

Receiving this means the district intends to investigate an incident that occurred at school where you were harmed by another student. The district will respond to all complaints but not all complaints will result in a finding or disciplinary action.

We understand that coming forward can be challenging, and we are committed to ensuring that your rights are protected and that you receive appropriate support throughout this process.

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 ensures that every student can access their public education in an environment free from bias, harassment, or discrimination (of any kind). While the text of the law has not changed since it was passed in 1972, the interpretation of the law has changed significantly in the decades since.

***No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.***

The most recent substantive changes occurred in 2020 and remain in place today.<sup>1</sup> Under Title IX, the following are considered forms of sexual harassment and are prohibited in all PPS schools, programs, and school-sponsored activities: 1) sexual harassment including engaging in unwelcome conduct that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a student equal access to a school's education program or activity; 2) sexual assault; 3) dating violence; or 4) stalking or cyberstalking.

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School-based Coordinators (SBCs) are the first level of intervention when gender-based harassment or discrimination occurs. As a learning organization, our goal is to ensure students understand what is expected at school and how this may differ from other environments they frequent outside of school (work, church, home, etc.). When students struggle to adhere to these expectations, our job is to teach them the lagging skills needed to be successful. In some cases, the response may be educational, providing students with specific opportunities for learning, growth, and accountability. In others, such as a single severe incident of harm at school (ex: sexual assault), a formal investigation may be required. For more on the role of the school-based coordinator, check [out the FAQ](#)

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The reporting party, also called the **Complainant** (you), is the person who was harmed by an incident or behavior prohibited under Title IX, or a policy in the [PPS Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) and/or other PPS policies including [1.80.020-P Nondiscrimination/Anti-Harassment](#) and [4.30.072-AD Title IX Student to Student Sex-Based Discrimination and Harassment](#). The responding party, also called the **Respondent**, is the person who harmed you by their behavior.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2024 Title IX regulations, passed in





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The most significant consequence a school can apply is suspension or expulsion for up to a year. Expulsion

- 2 To be treated with respect and compassion throughout the investigation;
- 3 Provide additional information or evidence related to your complaint.
- 4 Be informed of the progress of the investigation and any relevant updates.
- 5 Have a support person present during any meetings or interviews related to the complaint.
- 6 Protection against retaliation for filing a complaint or participating in the investigation process.
7. To have an advisor of your choice throughout the process. This can be a parent, guardian, counselor, advocate, attorney, or another trusted adult whose role is to provide support;
- 8 To appeal the outcome based on information not previously available or a procedural violation such as conflict of interest.

