
Note: This policy addresses employee complaints of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation targeting employees. For additional legally referenced material relating to this subject matter, see DAA(LEGAL). For sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation targeting students, see FFDA.

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Section I: Title IX

Definitions

Complainant

“Complainant” means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment. *34 C.F.R. 106.30(a)*

Respondent

“Respondent” means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment. *34 C.F.R. 106.30(a)*

Education Program or Activity

For the purposes of 34 C.F.R. 106.44, 34 C.F.R. 106.30, and 34 C.F.R. 106.45, “education program or activity” includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the recipient exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs, and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by a postsecondary institution. *34 C.F.R. 106.44(a)*

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient’s education program or activity; or
3. “Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), “dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), “domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or “stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

34 C.F.R. 106.30(a)

Formal Complaint

“Formal complaint” means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the recipient investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

The phrase “document filed by a complainant” means a document or electronic submission, such as by electronic mail or through an online portal provided for this purpose by the recipient, that contains the complainant’s physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint.

34 C.F.R. 106.30(a)

*Actual
Knowledge*

“Actual knowledge” means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to a recipient’s Title IX coordinator or any official of the recipient who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the recipient, or to any employee of an elementary and secondary school. Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. This standard is not met when the only official of the recipient with actual knowledge is the respondent. The mere ability or obligation to report sexual harassment or to inform a student about how to report sexual harassment, or having been trained to do so, does not qualify an individual as one who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the recipient.

“Notice” as used in this paragraph includes, but is not limited to, a report of sexual harassment to the Title IX coordinator as described in 34 C.F.R. 106.8(a).

34 C.F.R. 106.30(a)

*Supportive
Measures*

“Supportive measures” means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient’s education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the recipient’s educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.

Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures.

The recipient must maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the recipient to provide the supportive measures. The Title IX coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

34 C.F.R. 106.30(a)

Notice of
Nondiscrimination

Each recipient must notify persons entitled to a notification under 34 C.F.R. 106.8(a) that the recipient does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates,

and that it is required by Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106 not to discriminate in such a manner. Such notification must state that the requirement not to discriminate in the education program or activity extends to admission and employment, unless 34 C.F.R. Part 106, Subpart C does not apply, and that inquiries about the application of Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106 to such recipient may be referred to the recipient's Title IX coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary, or both. *34 C.F.R. 106.8(b)(1)*

Title IX Coordinator

Each recipient must designate and authorize at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with its responsibilities under 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which employee must be referred to as the "Title IX coordinator." *34 C.F.R. 106.8(a)*

Grievance
Procedures

A recipient must adopt and publish grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that would be prohibited by 34 C.F.R. Part 106 and a grievance process that complies with 34 C.F.R. 106.45 for formal complaints. These requirements apply only to sex discrimination occurring against a person in the United States. *34 C.F.R. 106.8(c-d); North Haven Bd. of Educ. v. Bell, 456 U.S. 512 (1982)*

*Process for
Formal
Complaints*

Conflict of
Interest
Prohibited

A recipient's grievance process must require that any individual designated by a recipient as a Title IX coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated by a recipient to facilitate an informal resolution process, not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. *34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)*

Training

A recipient must ensure that Title IX coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process, receive training on the definition of sexual harassment in 34 C.F.R. 106.30, the scope of the recipient's education program or activity, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable, and how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.

A recipient must ensure that decision-makers receive training on any technology to be used at a live hearing and on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, as set forth in 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(6).

A recipient also must ensure that investigators receive training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly sum-

marizes relevant evidence, as set forth in 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(5)(vii).

Any materials used to train Title IX coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process, must not rely on sex stereotypes and must promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of sexual harassment.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)

Time Frames	A recipient's grievance process must include reasonably prompt time frames for conclusion of the grievance process, including reasonably prompt time frames for filing and resolving appeals and informal resolution processes if the recipient offers informal resolution processes, and a process that allows for the temporary delay of the grievance process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the complainant and the respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities. <i>34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)</i>
Presumption of Responsibility Prohibited	A recipient's grievance process must include a presumption that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process. <i>34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)</i>
Information Subject to Privilege	A recipient's grievance process must not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege. <i>34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)</i>
Evaluation of Evidence and Credibility Determinations	A recipient's grievance process must require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence – and provide that credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. <i>34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)</i>
Standard of Evidence	A recipient's grievance process must state whether the standard of evidence to be used to determine responsibility is the preponderance of the evidence standard or the clear and convincing evidence standard, apply the same standard of evidence for formal complaints against students as for formal complaints against employees, including faculty, and apply the same standard of evidence to all formal complaints of sexual harassment. <i>34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)</i>

