

**Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District  
Multi-District Training**

**Title IX Basic Training**

**January 12, 2021  
Presented by Jackie Gharapour Wernz**

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1

**Ask Questions**

2

Why are we here?

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3

Know the  
Rules

SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
complaint form

4

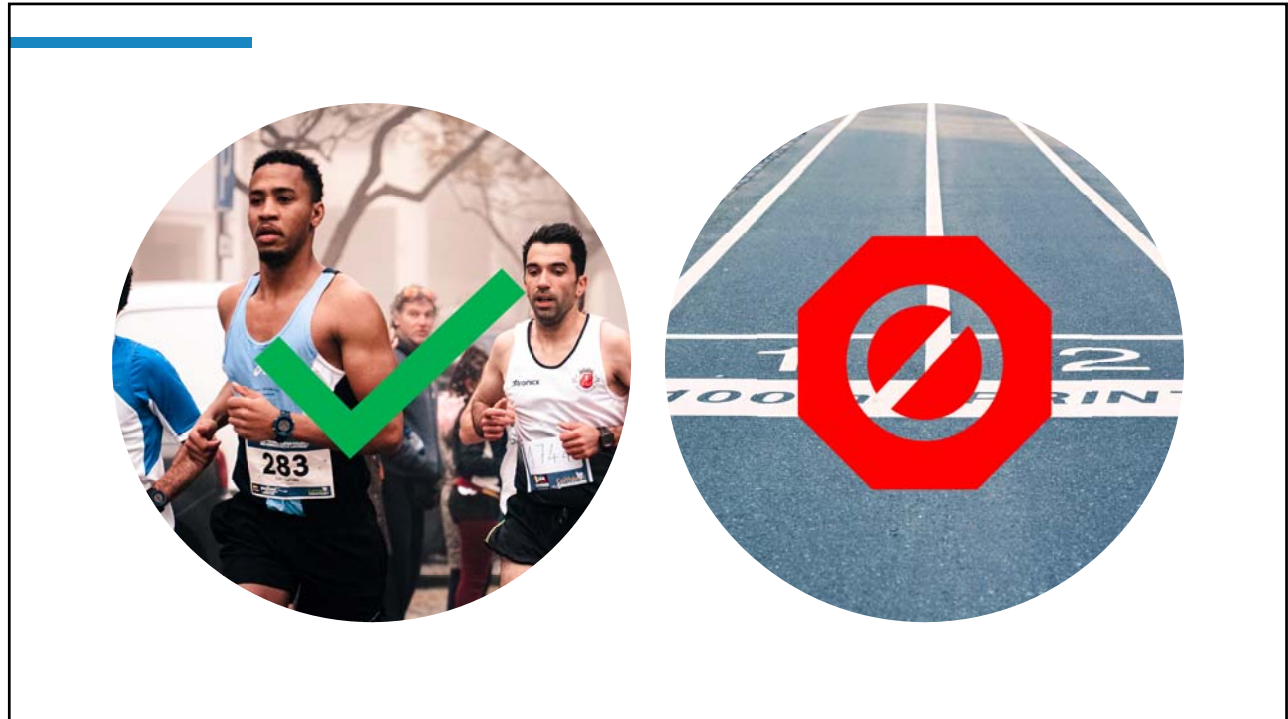


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But not just any action, the right action for  
the conduct at issue!

