

**Palo Verde USD**  
**Board Policy**  
**Nondiscrimination in Employment**

BP 4030

**Personnel**

The Governing Board is determined to provide a safe, positive environment where all district employees are assured of full and equal employment access and opportunities, protection from harassment or intimidation, and freedom from any fear of reprisal or retribution for asserting their employment rights in accordance with law. For purposes of this policy, employees include job applicants, interns, volunteers, and persons who contracted with the district to provide services, as applicable.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 3312 - Contracts)

(cf. 3600 - Consultants)

(cf. 4111/4211/4311 - Recruitment and Selection)

No district employee shall be discriminated against or harassed by any coworker, supervisor, manager, or other person with whom the employee comes in contact in the course of employment, on the basis of the employee's actual or perceived race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, military and veteran status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sex, or sexual orientation or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

The district shall not inquire into any employee's immigration status nor discriminate against an employee on the basis of immigration status, unless there is clear and convincing evidence that it is necessary to comply with federal immigration law. (2 CCR 11028)

Discrimination in employment based on the characteristics listed above is prohibited in all areas of employment and in all employment-related practices, including the following:

1. Discrimination in hiring, compensation, terms, conditions, and other privileges of employment

(cf. 4151/4251/4351 - Employee Compensation)

(cf. 4154/4254/4354 - Health and Welfare Benefits)

2. Taking of an adverse employment action, such as termination or the denial of employment, promotion, job assignment, or training

3. Unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is so severe or pervasive as to adversely affect an employee's employment opportunities, or that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment
4. Actions and practices identified as unlawful or discriminatory pursuant to Government Code 12940 or 2 CCR 11006-11086, such as:
  - a. Sex discrimination based on an employee's pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or any related medical condition or on an employee's gender, gender expression, or gender identity, including transgender status

(cf. 4033 - Lactation Accommodation)

(cf. 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 - Sexual Harassment)

- b. Religious creed discrimination based on an employee's religious belief or observance, including his/her religious dress or grooming practices, or based on the district's failure or refusal to use reasonable means to accommodate an employee's religious belief, observance, or practice which conflicts with an employment requirement.
- c. Requirement for a medical or psychological examination of a job applicant, or an inquiry into whether a job applicant has a mental or physical disability or a medical condition or as to the severity of any such disability or condition, without the showing of a job-related need or business necessity

(cf. 4119.41/4219.41/4319.41 - Employees with Infectious Disease)

- d. Failure to make reasonable accommodation for the known physical or mental disability of an employee, or to engage in a timely, good faith, interactive process with an employee who has requested such accommodations in order to determine the effective reasonable accommodations, if any, to be provided to the employee

(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

The Board also prohibits retaliation against any district employee who opposes any discriminatory employment practice by the district or its employees, agents, or representatives or who complains, testifies, assists, or in any way participates in the district's complaint process pursuant to this policy. No employee who requests an accommodation for any protected characteristic listed in this policy shall be subjected to any punishment or sanction, regardless of whether the request was granted. (Government Code 12940; 2 CCR 11028)

No employee shall, in exchange for a raise or bonus or as a condition of employment or continued employment, be required to sign any document that releases the employee's right to file a claim against the district or to disclose information about harassment or other unlawful employment practices. (Government Code 12964.5)

Complaints concerning employment discrimination, harassment, or retaliation shall immediately be investigated in accordance with procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Any supervisory or management employee who observes or has knowledge of an incident of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including harassment of an employee by a nonemployee, shall report the incident to the Superintendent or designated district coordinator as soon as practical after the incident. All other employees are encouraged to report such incidents to their supervisor immediately. The district shall protect any employee who reports such incidents from retaliation.

The Superintendent or designee shall use all appropriate means to reinforce the district's nondiscrimination policy including providing training and information to employees about how to recognize harassment, discrimination, or other related conduct, how to respond appropriately, and components of the district's policies and regulations regarding discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly review the district's employment practices and, as necessary, shall take action to ensure district compliance with the nondiscrimination laws.

Any district employee who engages in prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation or who aids, abets, incites, compels, or coerces another to engage or attempt to engage in such behavior in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

CIVIL CODE

51.7 Freedom from violence or intimidation

GOVERNMENT CODE

11135 Unlawful discrimination

11138 Rules and regulations

12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act, especially:

11013 Recordkeeping

11019 Terms, conditions and privileges of employment

11023 Harassment and discrimination prevention and correction

11024 Sexual harassment training and education

11027-11028 National origin and ancestry discrimination

PENAL CODE

422.56 Definitions, hate crimes

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

11006-11086 Discrimination in employment

11013 Recordkeeping

11019 Terms, conditions and privileges of employment  
11023 Harassment and discrimination prevention and correction  
11024 Sexual harassment training and education  
11027-11028 National origin and ancestry discrimination  
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5  
4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20  
1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29  
621-634 Age Discrimination in Employment Act  
794 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42  
2000d-2000d-7 Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended  
2000e-2000e-17 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended  
2000ff-2000ff-11 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008  
2000h-2-2000h-6 Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
6101-6107 Age discrimination in federally assisted programs  
12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act  
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28  
35.101-35.190 Americans with Disabilities Act  
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34  
100.6 Compliance information  
104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504  
104.8 Notice  
106.8 Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievance procedures  
106.9 Dissemination of policy  
110.1-110.39 Nondiscrimination on the basis of age  
COURT DECISIONS  
Thompson v. North American Stainless LP, (2011) 131 S.Ct. 863  
Shephard v. Loyola Marymount, (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 837

#### Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING PUBLICATIONS  
California Law Prohibits Workplace Discrimination and Harassment  
Transgender Rights in the Workplace  
Workplace Harassment Guide for California Employers  
Your Rights and Obligations as a Pregnant Employee  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS  
Notice of Non-Discrimination, August 2010  
U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS  
EEOC Compliance Manual  
Enforcement Guidance: Vicarious Employer Liability for Unlawful Harassment by Supervisors,  
June 1999

#### WEB SITES

California Department of Fair Employment and Housing: <http://www.dfeh.ca.gov>  
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: <http://www.eeoc.gov>

**Policy PALO VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**adopted: May 20, 1997 Blythe, California**

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