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Supportive Measures	<p>A recipient's grievance process must describe the range of supportive measures available to complainants and respondents. <i>34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)</i></p>
Sanctions and Remedies	<p>A recipient's grievance process must treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing remedies to a complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent, and by following a grievance process that complies with 34 C.F.R. 106.45 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent. Remedies must be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity. Such remedies may include the same individualized services described in 34 C.F.R. 106.30 as "supportive measures"; however, remedies need not be non-disciplinary or non-punitive and need not avoid burdening the respondent.</p> <p>A recipient's grievance process must describe the range of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies or list the possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies that the recipient may implement following any determination of responsibility.</p> <p><i>34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)</i></p>
Appeals	<p>A recipient's grievance process must include the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal. <i>34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)</i></p>
Additional Procedures	<p>Any provisions, rules, or practices other than those required by Section 106.45 that a recipient adopts as part of its grievance process for handling formal complaints of sexual harassment as defined in 34 C.F.R. 106.30, must apply equally to both parties. <i>34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)</i></p>
Reporting	<p>Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment, in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time, including during non-business hours by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address, listed for the Title IX coordinator. <i>34 C.F.R. 106.8(a)</i></p>
<i>Formal Complaint Filing</i>	<p>A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information required to be listed for the Title IX coordinator under 34 C.F.R.</p>

106.8(a), and by any additional method designated by the recipient. At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the recipient with which the formal complaint is filed.

Where the Title IX coordinator signs a formal complaint, the Title IX coordinator is not a complainant or otherwise a party under 34 C.F.R. Part 106 or under 34 C.F.R. 106.45, and must comply with the requirements of 34 C.F.R. Part 106, including 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(1)(iii).

34 C.F.R. 106.30(a)

Consolidation of
Complaints

A recipient may consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. *34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(4)*

Notice of
Allegations

Upon receipt of a formal complaint, a recipient must provide the following written notice to the parties who are known:

1. Notice of the recipient's grievance process that complies with 34 C.F.R. 106.45, including any informal resolution process.
2. Notice of the allegations of sexual harassment potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in 34 C.F.R. 106.30, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment under Section 106.30, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. The written notice must include a statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process. The written notice must inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, under 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(5)(iv), and may inspect and review evidence under Section 106.45(b)(5)(vi). The written notice must inform the parties of any provision in the recipient's code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, in the course of an investigation, the recipient decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the notice provided pursuant to item 2, above, the re-

recipient must provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(2)

Response to Sexual
Harassment

A recipient with actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an education program or activity of the recipient against a person in the United States, must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. A recipient is deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

A recipient's response must treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures to a complainant, and by following a grievance process that complies with 34 C.F.R. 106.45 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent. The Title IX coordinator must promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

The U.S. Department of Education may not deem a recipient to have satisfied the recipient's duty to not be deliberately indifferent under 34 C.F.R. Part 106 based on the recipient's restriction of rights protected under the U.S. Constitution, including the First Amendment, Fifth Amendment, and Fourteenth Amendment.

34 C.F.R. 106.44(a)

*Response to
Formal Complaint*

In response to a formal complaint, a recipient must follow a grievance process that complies with 34 C.F.R. 106.45. With or without a formal complaint, a recipient must comply with 34 C.F.R. 106.44(a).

A recipient's treatment of a complainant or a respondent in response to a formal complaint of sexual harassment may constitute discrimination on the basis of sex under Title IX.

34 C.F.R. 106.44(b), .45(a)

Informal Resolution

A recipient may not require as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, waiver of the right to an investigation and adjudication of formal complaints of sexual harassment consistent with 34 C.F.R. 106.45. Similarly, a recipient may not require the parties to participate in an informal resolution process under this section and may not offer an informal resolution process unless a

formal complaint is filed. However, at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the recipient may facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication, provided that the recipient:

1. Provides to the parties a written notice disclosing: the allegations, the requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations, provided, however, that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint, and any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared;
2. Obtains the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process; and
3. Does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(9)

Investigation

When investigating a formal complaint and throughout the grievance process, a recipient must:

1. Ensure that the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on the recipient and not on the parties provided that the recipient cannot access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless the recipient obtains that party's voluntary, written consent to do so for a grievance process under this section.
2. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
3. Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

4. Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and not limit the choice or presence of an advisor for either the complainant or respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding; however, the recipient may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties.
5. Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.
6. Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a formal complaint, including the evidence upon which the recipient does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation. Prior to completion of the investigative report, the recipient must send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least ten days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report. The recipient must make all such evidence subject to the parties' inspection and review available at any hearing to give each party equal opportunity to refer to such evidence during the hearing, including for purposes of cross-examination.
7. Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least ten days prior to a hearing, if a hearing is required under this section or otherwise provided, or other time of determination regarding responsibility, send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(5)

Hearings

For postsecondary institutions, the recipient's grievance process must provide for a live hearing. *34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(6)(i)*

*Conduct of
Hearing*

Live hearings pursuant to this section may be conducted with all parties physically present in the same geographic location or, at the recipient's discretion, any or all parties, witnesses, and other participants may appear at the live hearing virtually, with technology enabling participants simultaneously to see and hear each other.