6

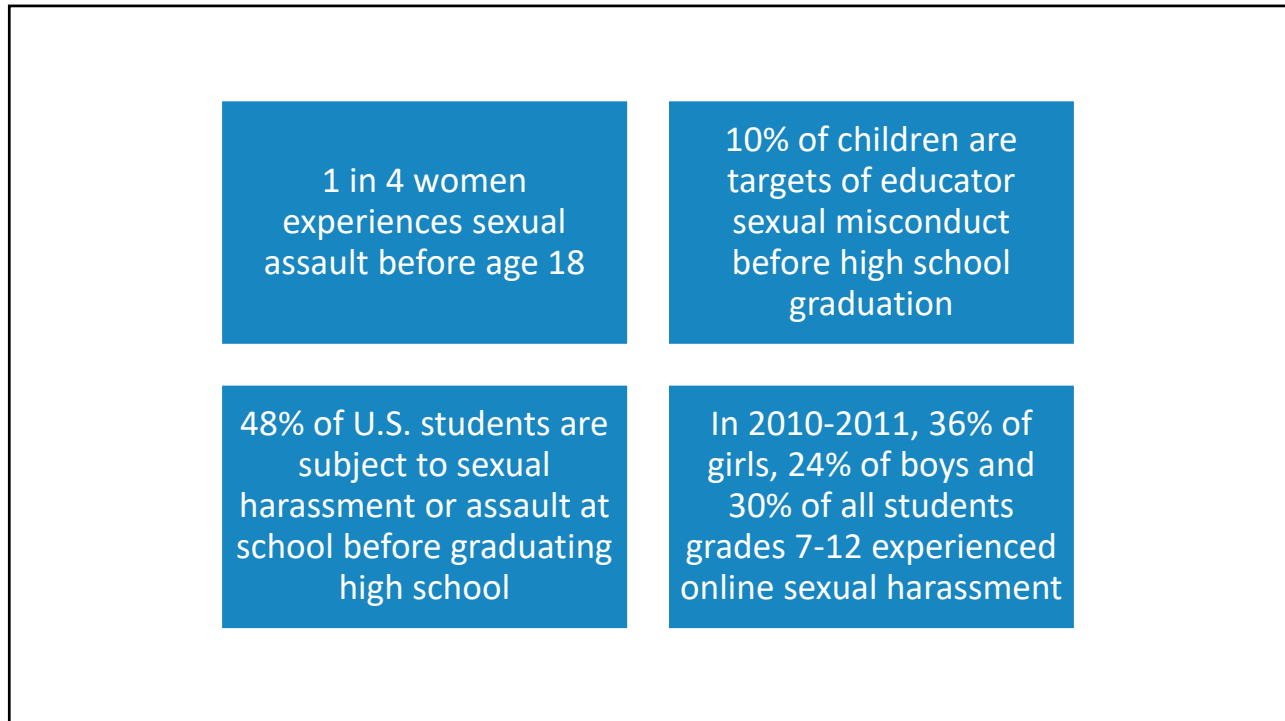


7

Why is this so important?

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8



9

According to a **2017 report from the Justice Department**, only

**23 percent**

of all sexual assaults are reported to the police.

10



11

*Harassment  
and assault can have  
long lasting,  
detrimental effects on  
victims*

12



## Effects on Individuals

Poor performance in school

Stress Disengagement Fear

Distraction Anger Mistrust Conflict

Acting out Absenteeism Drop-out

Suicide ANXIETY PTSD

DEPRESSION

Lost Opportunities

13

## Effects on Teams

Decreased focus

Lost productivity

Withdrawal

Absenteeism Neglect

Lack of trust in leadership Malingering

Turnover



14

*Unfair processes can  
have  
long lasting,  
detrimental effects on  
the parties*

15

## Mattress Protest and Its Aftermath

Case of alleged rape at Columbia first yielded much sympathy for the accuser and protest, but ends with the university apologizing to the accused. The case has had on the discussion of sexual assault on campus.

By **Jeremy Bauer-Wolf** // July 24, 2017



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# Responding to Harassment

*Is required by the law*

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## ED Office for Civil Rights (OCR)



