

102 EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

[Note: Education districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that equal educational opportunity is provided for all students of the education district.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The policy of the education district is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students. The education district does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or age. The education district also makes reasonable accommodations for disabled students.

[Note: Part of the definition of “sexual orientation” within the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA) is “having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one’s biological maleness or femaleness,” which is how gender identity and expression gain protection under the MHRA. Minn. Stat. § 363A.03, Subd. 44.]

B. The education district prohibits the harassment of any individual for any of the categories listed above. For information about the types of conduct that constitute violation of the education district’s policy on harassment and violence and the education district’s procedures for addressing such complaints, refer to the education district’s policy on harassment and violence.

C. This policy applies to all areas of education including academics, coursework, co-curricular and extracurricular activities, or other rights or privileges of enrollment.

D. Every education district employee shall be responsible for complying with this policy conscientiously.

E. Any student, parent, or guardian having a question regarding this policy should discuss it with the appropriate education district official as provided by policy. In the absence of a specific designee, an inquiry or a complaint should be referred to the executive director.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 121A.03, Subd. 2 (Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)
20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.* (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Student Sex Nondiscrimination)