At the request of either party, the recipient must provide for the live hearing to occur with the parties located in separate rooms with technology enabling the decision-maker(s) and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness answering questions.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(6)(i)

*Cross-
Examination*

At the live hearing, the decision-maker(s) must permit each party's advisor to ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility. Such cross-examination at the live hearing must be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the party's advisor of choice and never by a party personally, notwithstanding the discretion of the recipient under 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(5)(iv) to otherwise restrict the extent to which advisors may participate in the proceedings.

If a party does not have an advisor present at the live hearing, the recipient must provide without fee or charge to that party, an advisor of the recipient's choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, to conduct cross-examination on behalf of that party.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(6)(i)

Relevance

Only relevant cross-examination and other questions may be asked of a party or witness. Before a complainant, respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the decision-maker(s) must first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(6)(i)

Refusal to Submit to Cross-Examination	If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination at the live hearing, the decision-maker(s) must not rely on any statement of that party or witness in reaching a determination regarding responsibility; provided, however, that the decision-maker(s) cannot draw an inference about the determination regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's absence from the live hearing or refusal to answer cross-examination or other questions. 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(6)(i)
<i>Recording</i>	Recipients must create an audio or audiovisual recording, or transcript, of any live hearing and make it available to the parties for inspection and review. 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(6)(i)
Determination Regarding Responsibility	<p>The decision-maker(s), who cannot be the same person(s) as the Title IX coordinator or the investigator(s), must issue a written determination regarding responsibility. To reach this determination, the recipient must apply the standard of evidence described in 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(1)(vii). The written determination must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in 34 C.F.R. 106.30;2. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;4. Conclusions regarding the application of the recipient's code of conduct to the facts;5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the recipient imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity will be provided by the recipient to the complainant; and6. The recipient's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal. <p>The recipient must provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously.</p> <p>The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that the recipient provides the parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal, if an appeal is filed, or if an</p>

appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

The Title IX coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(7)

Dismissal of
Complaint

The recipient must investigate the allegations in a formal complaint. If the conduct alleged in the formal complaint would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in 34 C.F.R. 106.30 even if proved, did not occur in the recipient's education program or activity, or did not occur against a person in the United States, then the recipient must dismiss the formal complaint with regard to that conduct for purposes of sexual harassment under Title IX or 34 C.F.R. Part 106; such a dismissal does not preclude action under another provision of the recipient's code of conduct.

The recipient may dismiss the formal complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation or hearing: a complainant notifies the Title IX coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein; the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the recipient; or specific circumstances prevent the recipient from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

Upon a dismissal required or permitted pursuant to this section, the recipient must promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(3)

Appeals

A recipient must offer both parties an appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, and from a recipient's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

1. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
3. The Title IX coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

A recipient may offer an appeal equally to both parties on additional bases. As to all appeals, the recipient must:

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1. Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;
2. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX coordinator;
3. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal complies with the standards set forth in 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(1)(iii);
4. Give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;
5. Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and
6. Provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(8)

Confidentiality

The recipient must keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) statute, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 C.F.R. Part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder. *34 C.F.R. 106.71(a)*

Retaliation
Prohibited

No recipient or other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or 34 C.F.R. Part 106, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under Part 106. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or Part 106, constitutes retaliation. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures for sex discrimination required to be adopted under 34 C.F.R. 106.8(c).

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute prohibited retaliation.

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under 34 C.F.R. Part 106 does not constitute prohibited retaliation, provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

34 C.F.R. 106.71

Removal or Leave

Nothing in 34 C.F.R. Part 106 precludes a recipient from removing a respondent from the recipient's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that the recipient undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Nothing in 34 C.F.R. Part 106, Subpart D precludes a recipient from placing a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process that complies with 34 C.F.R. 106.45. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

34 C.F.R. 106.44(c)–(d)

Publication

*Title IX
Coordinator and
Notice of Non-
discrimination*

The recipient must notify applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, or legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the recipient, of the name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the employee or employees designated as the Title IX coordinator. *34 C.F.R. 106.8(a)*

Each recipient must prominently display the contact information required to be listed for the Title IX coordinator and the policy described in 34 C.F.R. 106.8(b)(1) on its website, if any, and in each handbook or catalog that it makes available to persons entitled to a notification under 34 C.F.R. 106.8(a).