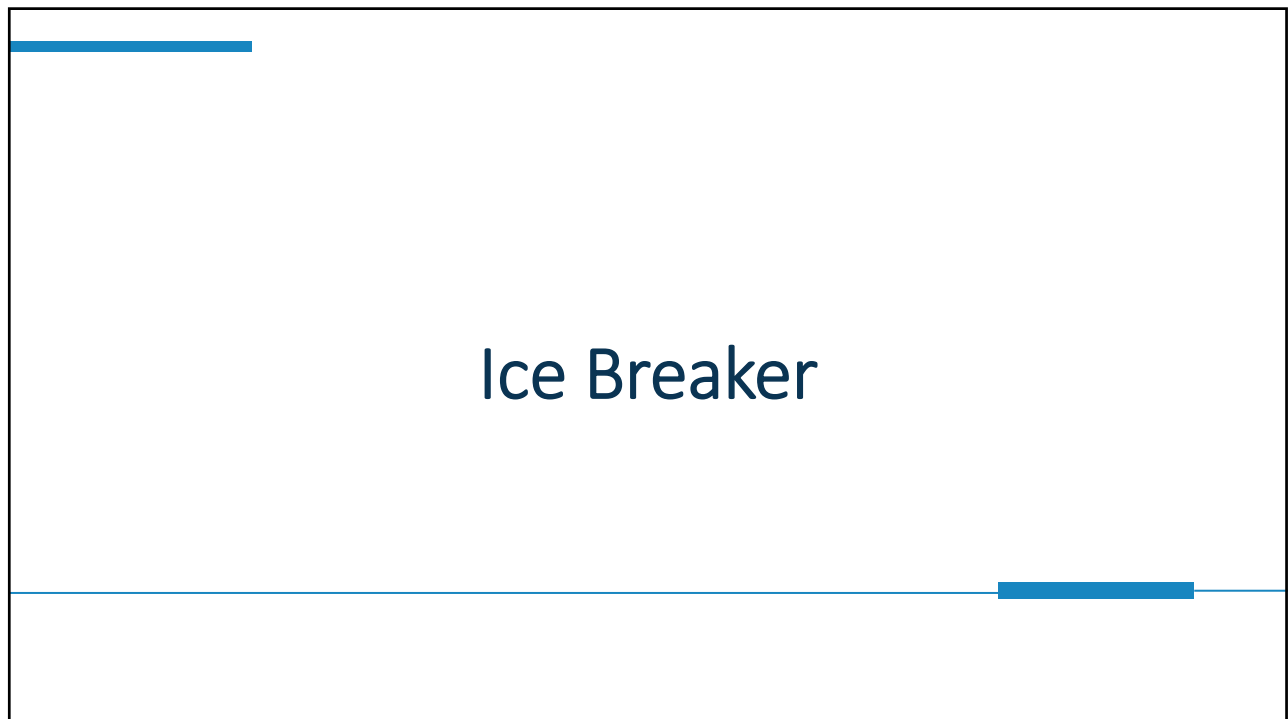
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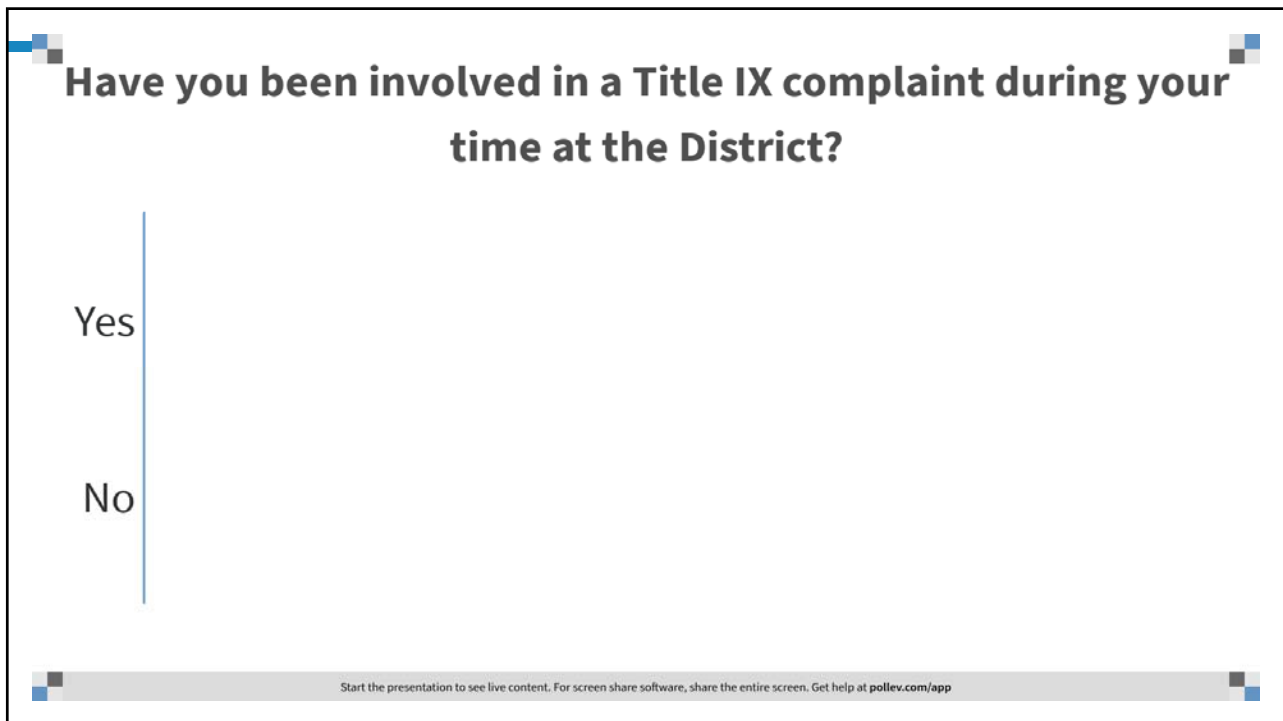
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