

Book Policy Manual

Section Volume 34, No. 2 for Board Approval

Title Revised Policy - Vol. 34, No. 2 - April 2022 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Code po2260

Status

Adopted January 14, 2010

Last Revised October 11, 2018

# 2260 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Any form of discrimination or harassment can be devastating to an individual's academic progress, social relationship, and/or personal sense of self worth.

As such, the Board of Managers of the <u>Central Nine Career Center</u> Cooperative does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender status, sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, 'Protected Classes') in its educational programs or activities.

The Board also does not discriminate on the basis of Protected Classes in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students, and does not tolerate harassment of any kind.

The Cooperative will assist its member school corporations to identify, evaluate, and provide a free appropriate public education to students with disabilities who are determined eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Equal educational opportunities shall be available to all students participating in Cooperative programs, without regard to the Protected Classes, age (unless age is a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any legitimate objective of the program/activity), place of residence within the boundaries of the Cooperative, or social or economic background. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of students as provided in their individualized education programs ('IEPs').

The Cooperative's educational programs include the academic and nonacademic setting for those students attending a Cooperative school.

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination and the identity of the Cooperative's Compliance Officer(s) (see below) will be published on the Cooperative's website, posted throughout the Cooperative, and included in the Cooperative's recruitment statements or general information publications.

## Principal's Responsibilities

Each Principal shall verify that the procedures used with students and parents for selection of and participation in any part of the Cooperative's educational programs do not discriminate on the basis of the Protected Classes, subject to the needs of the student and the IEP developed for the student by the case conference committee.

## **Director's Responsibilities**

### A. Curriculum Content

review current and proposed courses of study and textbooks to detect any bias based upon the Protected Classes; ascertaining whether or not supplemental materials, singly or taken as a whole, fairly depict the contribution of both genders, various races, ethnic groups, etc. toward the development of human society;

# B. Staff Training

develop an ongoing program of in-service training for Cooperative personnel designed to identify and solve problems of bias based upon the Protected Classes in all aspects of the program;

### C. Student Access

- 1. review current and proposed programs, activities, facilities, and practices to verify that all students have equal access thereto and are not segregated on the basis of the Protected Classes in any duty, work, play, classroom, or Cooperative practice, except as may be permitted under State and Federal laws and regulations;
- 2. verify that facilities are made available, in accordance with Board Policy 7510 Use of School Facilities, for non-curricular student activities that are initiated by parents or other members of the community, including but not limited to any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society;
- 3. verify that the educational programs of this Cooperative are accessible to all students participating in Cooperative programs. All programs need to be designed and scheduled so the location or nature of the facility or area will not deny an otherwise qualified student with a disability the opportunity to participate because of a disability;
- 4. require that service animals for students who require this type of assistance shall be permitted access to all facilities, programs, and events of the Cooperative.

# D. Cooperative Support

verify that like aspects of the Cooperative program receive like support as to staff size and compensation, purchase and maintenance of facilities and equipment, access to such facilities and equipment, and related matters, subject to the needs of the students and their IEPs;

#### E. Student Evaluation

verify that tests, procedures, and guidance and counseling materials, which are designed to evaluate student progress, rate aptitudes, analyze personality, or in any manner establish or tend to establish a category by which a student may be judged, are not differentiated or stereotyped on the basis of the Protected Classes.

#### **Definitions**

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges or is alleged to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

Respondent is the individual who is alleged to have engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the Complainant files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

Cooperative community means students, Cooperative employees (i.e., administrators and professional and classified staff), and Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include but are not limited to guests and/or visitors on Cooperative property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with or seeking to do business with the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the Cooperative community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off Cooperative property).

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Cooperative office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

'Military status' refers to a person's status in the uniformed services, which includes the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service, including active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty for training, and full-time National Guard duty. It also includes the period of time for which a person is absent from school for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any duty listed above.

### Cooperative Compliance Officer(s)

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the Cooperative's 'Compliance Officers' (also known as 'Civil Rights Coordinators') (hereinafter referred to as the 'COs').

[NOTE: Neola suggests the Board appoint both a male and a female CO in order to provide Complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The COs also may serve as the Cooperative's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, by appointing two (2) COs, there always should be a CO available to investigate a claim of discrimination that pertains to the other CO. The Board must list either the Name or Title of the CO; while the Board may list both the Name and Title, Neola suggests that the Board consider listing only the Title in this policy (so it does not need to revise/amend its policy whenever there is a change in the actual person(s) holding the designated position(s)), but list both the Name and Title in the requisite postings (e.g., website) and publications (e.g., handbooks) and in the Administrative Guideline.]