A recipient must not use or distribute a publication stating that the recipient treats applicants, students, or employees differently on

the basis of sex except as such treatment is permitted by Title IX or 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

34 C.F.R. 106.8(b)(2)

*Grievance
Procedures and
Process*

A recipient must provide to persons entitled to a notification under 34 C.F.R. 106.8(a) notice of the recipient's grievance procedures and grievance process, including how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of sexual harassment, and how the recipient will respond. *34 C.F.R. 106.8(c)*

*Training
Materials*

A recipient must make the materials used to train Title IX coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process publicly available on its website, or if the recipient does not maintain a website, the recipient must make these materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public. *34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(10)*

Recordkeeping

A recipient must maintain for a period of seven years records of:

1. Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility and any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript required under 34 C.F.R. 106.45 (b)(6)(i), any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity;
2. Any appeal and the result therefrom;
3. Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
4. All materials used to train Title IX coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process.

For each response required under 34 C.F.R. 106.44, a recipient must create, and maintain for a period of seven years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. In each instance, the recipient must document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity. If a recipient does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the recipient must document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the

recipient in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(10)

Section II: State Law

Definitions

*Dating Violence,
Sexual Assault,
and Stalking*

"Dating violence," "sexual assault," and "stalking" have the same meanings assigned by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1092(f)(6)(A). *Education Code 51.251(2); 19 TAC 3.3(c)*

*Sexual
Harassment*

"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome, sex-based verbal or physical conduct that:

1. In the employment context, unreasonably interferes with an employee's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment; or
2. In the education context, is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that the conduct interferes with a student's ability to participate in or benefit from educational programs or activities.

Education Code 51.251(5); 19 TAC 3.3(e)

Employee

"Employee of a postsecondary educational institution" does not include a student enrolled at the institution. *Education Code 51.251(3)*

*Course and
Scope of
Employment*

"Course and scope of employment" means an employee performing duties in the furtherance of the institution's interests. *19 TAC 3.3(b)*

Sexual Assault
Policy

Each postsecondary educational institution, including each college district, shall adopt a policy on sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking applicable to each enrolled student and each employee of the institution and have the policy approved by the institution's governing body. The policy must include:

1. Definitions of prohibited behavior.
2. Sanctions for violations.
3. Protocol for reporting and responding to reports of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking that complies with the electronic reporting requirement in 19 Administrative Code 3.7.
4. Interim measures to protect victims of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking pending the institution's disciplinary process, including protection from retaliation.

tion, and any other accommodations or supportive measures available to those victims at the institution. This section is not intended to limit an institution's ability to implement accommodations to others as needed.

5. A statement regarding:
 - a. The importance of a victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking going to a hospital for treatment and preservation of evidence, if applicable, as soon as practicable after the incident;
 - b. The right of a victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking to report the incident to the institution and to receive a prompt and equitable resolution of the report; and
 - c. The right of a victim of a crime to choose whether to report the crime to law enforcement, to be assisted by the institution in reporting the crime to law enforcement, or to decline to report the crime to law enforcement.

As part of the protocol for responding to reports of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking adopted under this section, each postsecondary educational institution shall:

1. To the greatest extent practicable based on the number of counselors employed by the institution, ensure that each alleged victim or alleged perpetrator of an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking and any other person who reports such an incident are offered counseling provided by a counselor who does not provide counseling to any other person involved in the incident; and
2. Notwithstanding any other law, allow an alleged victim or alleged perpetrator of an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking to drop a course in which both parties are enrolled without any academic penalty.

Education Code 51.282(a); 19 TAC 3.4(a), (d)(2)(C)

Review

Each postsecondary educational institution shall review its sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking policy at least each biennium and revise the policy as necessary and obtain approval from the institution's governing board. *Education Code 51.282(f); 19 TAC 3.4(e)*

Distribution

Each postsecondary educational institution shall make its policy on sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking available to students, faculty, and staff members by:

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1. Including the policy in the student handbook and personnel handbook or the institution's equivalent(s); and
2. Creating and maintaining a web page dedicated solely to the policy that is easily accessible through a clearly identifiable link on the institution's homepage.