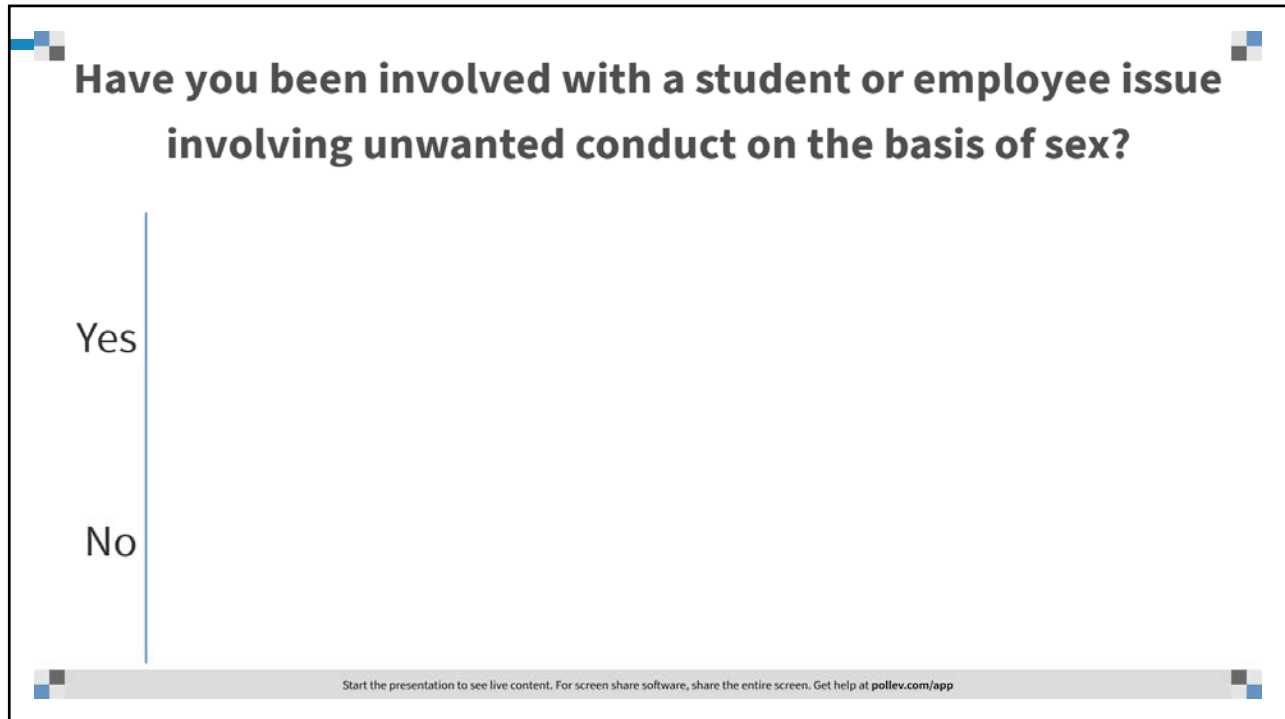
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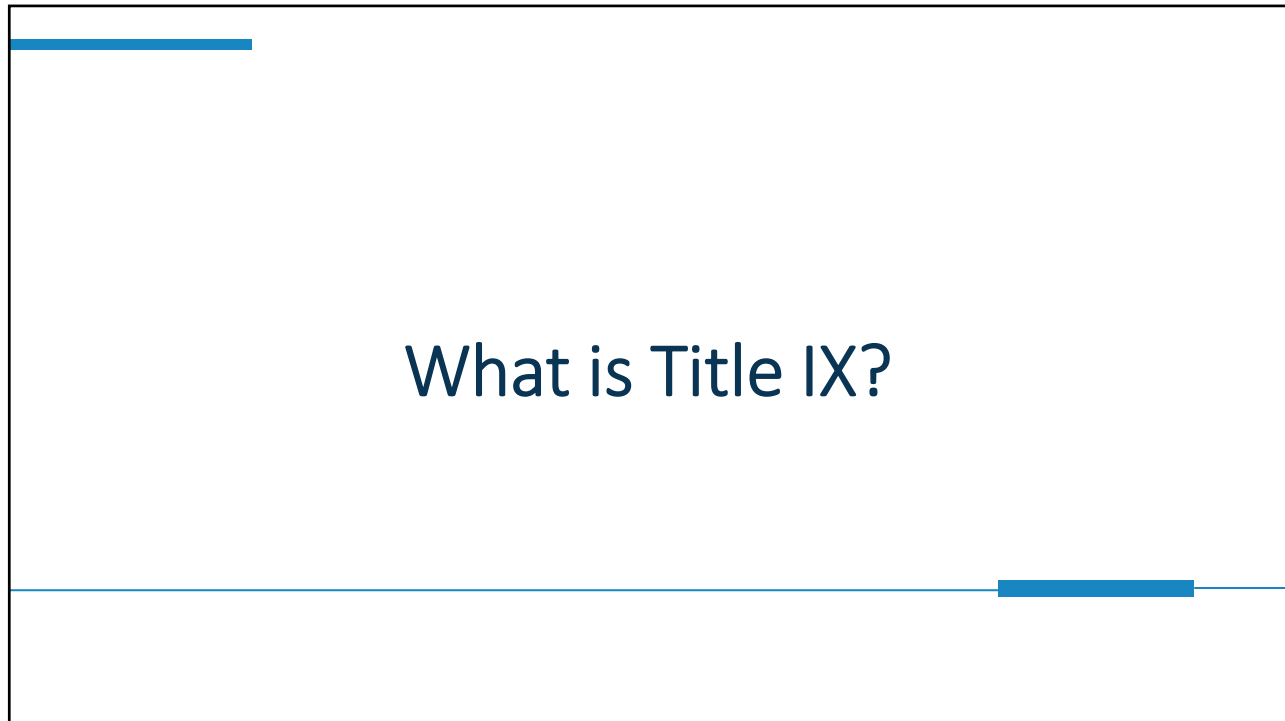
23

