

## **Series 5000 – Students**

### **1. Elementary and Secondary**

#### **D. Welfare**

#### **9) Civil & Legal Rights and Responsibilities**

##### **(d) Non-Discrimination**

The Board of Education (the “Board”) complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws prohibiting the exclusion of any person from any of its educational programs or activities, or the denial to any person of the benefits of any of its educational programs or activities because of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status, subject to the conditions and limitations established by law.

It is the policy of the Board that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law is prohibited, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to the control of the Board. The Board’s prohibition of discrimination or harassment in its educational programs or activities expressly extends to academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities, including athletics. It is also the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any discrimination or harassment on the basis of protected characteristics such as race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status.

For the purposes of this policy, “veteran” means any person honorably discharged from, released under honorable conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition from active service in, the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard. “Qualifying condition” means (A) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, (B) an experience of military sexual trauma disclosed to an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, or (C) a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as determined in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 27-103(c), (d).

For the purposes of this policy, “gender identity or expression” means a person’s gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person’s physiology or assigned

sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose.

For the purposes of this policy, “race” is inclusive of ethnic traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles. “Protective hairstyles” includes, but is not limited to, wigs, headwraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.

Any student and/or parent/guardian wishing to file a complaint regarding discrimination or harassment may obtain a copy of the Board’s complaint procedures and complaint form, which are included in the Board’s Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination/Students. These regulations accompany Board Policy #5145.4 and are available online at <https://www.suffield.org/district/board-of-education/policies> or upon request from the main office of any district school.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on reasons such as gender/sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or pregnancy, such complaints will be handled under other appropriate policies (e.g., Policy #5145.5 Students/Sex Discrimination and Harassment; Policy #5145 Section 504/ADA).

Any student and/or parent/guardian also may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (“OCR”):

Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
8th Floor  
5 Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109- 3921  
(617-289-0111)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Any student and/or parent/guardian may also file a complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities  
450 Columbus Blvd.  
Hartford, CT 06103-1835  
(860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

Anyone who has questions or concerns about this policy, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations based on religion, and/or who would like a copy of the Board’s complaint procedures or complaint forms related to claims of discrimination or harassment, may contact:

Director of Special Services  
Suffield Public Schools  
350 Mountain Road  
Suffield, CT 06078  
(860)668-3803

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of gender/sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation may contact the Board's Title IX Coordinator:

Director of Special Services  
Suffield Public Schools  
350 Mountain Road  
Suffield, CT 06078  
(860)668-3803

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of disability, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations for a disability, may contact the Board's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

Director of Special Services  
Suffield Public Schools  
350 Mountain Road  
Suffield, CT 06078  
(860)668-3803

#### Legal References:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.  
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, et seq.  
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.  
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, et seq.  
Connecticut General Statutes § 1-1n, "Gender Identity or Expression" defined  
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-15c  
Connecticut General Statutes § 27-103  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51, Definitions  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-58, Deprivation of rights  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-81a, et seq.  
Public Act No. 21-79, "An Act Redefining 'Veteran' and Establishing a Qualifying Review Board"

Policy adopted:	October 17, 2006	SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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