Education Code 51.282(b); 19 TAC 3.4(b)

Responsible
Employee

Each postsecondary educational institution shall designate one or more employees to act as responsible employees for purposes of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681, et seq and inform each student enrolled at the institution of the designated responsible employees. *Education Code 51.290(a); 19 TAC 3.14(a)*

Reporting
*Employee
Reporting
Required*

An employee of a postsecondary educational institution who, in the course and scope of employment, witnesses or receives information regarding the occurrence of an incident that the employee reasonably believes constitutes sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking and is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who was a student enrolled at or an employee of the institution at the time of the incident shall promptly report the incident to the institution's Title IX coordinator or deputy Title IX coordinator.

The employee is required to report an incident regardless of when or where the incident occurred.

Institutions may establish additional reporting avenues to comply with this section provided that the reports are promptly routed to the Title IX coordinator or deputy Title IX coordinator.

Education Code 51.252(a); 19 TAC 3.5(a)

Exception from
Reporting

A person is not required to make a report under this section concerning:

1. An incident in which the person was a victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking;
2. An incident of which the person received information due to a disclosure made at a sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking public awareness event sponsored by a postsecondary educational institution or by a student organization affiliated with the institution; or
3. A sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking incident in which the person has either learned of the incident during the course of his or her institution's review or process or has confirmed with the person or office overseeing

the review or process, that the incident has been previously reported.

Education Code 51.252(d); 19 TAC 3.5(d)

Contents of
Report

The report must include all information concerning the incident known to the reporting person that is relevant to the investigation and, if applicable, redress of the incident, including whether an alleged victim has expressed a desire for confidentiality in reporting the incident. *Education Code 51.252(b); 19 TAC 3.5(b)*

Limitations on
Reporting

*Designated
Confidential
Employees*

Each postsecondary educational institution shall designate one or more employees as persons to whom students enrolled at the institution may speak confidentially concerning sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and inform each student enrolled at the institution of the designated confidential employees.

A confidential employee designated under this section may not disclose any communication made by a student to the employee unless the student consents to the disclosure or the employee is required to make the disclosure under 19 Administrative Code 3.5(c), state law, or federal law.

Absent consent from the reporting student, an employee designated by the institution as a person with whom students may speak confidentially concerning sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking shall only state the type of incident reported and may not include any information that would violate a student's expectation of privacy.

Education Code 51.252(c), .290(a), (c); 19 TAC 3.5(c), .14

*Confidential
Employees
Under Other
Law*

Absent consent from the reporting individual, an employee who receives information regarding an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking under circumstances that render the employee's communications confidential or privileged under other law shall only state the type of incident reported and may not include any information that would violate an expectation of privacy. *Education Code 51.252(c); 19 TAC 3.5(c)*

*Medical
Providers*

Absent consent from the victim(s), an employee who receives information regarding an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking in the course and scope of employment as a health-care provider, mental health-care provider, or other medical provider shall only state the type of incident reported and may not include any information that would violate an expectation of privacy. *Education Code 51.291(d); 19 TAC 3.5(c)*

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<i>Campus Peace Officers</i>	<p>A campus peace officer employed by a postsecondary educational institution who receives information regarding an incident described by Education Code 51.252(a) from an alleged victim who chooses to complete a pseudonym form described by Code of Criminal Procedure Article 58.102, 58.152, 58.202, or 58.252 shall, in making a report, state only the type of incident reported and may not include the victim's name, phone number, address, or other information that may directly or indirectly reveal the victim's identity. <i>Education Code 51.252(c-1)</i></p>
<i>Multiple Confidential Employees</i>	<p>When multiple confidential employees receive information about the same incident (e.g., student health center or counseling center), only a single report stating the type of incident is required. <i>19 TAC 3.5(c)</i></p>
<i>Reporting Under Other Law</i>	<p>These limitations on disclosure do not affect the employee's duty to report an incident under any other law, including but not limited to, the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 20 U.S.C. 1092(f), Family Code 261.101, or Health and Safety Code 611.004. <i>Education Code 51.290(c); 19 TAC 3.5(c)</i></p>
Failure to Report or False Report	<p>A person commits an offense if the person is required to make a report under Education Code 51.252 and knowingly fails to make the report or with the intent to harm or deceive, knowingly makes a report under Section 51.252 that is false.</p> <p>A postsecondary educational institution shall terminate the employment of an employee whom the institution determines in accordance with the institution's disciplinary procedure to have committed the offense.</p> <p><i>Education Code 51.255(a), (c); 19 TAC 3.8</i></p>
<i>Electronic Reporting</i>	<p>Each postsecondary educational institution, including each college district, shall provide an option for electronic reporting to the institution by an enrolled student or an employee of the institution of an allegation of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking committed against or witnessed by the student or employee, regardless of the location at which the alleged offense occurred. The electronic reporting option must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Allow for anonymous reporting; and2. Be easily accessible through a clearly identifiable link on the institution's website home page. <p>A protocol for reporting sexual assault adopted under Education Code 51.282 must comply with this section.</p>

