

Title IX Coordinator Training Online Course: Fundamentals of the August 2020 Regulatory Requirements Module 3: Policy and Training Obligations Amy C. Foerster, Partner, Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP

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# Title IX Coordinator(s) §106.8

#### **Designation:**

- Regulations refer to Title IX Coordinator in multiple ways, suggesting that it may be one or more persons.
  - "At least one employee . . . ."
- <u>Must</u> be referred to as the Title IX Coordinator.
- Notification provisions apply to <u>all</u> personnel with this responsibility.

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Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator(s) at any time, day or night, in person, by mail, by email, by phone, or by *any other means that results in notice* (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual discrimination or sexual harassment).

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Policy *versus* Grievance Process *versus* Grievance Procedures

# **Dissemination of Policy §106.8**

- Title IX Coordinator(s) contact info:
  - Name or Title, Office Address, Email, Telephone Number.
- Website.
- Handbook or Catalog.
- School must not use or distribute a publication stating that the school treats applicants, students, or employees differently on the basis of sex except as such treatment is permitted by Title IX.

Required Notification Recipients

Applicants: Admission & Employment Students Employees Unions Professional Orgs with CBA/PAs

Discuss: Parents/Legal Guardians\*

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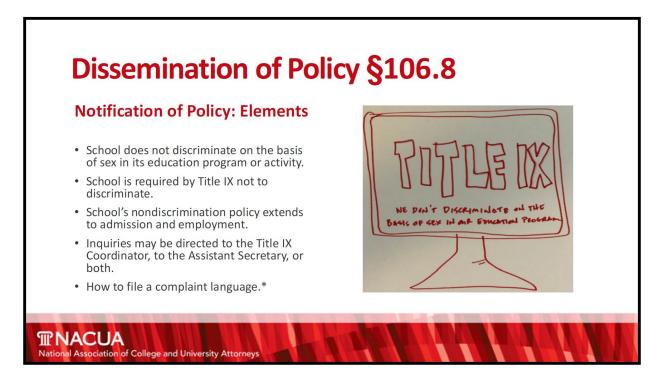
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Discuss: Parents/Legal Guardians\*



### Dissemination of Policy §106.8

Notification of Policy: Elements

- School does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity.
- School is required by Title IX not to discriminate.
- School's nondiscrimination policy extends to admission and employment.
- Inquiries may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary, or both.
- How to file a complaint language.\*

# Adoption of Grievance Procedures §106.8

- Adopt and publish:
  - <u>grievance procedures</u> that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student *and employee* complaints alleging *any* action prohibited under Title IX.
  - <u>a grievance process</u> that complies with §106.45 for formal complaints as defined in §106.30.

Notice

WHAT: Notice of the school'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 school will respond.

TO WHOM: 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 school.

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### Adoption of Grievance Procedures §106.8

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# **Policy Decision Point: Framework**

#### All-in-One Policy

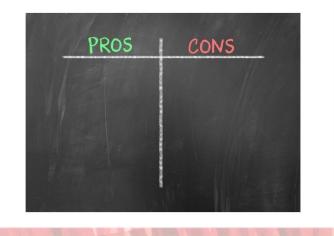
- 1. Treat all the Same; or
- 2. Decision Trees

#### Two Policies: If not TIX, then ...

- 1. Title IX Regulation+
- 2. Everything Else

#### Three plus:

- 1. TIX Regulation Conduct
- 2. Other Sexual Misconduct
- 3. Other Prohibited Conduct



### Policy Decision Point: Framework

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All-in-One Policy

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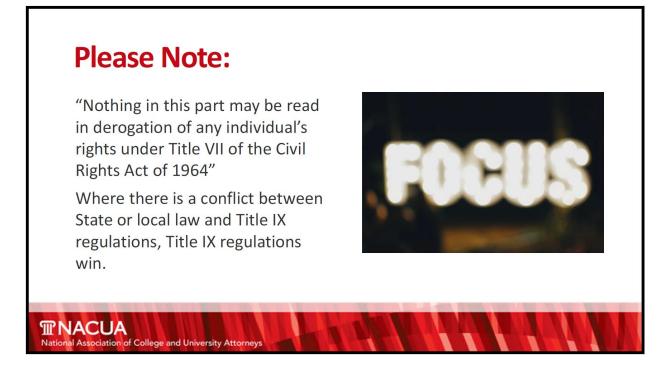
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### Please Note:

"Nothing in this part may be read in derogation of any individual's rights under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

Where there is a conflict between State or local law and Title IX regulations, Title IX regulations win.