Marketing Manager	
Name and/or Title	
1999 US 31 South, Greenwood, I	IN 46143
Address	
317-888-4401	
Telephone No.	
	Email address
Name and/or Title	<del></del>
Address	<del></del>
Telephone No.	<del>_</del>

#### Email address

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually on the Cooperative's website, and:

- A. ( ) in the parent/student and staff handbooks.
- B. ( ) in the Cooperative's Annual Report to the public.
- C. ( ) on each individual school's website.
- D. ( ) in the Cooperative's calendar.
- E. <del>( )</del>\_\_\_\_\_

The COs are responsible for coordinating the Cooperative's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the Cooperative's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, or denial of equal access. The COs also shall verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 is provided to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.

The Director shall assist the Cooperative's member school corporations to identify children with disabilities, ages 3-22, who reside in the Cooperative but do not receive public education.

The Board is committed to assisting the Cooperative's member school corporations in educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified individual with a disability with individuals without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate and placing an individual with a disability in the general education environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the individual in the general education environment, even with the use of supplementary aids and services, cannot be achieved satisfactorily. A separate class or facility operated by the Cooperative for individuals with disabilities must be comparable to the facilities, programs, and activities and services offered to students without disabilities in the Cooperative's member school corporations.

( ) The Director is responsible for verifying that a concentration of English Learner (EL) students in one or more programs is not the result of discrimination.

### Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation

Students and Cooperative employees are required, and all other members of the Cooperative community and Third Parties are encouraged, to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to an administrator, supervisor, or other Cooperative-level official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other Cooperative employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the Co within two (2) business days. [NOTE: while students are advised to report discrimination/retaliation to administrators, supervisors, or other Cooperative officials, the Board recognizes that some students may report discrimination/retaliation to a teacher. When a teacher receives such a report, the teacher must file it with the CO as indicated above.]

Members of the Cooperative community, which includes students, or Third Parties who believe they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 - Bullying, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may constitute unlawful discrimination based on a Protected Class, the Principal shall report the act to one of the COs, who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the CO investigates the allegation, the Principal shall suspend the Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the CO's written report. The CO shall keep the principal informed of the status of the Policy 2260 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. The COs shall accept reports of unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the Cooperative community or a Third Party and reports that are initially made to another Cooperative employee. Upon receipt of a report of alleged discrimination/retaliation, the CO will contact the Complainant and begin either an informal or formal complaint process (depending on the Complainant's request and the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation), or designate a specific individual to conduct such a process.

The CO will provide a copy of this policy to the Complainant and the Respondent. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the Director or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the Cooperative community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.

Any Cooperative employee who directly observes unlawful discrimination/retaliation of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Cooperative employee who observes an act of unlawful discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Cooperative employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO/designee must contact the Complainant if age eighteen (18) or older or the Complainant's parents/guardians if the student is under the age of eighteen (18) within two (2) school days to advise of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

## **Investigation and Complaint Procedures (see Form 2260 F2)**

Except for sex discrimination and/or Sexual Harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, any student who alleges to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of the complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims of discrimination/retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals are encouraged to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of a student to pursue a complaint of unlawful discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights ('OCR') or the Indiana Civil Rights Commission ('ICRC'). The Chicago Office of the OCR can be reached at John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn Street, 37th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604; Telephone: 312-730-1560; FAX: 312-730-1576; TDD: 800-877-8339; Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov; Web: http://www.ed.gov/ocr.

### **Informal Complaint Procedure**

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to stop inappropriate behavior promptly and facilitate resolution through informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student who alleges unlawful discrimination or retaliation. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

The informal process is available only when the Complainant and the Respondent mutually agree to participate in it.

The Complainant may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process, and individuals who participate in the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a Cooperative employee or any other adult member of the Cooperative community and a student will be investigated formally.

As an initial course of action, if a Complainant feels comfortable and safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the Respondent that the allegedly discriminatory/retaliatory conduct is inappropriate and must stop. The Complainant should address the alleged misconduct as soon after it occurs as possible.

The COs are available to support and counsel the Complainant when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. A Complainant who is uncomfortable or unwilling to approach the Respondent directly about the inappropriate conduct may file an informal or a formal complaint.

In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful discrimination (e.g., sex discrimination), the CO may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A Complainant who alleges unlawful discrimination/retaliation may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: 1) to a building administrator in the school the student attends; 2) directly to one of the COs; and/or 3) to the Director or other Cooperative-level employee.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the COs, who either will facilitate an informal resolution as described below or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The Cooperative's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide the Complainant with a range of options aimed at bringing about a prompt resolution of the Complainant's concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the Complainant's wishes, informal resolution may involve but is not limited to one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the Complainant about how to communicate concerns to the Respondent.
- B. Distributing a copy of Policy 2260 Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity to the individuals in the school building or office where the Respondent works or attends school.
- C. If both parties agree, the CO may arrange and facilitate a meeting or mediation between the Complainant and the Respondent to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the CO or designee is directed to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint.

