



Board Policy: #5145.7

Section: Students

Adopted:

Revised:

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The Blue Oak Charter Council (BOCC) is committed to maintaining a safe school environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. BOCC prohibits, at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities, sexual harassment targeted at any student by anyone. BOCC also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who reports, files a complaint or testifies about, or otherwise supports a complainant in alleging sexual harassment.

Blue Oak Charter School strongly encourages any student who feels that they are being or has been sexually harassed on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity by another student or an adult who has experienced off-campus sexual harassment that has a continuing effect on campus to immediately contact their teacher, a director, or any other available school employee. Any employee who receives a report or observes an incident of sexual harassment shall notify the Executive Director. Once notified, the Executive Director shall take the steps to investigate and address the allegation.

The Executive Director or designee shall take appropriate actions to reinforce the district's sexual harassment policy. This includes ensuring that all district students receive age-appropriate information on sexual harassment. Such instruction and information shall include:

1. What acts and behavior constitute sexual harassment, including the fact that sexual harassment could occur between people of the same sex and could involve sexual violence.
2. A clear message that students do not have to endure sexual harassment under any circumstance.
3. Encouragement to report observed instances of sexual harassment, even where the alleged victim of the harassment has not complained.
4. A clear message that student safety is the charter's primary concern, and that any separate rule violation involving an alleged victim or any other person reporting a sexual harassment incident will be addressed separately and will not affect the manner in which the sexual harassment complaint will be received, investigated, or resolved.
5. A clear message that, regardless of a complainant's noncompliance with the writing, timeline, or other formal filing requirements, every sexual harassment allegation that involves a student, whether as the complainant, respondent, or victim of the harassment, shall be investigated and prompt action shall be taken to stop any harassment, prevent recurrence, and address any continuing effect on students.



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6. Information about the school's procedure for investigating complaints and the person(s) to whom a report of sexual harassment should be made.
7. Information about the rights of students and parents/guardians to file a civil or criminal complaint, as applicable, including the right to file a civil or criminal complaint while the district investigation of a sexual harassment complaint continues.
8. A clear message that, when needed, the charter will take interim measures to ensure a safe school environment for a student who is the complainant or victim of sexual harassment and/or other students during an investigation and that, to the extent possible, when such interim measures are taken, they shall not disadvantage the complainant or victim of the alleged harassment. Complaint Process and Disciplinary Actions Sexual harassment complaints by and against students shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with law and school procedures.

Students and parents will be notified through the Parent/Student Handbook that complaints of sexual harassment can be filed and where to obtain a copy of the procedures.

Disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion, provided that, in imposing such discipline, the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account.

Upon investigation of a sexual harassment complaint, any employee found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual violence toward any student shall have their employment terminated in accordance with law.

The Executive Director or designee shall maintain a record of all reported cases of sexual harassment to enable the district to monitor, address, and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in district schools.