person's work environment or ability to perform job duties; and
4. The cause of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Examples of discriminatory harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Unwelcome jokes or comments about a legally protected characteristic (e.g., racial or ethnic jokes);
- Disparaging remarks to or about a person's legally protected characteristic (e.g., negative or offensive remarks or jokes about a person's religion or religious garments);
- Displaying negative or offensive posters or pictures about a legally protected characteristic;
- Physical conduct toward a person due to that person's legally protected characteristic;
- All communications, including those conveyed electronically, such as by e-mail, telephone or voicemail, text messaging, or social media or other internet use, that directly or indirectly implicates a legally protected characteristic; or
- Any other unwelcome conduct that implicated a legally protected characteristic.

In most instances, discriminatory harassment does not include supervisory or evaluative practices.

The board designates the superintendent to serve as the Compliance Officer.

Affirmative Action

The district, as a recipient of public funds, is committed to undertake affirmative action which will make effective equal employment opportunities for staff and applicants for

employment. Such affirmative action shall include a review of programs, the setting of goals and the implementation of corrective employment procedures to increase the ratio of aged, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, women and Vietnam veterans who are under-represented in the job classifications in relationship to the availability of such persons having requisite qualifications. Affirmative action plans may not include hiring or employment preferences based on gender or race, including color, ethnicity or national origin. Such affirmative action shall also include recruitment, selection, training, education and other programs.

The superintendent will develop an affirmative action plan which specifies the personnel procedures to be followed by the staff of the district and will ensure that no such procedures discriminate against any individual. Reasonable steps shall be taken to promote employment opportunities of those classes that are recognized as protected groups — aged, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and women and Vietnam veterans, although under state law, racial minorities, and women may not be treated preferentially in public employment.

This policy, as well as the affirmative action plan, regulations and procedures developed according to it, will be disseminated widely to staff in all classifications and to all interested patrons and organizations. Progress toward the goals established under this policy shall be reported annually to the board.

Employment of Persons With Disabilities

In order to fulfill its commitment of nondiscrimination to those with disabilities, the following conditions shall prevail:

1. No qualified person with disabilities will, solely by reason of a disability, be subjected to discrimination, and the district will not limit, segregate or classify any applicants for employment or any staff member in any way that adversely affects his/her opportunities or status because of a disability. This prohibition applies to all aspects of employment from recruitment to promotions and includes fringe benefits and other elements of compensation.
2. The district shall make reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified disabled applicant or staff member unless it is clear that an accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the district program. Such reasonable accommodations may include:
 - a. Making facilities used by staff readily accessible and usable by persons with disabilities; and
 - b. Job restructuring, part-time or modified work schedules, acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, the provision of readers or interpreters and other similar actions.

In determining whether or not accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the district, factors to be considered include the nature and cost of the accommodation.

3. The District will not use any employment tests or criteria that screens out persons with disabilities unless the test or criteria is clearly and specifically job-related.

Also, the District will not use such tests or criteria if alternative tests or criteria (that do not screen out persons with disabilities) are available.

4. While the district may not make pre-employment inquiry as to whether an applicant has a disability or as to the nature and severity of any such disability, it may inquire into an applicant's ability to perform job-related functions.
5. Any staff member who believes that there has been a violation of this policy or the law prohibiting discrimination because of a disability may initiate a grievance through the procedures for staff complaints.

Nondiscrimination for Military Service

The district will not discriminate against any person who is a member of, applies to be a member or, performs, has performed, applies to perform, or has an obligation to perform service in a uniformed service, on the basis of that participation in a uniformed service. This includes in initial employment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment. The district will also not discriminate against any person who has participated in the enforcement of these rights under state or federal law.

Cross References:

2030	Service Animals in Schools
5270	Resolution of Staff Complaints
5011	Sexual Harassment of District Staff Members Prohibited
5407	Military Leave

Legal References:

RCW 28A.400.310	Law against discrimination applicable to district's employment practices
RCW 28A.640.020	Regulations, guidelines to eliminate discrimination — Scope
Chapter 28A.642	RCW Discrimination prohibition Laws of 2018,
Ch. 116	Wages and Advancement Opportunities—Gender
Chapter 49.60	RCW Discrimination — Human rights commission
RCW 49.60.030	Freedom from discrimination—Declaration of civil rights Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974 (VEVRAA)
RCW 49.60.180	Unfair practices of employer defined
RCW 49 60 400	Discrimination, preferential treatment prohibited.
Chapter 73.16.	RCW Employment and Re-employment
Chapter 392-190	WAC Equal Educational Opportunity – Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited
WAC 392-190-0592	Public school employment – Affirmative action program
42 USC §§ 2000e1-2000e10	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
20 USC §§ 1681 – 1688	Title IX Educational Amendments of 1972
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213	American with Disabilities Act
8 USC §§ 1324	(IRCA) Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986

38 USC §§ 4301-4333	Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act
29 USC §§ 794	Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973
34 CFR 104	Nondiscrimination on the basis of handicap in programs of activities receiving federal financial assistance
38 USC § 4212	Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974

Management Resources:

2023 – July Issue	
2018 – May Issue	
2017 – April Issue	
2014 – December Issue	
2013 – June Issue	
2011 – June Issue	
2011 – February Issue	
<i>Policy News</i> , August 2007	Washington’s Law Against Discrimination
<i>Policy News</i> , June 2001	State Updates Military Leave Rights

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2019; April 24, 2024