

NONDISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

The Lancaster School District designates the individual(s) identified below as the employee(s) responsible for coordinating the district's efforts to comply with applicable state and federal civil rights laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and to answer inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies. Title IX prohibits against discrimination based on a student's sex, gender, gender identity, pregnancy, and parental status. This person shall also serve as a compliance officer specified in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures handling complaints alleging unlawful discrimination targeting a student, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, nationality, ethnicity, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or any other legally protected status or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. The coordinator/compliance officer(s) may be contacted at: (Education Code 234.1; 5 CCR 4621)

Scott J. Smith; Director of Human Resources
(Title or position)

44711 N. Cedar Ave. Lancaster, Ca. 93534
(Address)

(661) 948-4661 Ext. 152
(Telephone number)

scotts@lancsd.org
(Email)

Title IX Notifications – EC 221.61

Title IX is a federal law that was passed in 1972 to ensure that male and female students and employees in educational settings are treated equally and fairly. It protects against discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, and transgender students or students who do not conform to sex stereotypes. State law also prohibits discrimination based on gender (sex), gender expression, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Title IX coordinator for Lancaster School District is Scott J. Smith and may be reached at 661-948-4661 x152. You may file a Title IX complaint by obtaining complaint forms at the Lancaster School District Office, the school principal's office or on the California Department of Education's website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cp/uc/>.

Process for Initiating and Responding to Complaints (AR 1312.3)

Any student who feels that he/she has been subjected to unlawful discrimination described above or in district policy is strongly encouraged to immediately contact the compliance officer, principal, or any other staff member. In addition, any student who observes any such incident is strongly encouraged to report the incident to the compliance officer or principal, whether or not the alleged victim files a complaint.

The district has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The complaint review shall be completed within 60 (sixty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to an extension of the timeline. All complaints should be filed in writing and signed by the complainant. If a complainant is unable to put his/her complaint in writing, for example, due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, district staff shall assist him/her in the filing of the complaint.

A complaint alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) must be filed not later than six months from the date it occurred, or six months from the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination. The time for filing may be extended for up to 90 days by the Superintendent or designee for good cause upon written request by the complainant setting forth the reasons for the extension.

The compliance officer who receives a complaint may assign another compliance officer to investigate and resolve the complaint. The compliance officer shall promptly notify the complainant and respondent, if applicable, if another compliance officer is assigned to the complaint.

In no instance shall a compliance officer be assigned to a complaint in which he/she has a bias or conflict of interest that would prohibit him/her from fairly investigating or resolving the complaint. Any complaint against a compliance officer or that raises a concern about the compliance officer's ability to investigate the complaint fairly and without bias shall be filed with the Superintendent or designee who shall determine how the complaint will be investigated.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that employees assigned to investigate and resolve complaints receive training and are knowledgeable about the laws and programs at issue in the complaints to which they are assigned. Training provided to such employees shall include current state and federal laws and regulations governing the program, applicable processes for investigating and resolving complaints, including those alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), applicable standards for reaching decisions on complaints, and appropriate corrective measures. Assigned employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

Please find below a web link to the OCR complaints form and the contact information needed for the State of California:

California

Office for Civil Rights,

San Francisco Office

U.S. Department of Education

50 United Nations Plaza

San Francisco, CA 94102

Telephone: (415) 486-5555

Facsimile: (415) 486-5570

[Email: OCR.SanFrancisco@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.SanFrancisco@ed.gov)