



No. 103

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: NONDISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES

ADOPTED:

REVISED: September 12, 2011

No.103 NONDISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES

1. The Board declares it to be the policy of this school to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs offered in the schools regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability. LVPA shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities. The school shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute handicaps and disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations. The Board encourages students and third parties who have been subject to discrimination to promptly report such incidents to designated employees. The Board directs that complaints of discrimination shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action be taken when allegations are substantiated. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the school's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith charges of discrimination.

2. Delegation of Responsibility: In order to maintain a program of nondiscrimination practices that is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the Board designates the CEO, or his/her designee, as LVPA's Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer shall publish and disseminate this policy and complaint procedure at least annually to students, parents/guardians, employees and the public. Nondiscrimination statements shall include the position, office address and telephone number of the Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer is responsible to monitor the implementation of nondiscrimination procedures in the following areas:

1. Curriculum and Materials - Review of curriculum guides, textbooks and supplemental materials for discriminatory bias.
2. Training - Provision of training for students and staff to identify and alleviate problems of discrimination.
3. Student Access - Review of programs, activities and practices to ensure that all students have equal access and are not segregated except when permissible by law or regulation.

4. School Support - Assurance that like aspects of the school program receive comparable support as to staffing and compensation, facilities, equipment, and related matters.
5. Student Evaluation - Review of tests, procedures, and guidance and counseling materials for stereotyping and discrimination.

The building principal or designee shall be responsible to complete the following duties when receiving a complaint of discrimination:

1. Inform the student or third party of the right to file a complaint and the complaint procedure.
2. Inform the complainant that s/he may be accompanied by a parent/guardian during all steps of the complaint procedure.
3. Notify the complainant and the accused of the progress at appropriate stages of the procedure.
4. Refer the complainant to the Compliance Officer if the building principal is the subject of the complaint or refer the complaint to the principal if the Compliance Officer is the subject of the complaint.

3. Guidelines: Complaint Procedure – Student/Third Party

Step 1 – Reporting

A student or third party who believes s/he has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report the incident to the building principal. A school employee who suspects or is notified that a student has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy shall immediately report the incident to the building principal. If the building principal is the subject of a complaint, the student, third party or employee shall report the incident directly to the Compliance Officer. The complainant or reporting employee is encouraged to use the report form available from the supervisor, but oral complaints shall be acceptable.

Step 2 – Investigation

Upon receiving a complaint of discrimination, the building principal shall immediately notify the Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer shall authorize the building principal to investigate the complaint, unless the building principal is the subject of the complaint or is unable to conduct the investigation. The investigation may consist of individual interviews with the complainant, the accused, and others with knowledge relative to the incident. The investigator may also evaluate any other information and materials relevant to the investigation. The obligation to conduct this investigation shall not be negated by the fact that a criminal investigation of the incident is pending or has been concluded.

Step 3 – Investigative Report

The investigator shall prepare a written report within fifteen (15) days, unless additional time to complete the investigation is required. The report shall include a summary of the investigation, a determination of whether the complaint has been substantiated as factual and whether it is a violation of this policy, and a recommended disposition of the complaint.

Findings of the investigation shall be provided to the complainant, the accused, and the Compliance Officer.

Step 4 – School Action

If the investigation results in a finding that the complaint is factual and constitutes a violation of this policy, the school shall take prompt, corrective action to ensure that such conduct ceases and will not recur. Disciplinary actions shall be consistent with the Student Code of Conduct, Board policies and school procedures, applicable collective bargaining agreements, and state and federal laws.

Appeal Procedure

1. If the complainant is not satisfied with a finding of no violation of the policy or with the corrective action recommended in the investigative report, s/he may submit a written appeal to the Compliance Officer within fifteen (15) days.
2. The Compliance Officer shall review the investigation and the investigative report and may also conduct a reasonable investigation.
3. The Compliance Officer shall prepare a written response to the appeal within fifteen (15) days. Copies of the response shall be provided to the complainant, the accused and the building principal who conducted the initial investigation.
4. If the complainant is not satisfied with a finding of no violation of the policy or with the corrective action recommended in the investigative report, s/he may submit a written appeal to the CEO, who will prepare a written response to the appeal within fifteen (15) days. Copies of the response shall be provided to the complainant, the accused and the building principal who conducted the initial investigation. The complainant may appeal the CEO's response to the Board of School Directors as a final step in the appeal procedure.

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