# Definitions (Suggestions):

- Actual Knowledge
- Complainant/Respondent
- Advisor
- Consent

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- Formal Complaint
- Prohibited Conduct
  - Sexual Harassment
  - Sexual AssaultDating Violence
  - Domestic Violence
  - Stalking

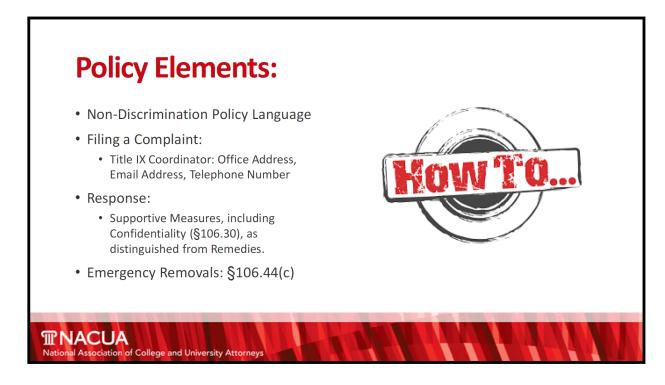
- Supportive Measures/Remedial Measures
- Disciplinary Measures
- Title IX Coordinator
- Officials with Authority/Required Reporters
- Confidential Resources
- Evidence
  - Standard of Evidence
  - Directly Related
  - Relevant
- Deliberate Indifference
- Education Program or Activity
- Informal Resolution
- Emergency Removal

## Definitions (Suggestions):

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### **Policy Elements:**

- Non-Discrimination Policy Language
- Filing a Complaint:
  - o Title IX Coordinator: Office Address, Email Address, Telephone Number
- Response:
  - Supportive Measures, including Confidentiality (§106.30), as distinguished from Remedies.
- Emergency Removals: §106.44(c)

- Equitable
- Formal Complaint/Actual Knowledge
- Jurisdictional Issues:
  - Dismissal of a Formal Complaint
  - Written Notice/Appeal
  - Option for Other Proceedings
  - Consolidation of a Formal Complaint
  - Investigations of a Formal Complaint
- Emergency Removals
- Notice of Allegations
- Supportive Measures
- Advisor of Choice/Guidelines



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### **Grievance Process: Formal Complaints**

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- Informal Resolution Options
- No Conflict Provisions
- Range of Equitable Supportive Measures
- Investigations
  - Burden of Proof
  - Evidence/Rape Shield
  - Notice

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- Access to Evidence
- Access to Investigative Report
- Confidentiality Provision



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- Hearings
  - Venue: Same or Separate Rooms
  - Decorum Provisions
  - Access to Evidence
  - Relevance Determinations
  - Standard of Evidence
  - Cross Examination Guidelines
  - Expert Witnesses
  - Recording
- Determinations of Responsibility/Notice
- Determination of Remedies/Sanctions, where appropriate
- Appeals

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- Possible Remedies/Sanctions
- Non-Retaliation
- Confidentiality/First Amendment
- Reasonably Prompt Timeframes
  - Short-Term, Good Cause Delays
  - Extensions of Time
- Recordkeeping
- Materially False Statements

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Training

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- Training



Training



### Training: Title IX Personnel

A school 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,
- 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.

#### **Title IX Personnel:**

- How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest and bias.
- Including: sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or immigration status, financial ability, or other characteristic.
- \*\*Implicit bias training not required.

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# Training



# Title IX Personnel: Training

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#### **Decision-Makers:**

- Training on any technology to be used at a live hearing.
- Training on issues of relevance, including how to apply the rape shield protections provided only for complainants.
- 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.



**Training** 

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### Investigators: Training

Training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.

# **Training:**

Must not rely on sex stereotypes Must promote impartial investigations and adjudications

Must be maintained for 7 years.

Must be posted on website, if any, or

Available for members of the public to inspect.

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All Up-to-Date Training Materials

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