# In the Zoom Chat

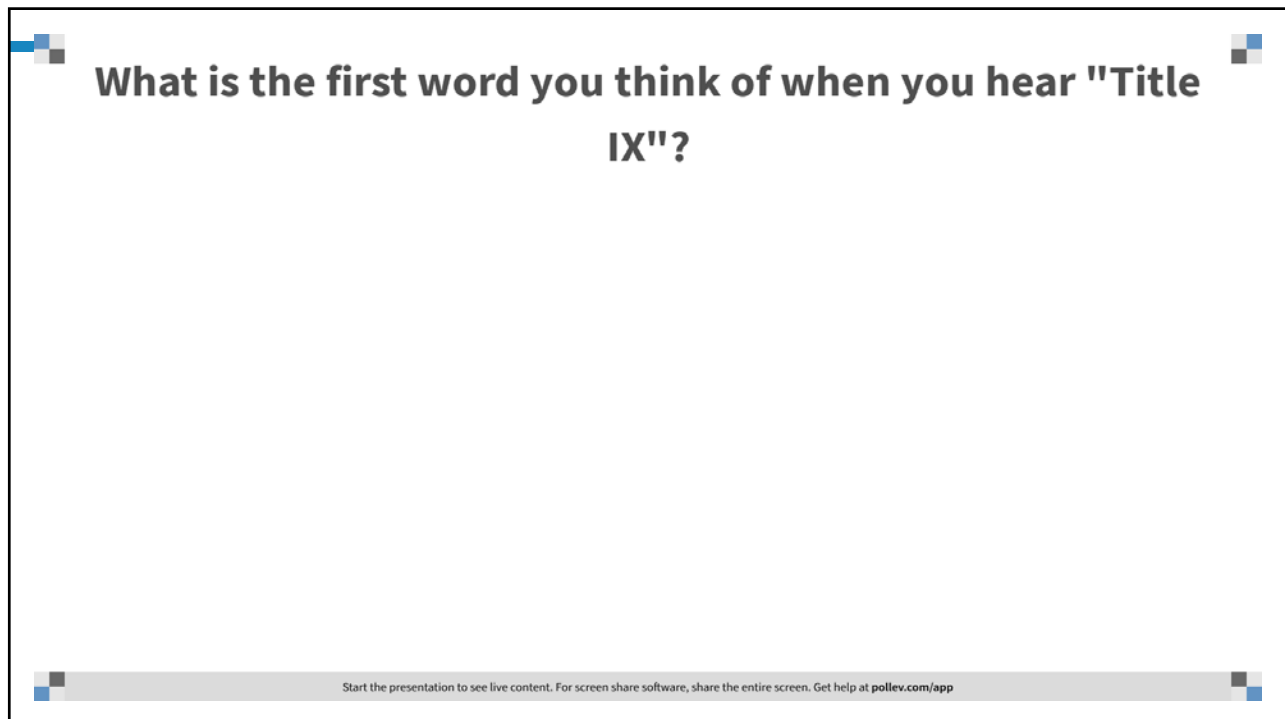
Name, Title

What is the most important question you would like answered today?

24



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26



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## Title IX Statute

(20 U.S.C. §§ 1681–1688)

"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."

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## What falls under Title IX?