Education Code 51.283(a)–(c); 19 TAC 3.7

*Reporting on
Reports*

Title IX
Coordinator

Not less than once every three months, the Title IX coordinator of a postsecondary educational institution shall submit to the institution's chief executive officer a written report on the reports received for the institution's reporting period under 19 Administrative Code 3.5, including information regarding:

1. The investigation of those reports;
2. The disposition, if any, of any disciplinary processes arising from those reports; and
3. The reports for which the institution determined not to initiate a disciplinary process, if any.

The Title IX coordinator or deputy Title IX coordinator of a postsecondary educational institution shall immediately report to the institution's chief executive officer an incident reported to the coordinator under Section 3.5 if the coordinator has cause to believe that the safety of any person is in imminent danger as a result of the incident.

Education Code 51.253(a)–(b); 19 TAC 3.6(a)–(b)

Chief Executive
Officer

At least once annually, during each fall or spring semester, the chief executive officer of a postsecondary educational institution shall submit to the institution's governing body and post on the institution's internet website a report concerning the reports received under 19 Administrative Code 3.5. The chief executive officer report may not identify any person and must include:

1. The number of reports received under Section 3.5;
2. The number of investigations conducted as a result of those reports;
3. The disposition, if any, of any disciplinary processes arising from those reports;
4. The number of those reports for which the institution determined not to initiate a disciplinary process, if any; and
5. Any disciplinary actions taken under 19 Administrative Code 3.8.

If for any semester a postsecondary educational institution has fewer than 1,500 enrolled students, the chief executive officer of the institution shall submit and post a report required for that semester only if more than five reports were received under Section 3.5 during that semester.

Education Code 51.253(c)–(d); 19 TAC 3.6(c)–(d)

Investigations

Request Not to Investigate

If an alleged victim of an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking reported to a postsecondary educational institution requests the institution not to investigate the alleged incident, the institution may investigate the alleged incident in a manner that complies with the confidentiality requirements under Education Code 51.291 and 19 Administrative Code 3.17. In determining whether to investigate the alleged incident, the institution shall consider:

1. The seriousness of the alleged incident;
2. Whether the institution has received other reports of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking committed by the alleged perpetrator or perpetrators;
3. Whether the alleged incident poses a risk of harm to others; and
4. Any other factors the institution determines relevant.

If a postsecondary educational institution decides not to investigate an alleged incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking based on the alleged victim's request not to investigate, the institution shall take any reasonable steps the institution determines necessary and consistent with the institution's policy and applicable law to protect the health and safety of the institution's community in relation to the alleged incident.

Education Code 51.285(a)–(b); 19 TAC 3.9(a)–(b)

Notice of Decision

A postsecondary educational institution shall inform an alleged victim of an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking who requests the institution not to investigate the alleged incident of the institution's decision whether to investigate the alleged incident. *Education Code 51.285(c); 19 TAC 3.9(c)*

Confidentiality

Unless waived in writing by the person, the identity of a person described below is confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Public Information Act (PIA) and may be disclosed only to:

1. Persons employed by or under contract with the postsecondary educational institution to which the report is made who are necessary to conduct an investigation or the report or any related hearings;
2. A law enforcement officer as necessary to conduct a criminal investigation of the report;

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3. A health-care provider in an emergency, as determined necessary by the institution;
4. The person or persons alleged to have perpetrated the incident, to the extent required by other law; and
5. Potential witnesses to the incident as necessary to conduct an investigation of the report and to the extent required by other law.

The protections provided by this section apply to:

1. An alleged victim;
2. A person who reports an incident to an institution;
3. A person who sought guidance from the institution concerning an incident;
4. A person who participated in the institution's investigation of an incident; or
5. A person who is alleged in a report made to an institution to have committed or assisted in the commission of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking, if after completing an investigation, the institution determines the report to be unsubstantiated or without merit.

Education Code 51.256, .291(a), (c); 19 TAC 3.17

Retaliation
Prohibited
Employees

A postsecondary educational institution may not discipline or otherwise discriminate against an employee who in good faith makes a report as required by 19 Administrative Code 3.5 or cooperates with an investigation, a disciplinary process, or a judicial proceeding relating to a report made by the employee. *Education Code 51.257(a); 19 TAC 3.18*

Exception

The prohibition does not apply to an employee who:

1. Reports an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking perpetrated by the employee; or
2. Cooperates with an investigation, a disciplinary process, or a judicial proceeding relating to an allegation that the employee perpetrated an incident described by Education Code 51.252(a).

