



Title IX and School Safety Check



Gender discrimination holds us all back. Title IX is the United States federal civil rights law, established in 1972, that prohibits sex discrimination (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity) in all education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Despite the huge advances schools have made in the 50 years since the passage of Title IX in the United States, sexual harassment and assault still happen far too often, including at and around K-12 schools.

Schools should be supportive places where all students, including girls, can grow and learn. And Title IX is one of the laws that requires schools to create a safe and healthy learning environment. It's important that we all understand the steps schools are required to take to keep students safe, so that we can take action if needed and help our schools improve.

Here are some things that students and allies can consider in evaluating their schools' preparedness to prevent and handle discrimination and sexual harassment and assault. Based on what you learn, you can follow up and advocate for change. Together, we can create safer schools.

How do I make a report if I am harassed or assaulted?

- Does your school tell students who the Title IX Coordinator is and provide contact information for that person?
- Does your school identify other officials to whom you can report discrimination or harassment?

Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy

- Does your school have a sexual harassment and discrimination policy?
 - Is the policy clear and easy to understand?
 - Are "sexual harassment" and "sexual discrimination" defined?
 - Are there written procedures for investigating complaints of sexual harassment and discrimination?
 - Are there written procedures for reporting sexual harassment and discrimination?
 - Is the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights made clear?
 - Is the U.S. civil rights law "Title IX" referenced?
 - Is the policy clearly inclusive of LGBTQ+ and pregnant or parenting individuals?

Trainings

- Does your school host trainings on the sexual harassment and discrimination policy?
 - Are students trained on the policy?
 - Are teachers and administrators trained on the policy?
- Are teachers and administrators trained on Title IX requirements?
 - How often are the trainings - are they at least once a year?
- Are teachers and administrators trained on how to identify sexual harassment and what to do if they learn of incidents of sexual harassment or assault?

Data, Compliance and Complaints

- Do students at your school know their Title IX rights?
- Is the process for filing a complaint clearly defined?
- Do students feel confident about their ability to file a complaint based on the information provided?
- If you have ever filed a complaint, do you believe your school handled it fairly and promptly?
- Does the school identify counseling resources available for victims of unwelcome sexual contact?

Explain: _____

- Does the school track and report the number of sexual harassment and discrimination complaints filed each year?

Prevention

- Does your school hold informational assemblies, activities or trainings for students focused on preventing sexual harassment and discrimination?
- Does your school educate students about consent and healthy relationships?

Notes