Recruitment, Admissions, and Counseling

Financial Assistance

Athletics

Sex-Based Harassment

Treatment of Pregnant & Parenting Students

Discipline

Single-Sex Education

Employment

Retaliation

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## Title IX Regulations

(34 C.F.R. Part 106 – Amended as of 8/14/2020)

- Prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex
- Establish procedural requirements
  - Policy + detailed grievance procedure
  - Designation of Title IX coordinator(s)
  - And many more requirements!

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# When Must the School Respond to Sexual Harassment?

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**It Depends  
Who [Well,  
Which Law]  
You Ask**

## Employment

- Title VII
- Title IX
- Oregon Law

## Students

- Oregon Law
- Title IX

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## When must a school respond to Title IX sexual harassment?

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A school with actual knowledge of [Title IX] sexual harassment in an education program or activity against a person in the united States must respond

33

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## When must a school respond to Title IX sexual harassment?

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A school **with actual knowledge** of [Title IX] sexual harassment in an education program or activity against a person in the united States must respond

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## Notice

ACTUAL knowledge


To Title IX  
Coordinator or  
"official with  
authority" (all K-12  
employees)



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## Official with Authority



- Title IX Coordinator
- Any other officials who have been given authority to institute corrective measures by the school district
- K-12: All employees

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**Actual Knowledge**

1. Sense
2. Report

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**Reporting Sexual Harassment:  
Who, How and When?**

- Any person may report sex discrimination, regardless of whether the person is the alleged victim of the reported conduct
- Reports can be made by mail, by telephone, or by email, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator
- Or by any means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's report
- Such a report may be made at any time, including during non business hours, by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address listed for the Title IX Coordinator

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## Key Word: "Allegation"

Once a school has notice of an **allegation** that, **if true**, would constitute Title IX Sexual Harassment, it must respond

"Well, we didn't believe there was enough evidence it happened" does not get you past your responsibility to use your Title IX Sexual Harassment grievance process

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## Issue Spotting

**Order of protection:** Principal served with order of protection requiring student to have no contact with another student due to alleged sexual assault

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**Does the Principal have "actual knowledge" of the sexual assault claim?**

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Yes No

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What is Sexual Harassment?