If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process, the Complainant may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, either party may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

## **Formal Complaint Procedure**

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, one of the parties requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, the Complainant elects to file a formal complaint from the outset, or the CO determines the allegations are not appropriate for resolution through the informal process, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

A Complainant may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a Principal, the CO, the Director, or other Cooperative-level official.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a formal complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, Principal, or other Cooperative official at the student's school, Director or other Cooperative employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination/retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) business days.

Throughout the course of the process, the CO should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent known: the identity of the Respondent; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including but not limited to a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees with the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO still may take whatever actions are deemed appropriate in consultation with the Director.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. (x) The **Assistant Director Principal** will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the CO.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the Respondent that a formal complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity. The Respondent also must be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the formal complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of discrimination/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who reasonably may be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations; and,
- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Director that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent has engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation of the Complainant. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if unlawful discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used.

# [ 1 The CO may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Director.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO or designee, the Director either must issue a decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Director's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Director requests additional investigation, the Director must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Director must issue a final written decision as described above.

If the Director determines the Respondent engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation against the Complainant, the Director must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the reoccurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate, effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

 $[\underline{x}]$  The decision of  $\underline{\text{hte-the}}$  Director shall be final.

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[ ] A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Director may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of the party's receipt of the Director's decision. The written statement of appeal must be submitted to the ( ) Treasurer/CFO ( ) Board President ( ) Board Attorney ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.

[END OF OPTIONS]

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful discrimination/retaliation regardless of whether the Complainant pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described interviews/meetings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies, such as the filing of a complaint with the OCR or the ICRC, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint\_process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

## **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The Cooperative will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Cooperative's legal obligations to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

### Remedial Action and Monitoring

If warranted, appropriate remedial action shall be determined and implemented on behalf of the Complainant, including but not limited to counseling services, reinstatement of leave taken because of the discrimination, the opportunity to complete assignments missed due to absence related to the discrimination, or other appropriate action.

The Board may appoint an individual, who may be a Cooperative employee, to follow up with the Complainant to ensure no further discrimination or retaliation has occurred and to take action to address any reported occurrences promptly.

# **Sanctions and Disciplinary Action**

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful discrimination/retaliation by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct.

While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of any relevant collective bargaining agreement or student code of conduct.

When imposing discipline, the Director shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the age and maturity level of any student involved. In those cases where unlawful discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of any relevant collective bargaining agreement or student code of conduct.

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior disciplinary action has been taken against the Respondent, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Director shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.

## **Remedial Action and Monitoring**

If warranted, appropriate remedial action shall be determined and implemented on behalf of the Complainant, including but not limited to counseling services, reinstatement of leave taken because of the discrimination, the opportunity to complete assignments missed due to absences related to the discrimination, or other appropriate action.

The Board may appoint an individual, who may be a Cooperative employee, to follow up with the Complainant to ensure no further discrimination or retaliation has occurred and to take action to address any reported occurrences promptly.

#### Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws or this policy, or exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

### **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Director shall provide appropriate information to all members of the Cooperative community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for Cooperative students and staff where appropriate. All training and information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general will be age and content appropriate.

#### **Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials**

The CO is responsible for overseeing the retnetion of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation, which may include but are not limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by Cooperative personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities related to the investigation and/or the Cooperative's response to the alleged violation of this policy;
- D. written witness statements;
- E. narratives, notes from, and audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;
- F. e-mails, texts, and social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);

- G. notes and summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is otherwise memorialized in other documents;
- H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;
- I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;
- J. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant or the Respondent, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;
- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;
- L. copies of the Board policy and procedures/guidelines used by the Cooperative to conduct the investigation and any documents used by the Cooperative at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination, or retaliation;

[DRAFTING NOTE: The following options should be selected if the Cooperative concludes that the following items are not adequately encompassed in the preceding paragraphs.]

- N. (x) documentation of any training provided to Cooperative personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all Cooperative personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conduct an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time, and location of the training, the name and title (or credentials) of the presenter, and a copy of the materials reviewed or presented during the training.]
- O. () documentation that any rights or opportunities that the Cooperative made available to one party during the investigation were made available to the other party on equal terms;
- P. ( ) copies of any notices sent to the Respondent of the allegations constituting a potential violation of this policy;
- Q. ( ) copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and the Respondent in advance of any interview or meeting;
- R. () copies of any documentation or evidence used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings, including the investigation report and any written responses submitted by the Complainant or the Respondent.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal (e.g., FERPA, ADA) and/or State (e.g., I.C. 5-14-3-4) law, such as student records and confidential medical records.

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years and longer if required by the Cooperative's records retention schedule.

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Legal I.C. 20-33-1-1

Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution

20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974

20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act

29 U.S.C. Section 794, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

42 U.S.C. Section 2000 et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. Section 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 1973, as amended

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

34 C.F.R. Part 110, The Age Discrimination Act Regulations

Guidelines Vocational Education Programs Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, March 21, 1979