Education Code 51.257(b); 19 TAC 3.18(b)

Any Person

A person acting in good faith who reports or assists in the investigation of a report of an incident described by 19 Administrative Code 3.5 or who testifies or otherwise participates in a disciplinary process or judicial proceeding arising from a report of such an inci-

dent may not be subjected to any disciplinary action by the postsecondary educational institution at which the person is enrolled or employed for any violation by the person of the institution's policy or code of conduct reasonably related to the incident for which suspension or expulsion from the institution is not a possible punishment. This provision does not apply to a person who perpetrates or assists in the perpetration of the incident reported under Section 3.5. *Education Code 51.254; 19 TAC 3.5(e)–(f)*

Awareness

*Orientation on
Policy*

Each postsecondary educational institution shall require each entering freshman or undergraduate transfer student to attend an orientation on the institution's sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking policy before or during the first semester or term of enrollment at the institution. The institution shall establish the format and content of the orientation. The orientation may be provided online and must include the statements described by 19 Administrative Code 3.4(a)(5). *Education Code 51.282(c); 19 TAC 3.4(c)*

*Prevention and
Outreach
Program*

Each postsecondary educational institution shall develop and implement a comprehensive prevention and outreach program on sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking for enrolled students and employees of the institution. The program must:

1. Address a range of strategies to prevent sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, including a public awareness campaign; a victim empowerment program; primary prevention; bystander intervention; and risk reduction; and
2. Provide students information regarding the protocol for reporting incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, including the name, office location, and contact information of the institution's Title IX coordinator, by:
 - a. Emailing the information to each student at the beginning of each semester or other academic term; and
 - b. Including the information in the institution's orientation, which may be provided online.

Education Code 51.282(d); 19 TAC 3.4(d)

Equal Access

In implementing the requirements under 19 Administrative Code Chapter 3, Subchapter A, a postsecondary educational institution shall, to the greatest extent practicable, ensure equal access for students enrolled at or employees of the institution who are persons with disabilities. The institution shall make reasonable efforts to consult with a disability services office of the institution, advo-

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	<p>cacy groups for people with disabilities, and other relevant stakeholders to assist the institution with complying with the institution's duties under this section. <i>Education Code 51.293; 19 TAC 3.16</i></p>
Memoranda of Understanding	<p>To facilitate effective communication and coordination regarding allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking at the institution, a postsecondary educational institution shall enter into one or more memoranda of understanding with an entity from one or more of the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Local law enforcement agencies;2. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking advocacy groups; and3. Hospitals or other medical resource providers. <p><i>Education Code 51.289; 19 TAC 3.13</i></p>
Compliance <i>Certification by Institution</i>	<p>The chief executive officer of each postsecondary educational institution shall annually certify in writing to the Coordinating Board, not later than October 31 of each year, that the institution is in substantial compliance with Education Code Chapter 51, Subchapter E-2. The Coordinating Board shall make available to institutions a required template for the certification, which satisfies the requirements of this section. <i>Education Code 51.258(a); 19 TAC 3.19(a)</i></p>
<i>Failure to Timely and Accurately File</i>	<p>A postsecondary educational institution's failure to timely and accurately file the certification of substantial compliance not later than October 31 of each year shall result in a penalty of \$2,000 per day of violation.</p> <p>A postsecondary educational institution may cure the violation by filing its report not later than November 30 of the year the report was due. If the postsecondary educational institution cures the violation, the Coordinating Board shall not assess a penalty. If the postsecondary educational institution fails to cure the violation, the Coordinating Board shall assess the full penalty owed beginning on November 1 of the year the report was due.</p> <p>If a postsecondary educational institution files a good faith correction to a previously filed certification of substantial compliance within a reasonable time of discovering an unintentional error, but not later than February 1 following the due date of the report, the Coordinating Board shall not assess a penalty.</p> <p><i>19 TAC 3.19(e)</i></p>
<i>Coordinating Board Review</i>	<p>In addition to annually reviewing the reporting under Education Code 51.258 and 19 Administrative Code 3.19, the Coordinating Board shall conduct risk-based compliance monitoring of Subchapter E-2 and Education Code Chapter 51, Subchapter E-3. The Co-</p>

ordinating Board will determine the basis for reviews based on risk factors such as time since last review, stakeholder feedback, prior findings or complaints, and other factors. The Coordinating Board shall make available to the institutions a report template which satisfies the requirements of this section. *19 TAC 3.19(b)*