44

**It Depends  
Who [Well,  
Which Law]  
You Ask**

**Employment**

- Title VII
- Title IX
- Oregon Law

**Students**

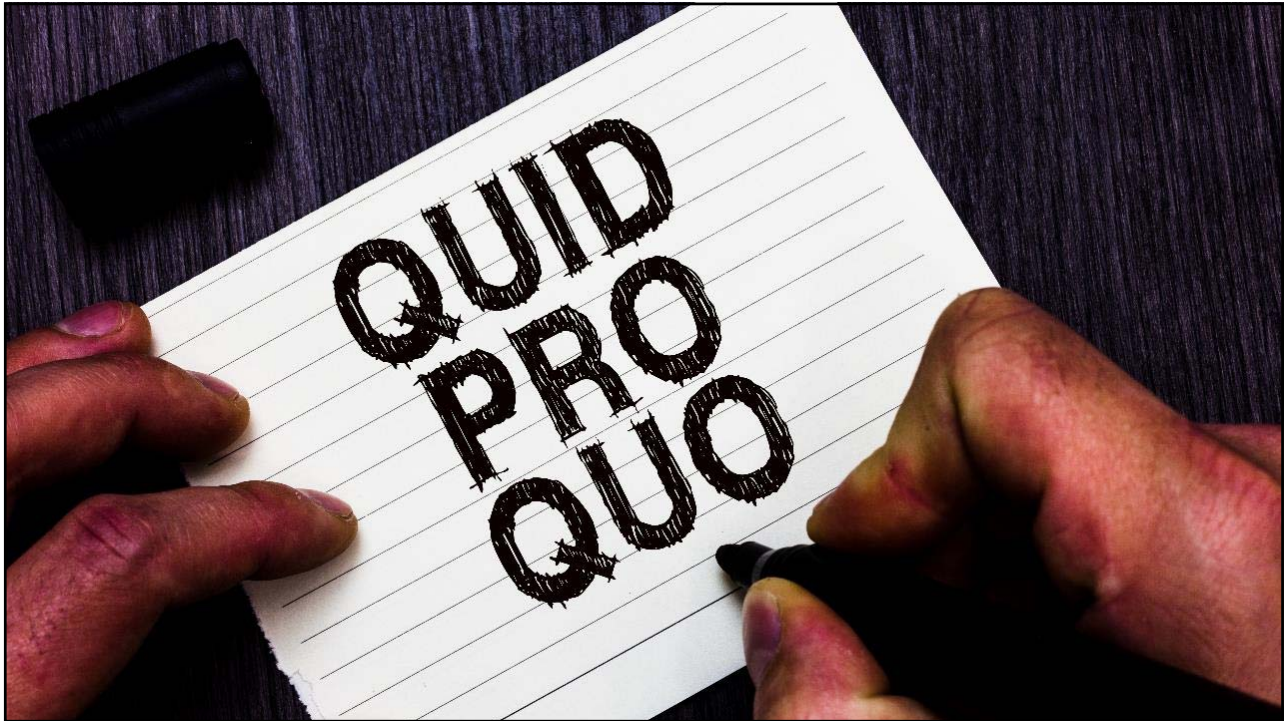
- Title IX
- Oregon Law

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**Title IX Sexual  
Harassment**

- Employee quid pro quo
- Hostile environment (newly defined)
- Clery/VAWA "Big 4"

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**Quid Pro Quo**

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Quid = Something

---

Pro = For

---

Quo = Something

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## Title IX Quid Pro Quo

**Definition:** An employee of the educational institution conditioning an aid, service, or benefit of the educational institution on participation in unwelcome sexual conduct

**New:** Only an employee (not a volunteer, another student, etc.)

**Codified:** Severity and harm presumed

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## Clery/VAWA "Big Four"

Sexual Assault 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v)

Domestic Violence 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8)

Dating Violence 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10)

Stalking 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30)

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## Title IX – What is a Hostile Environment

<p><b>Old Definition</b></p> <p>Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be <b>severe, pervasive or persistent as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>New Definition (8/14)</b></p> <p>Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be <b>so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person's equal access to the school's education program or activity</b></p>
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## Unwelcome Conduct

- Not **Consent**
- Not **Participation**
- Not **Silence**
- Age Matters
- Intoxication Matters
- Culture Matters
- Ability Matters

\*\*subjective + reasonable person



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## What is the first word you think of when you hear "severe"?

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## Severe

- Something more than juvenile behavior
- Something more than antagonistic, non-consensual, and crass conduct
- Simple acts of teasing and name-calling are not enough, even when comments are based on sex
- It is not enough to show that a student has been teased or called offensive names

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**What is the first word you think of when you hear  
"pervasive"?**

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## Pervasive

- Systemic or widespread
- Multiple incidents of harassment
- One incident is not enough, even if very severe

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**What is the first word you think of when you hear  
"objectively offensive"?**

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## Objectively Offensive

- Behavior that would be offensive to a reasonable person under the circumstances
- Not just offensive to the victim, personally or subjectively
- Consider ages, numbers, relationships

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Constellation of surrounding circumstances, expectations, and relationships

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## Hostile Environment Factors

Context, Nature, Scope, Frequency,  
Duration, and Location of the Incidents

Identity, Number, Ages, and  
Relationships of the Persons involved

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# Yes or No?

Is this "Title IX Sexual Harassment"?

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## A student makes multiple insensitive jokes to another student?

