

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The District is committed and dedicated to the task of providing the best education possible for every student in the District.

The District does not unlawfully discriminate in any of its programs, services, or activities on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, age, pregnancy, marital or parental status, any physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, or any other legally-protected status or classification. This commitment to nondiscrimination includes the right of students to be admitted to school and to participate fully, without unlawful discrimination, in curricular and co-curricular programs and activities, career and technical education, student services, recreational programs, and other District programs and activities.

This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit the District from (1) providing special programs or services based on student need, including gifted and talented, special education, English Learner, school-age parent, at risk and other special programs; or (2) placing a student in a school, program, class or activity based on objective standards of individual need or performance.

Children of homeless individuals and unaccompanied homeless youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) residing in the District shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including comparable services, as provided to other children and youth who reside in the District. Homeless children and youth shall not be required to attend a separate school or program for homeless children and shall not be stigmatized by school personnel.

The District shall provide appropriate educational services and/or programs for students who have been identified as having a qualifying disability, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability, and regardless of whether the student qualifies for the District's special education programs. Facilities modifications necessary to provide for appropriate access and participation for persons with disabilities shall be made to the extent required by law.

The District shall also provide for the reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to examinations and other academic requirements. Requests for accommodations shall be made in writing and approved by the building principal. Accommodations may include, but not necessarily be limited to, exclusion from participation in an activity, alternative assignments, released time from school to participate in religious activities, and opportunities to make up work missed due to religious observances. Any accommodations granted under this policy shall be provided to students without prejudicial effect.

As further identified in the District's student nondiscrimination complaint procedures and nondiscrimination notices, the following position(s) have primary responsibility for the interpretation and application of this policy and the processing of any student nondiscrimination complaints that may be filed under the procedures relating to this policy: *District Administrator*. All complaints shall be brought and processed in good faith, and no person may engage in any abuse of the complaint procedures.

It shall be the responsibility of the District Administrator or his/her designee to examine existing policies, procedures, and practices and to propose revisions to Board policies and make modifications to other policies, procedures, and practices where needed to ensure that the District does not discriminate pursuant to state and federal law.

Notice of this policy and its accompanying complaint procedures shall be published at the beginning of each school year as a Class 1 legal notice and posted in each school building in the District. In addition, a student nondiscrimination statement shall be included in student and staff handbooks, course selection handbooks and other published materials distributed to the public describing school activities and opportunities.