Substantial
Compliance

In evaluating whether an institution or system is in substantial compliance in accordance with 19 Administrative Code 3.3, the Coordinating Board will determine the institution's or system's good faith effort by evaluating the following factors:

1. The nature and seriousness of the compliance error;
2. The extent to which the institution complied with the statutory requirements and to what extent it did not;
3. The number of any institutional compliance errors;
4. Whether the institution had actual notice of the error;
5. Whether the institution made any effort to rectify any compliance errors or agrees to rectify any violations going forward;
6. The extent to which the institution has relevant policies and/or practices;
7. The institution's intent;
8. Severity of the error's effect;
9. Any previous compliance errors of a similar kind and the time lapse since those error(s);
10. Institutional efforts to prevent compliance errors, including the extent to which the institution provided training to employees and/or acted after learning about the error;
11. The explanation for the cause of the compliance error, including a good-faith mistake; a differing, reasonable interpretation of the law; a conflict between two provisions, or a conflict with another legal or governmental requirement (such as Title IX regulations or a mandatory report to the National Institutes of Health);
12. Any prevention and/or response efforts of the institution, made in good faith, to address a possible compliance error;
13. The degree of cooperation of the institution with the Coordinating Board in remedying a potential compliance error; and
14. Any other fact or circumstance as justice may require.

19 TAC 3.19(d)

Administrative
Penalty

If the Coordinating Board determines that a postsecondary educational institution is not in substantial compliance with Subchapter E-2 or Subchapter E-3, the Coordinating Board may assess an administrative penalty against the institution in an amount not to exceed \$2 million annually. Compliance errors committed by an institution or system that are in substantial compliance with Subchapters E-2 and E-3 will not result in a penalty. The Coordinating Board will not find an institution is out of substantial compliance with the provisions in Subchapter E-2 and Subchapter E-3 based on a determination that the Coordinating Board would have taken different action after an independent evaluation of evidence.

The Coordinating Board may assess an administrative penalty, up to a total of \$2 million annually, if a postsecondary educational institution has failed to maintain substantial compliance with Subchapter E-2 or E-3. In determining the total penalty to assess, the Coordinating Board shall consider the number of students at the institution, the penalty matrix in 19 Administrative Code 3.19, apply mitigating and aggravating factors, and any other factor justice may require. Mitigating factors may result in a reduction of the administrative penalty. Aggravating factors may result in an increased administrative penalty, up to \$2 million annually.

Mitigating factors may include:

1. The inability of the postsecondary educational institution to meet the requirement of law due to:
 - a. A disaster declared under Government Code Chapter 418;
 - b. A technology failure rendering compliance impossible; or
 - c. A severe medical impairment of a person responsible for compliance with a requirement under Texas Education Code Chapter 51, Subchapter E-2 or E-3.
2. Evidence that the postsecondary educational institution properly reported an incident to another state or federal agency with law enforcement or regulatory authority;
3. Any actual notice from the institution of the compliance error;
4. Institutional efforts to prevent compliance errors, including the extent to which the institution provided training to employees and/or acted after learning about the error;
5. The explanation for the cause of the compliance error, including a good-faith mistake; a differing, reasonable interpretation of the law; a conflict between two provisions, or a conflict with another legal or governmental requirement (such as Title IX

regulations or a mandatory report to the National Institutes of Health);

6. The lack of harm to any individual; and
7. The extent to which the institution or system complied with Subchapters E-2 and E-3.

Aggravating factors shall include:

1. Harm to an individual caused by, or directly related to, the postsecondary educational institution's failure to comply with Subchapters E-2 and E-3;
2. Any evidence of a postsecondary educational institution's failure to act on a prior substantially similar complaint;
3. Any evidence of multiple incidents of similar failures or length of time of failure by the postsecondary institution;
4. Any evidence that the postsecondary educational institution or its chief executive officer knowingly provided a false certification under Education Code 51.258(a);
5. That the postsecondary educational institution attempted to conceal or cause others to conceal information relevant to a determination of violation under Subchapters E-2 and E-3; and
6. The extent to which the institution or system failed to comply with Subchapters E-2 and E-3.

If the Coordinating Board assesses an administrative penalty against a postsecondary educational institution, the Coordinating Board shall provide to the institution written notice of the Coordinating Board's reason for assessing the penalty.

A postsecondary educational institution may not pay the administrative penalty using state-appropriated or federal money.

Education Code 51.258(b)–(c), (e) .292(a)–(b), (d); 19 TAC 3.19(c), (f)–(g), (i)

Appeal

A postsecondary educational institution assessed an administrative penalty may appeal the penalty in the manner provided by Government Code Chapter 2001. *Education Code 51.258(d), .292(c); 19 TAC 3.19(h)*