

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS

It is the policy of the Newtown Board of Education that all students should be able to experience their education in Newtown free of sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other offensive verbal or physical conduct, including written material, that is sexual in nature and which interferes with a reasonable student's learning, performance, and emotional well-being, but does not include simple childish behavior or an offensive utterance, comment, or vulgarity.

Any sexual harassment of students by staff members or other students is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated.

A student who believes that (s)he has been subjected to sexual harassment by either a staff member or another student is encouraged to make it clear to the offender, if possible, that such behavior is offensive and should be stopped. The student is encouraged to bring the matter to the attention of a building administrator or guidance counselor with whom (s)he is comfortable discussing the matter. If the building administrator or guidance counselor is unable to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of the student being harassed, then the building administrator or guidance counselor, or the complaining student if those responsible do not take action, shall bring the matter to the attention of the Title IX Coordinator (Assistant Superintendent of Schools). The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for investigating all cases of sexual harassment in a timely manner and for presenting the findings of the investigation to the superintendent of schools and the pertinent building administrator for further action if necessary.

All reports of sexual harassment will be treated as confidential. Retaliation against any student for complaining about sexual harassment is prohibited. Violations of this policy will not be tolerated.

Adopted 3/12/96

Modified 8/10/99