Yes

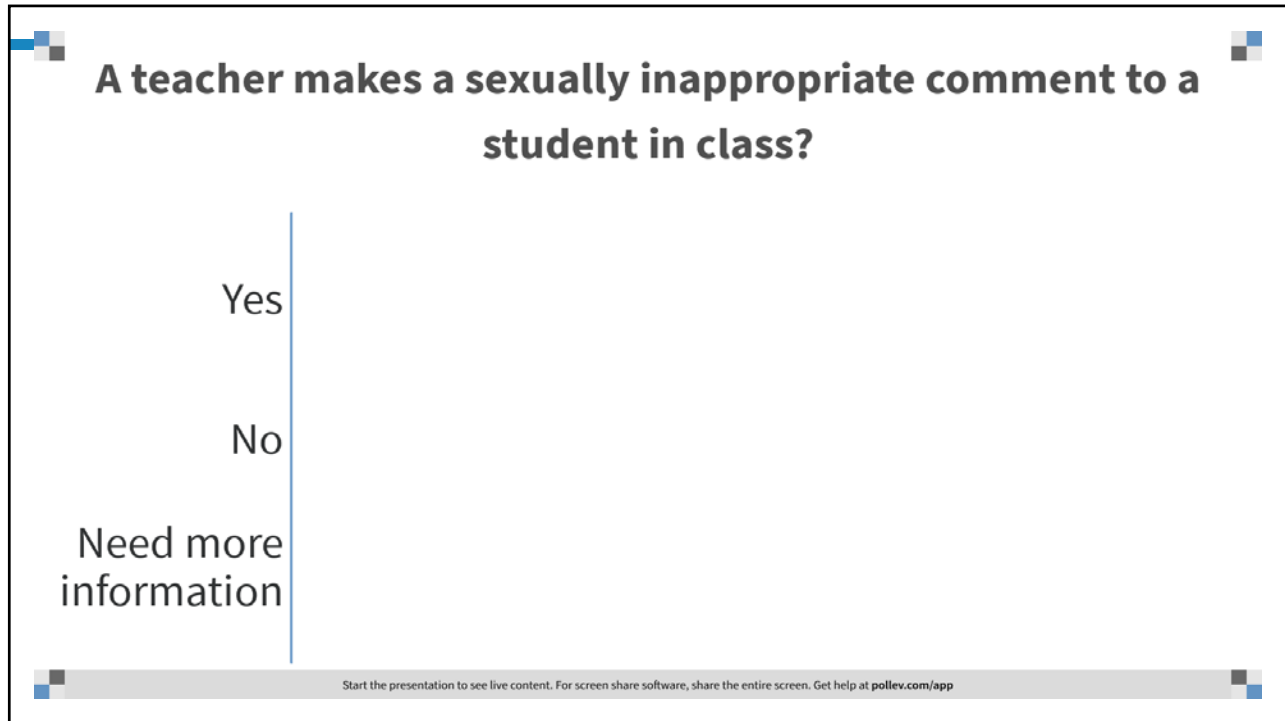
No

Need more information

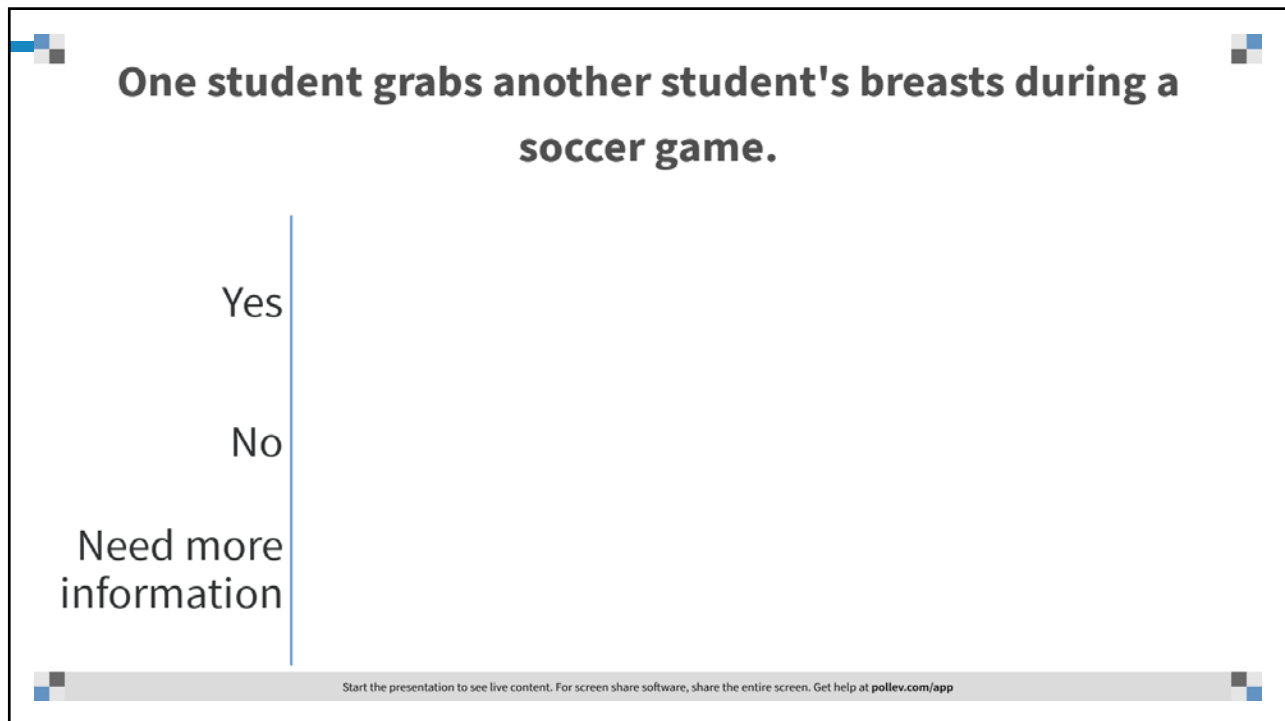
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66

**A student "uses tongue" during an acting scene without the other student's permission.**

Yes

No

Need more information

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**A group of students (one sex) make a Facebook post rating students (another sex) by attractiveness and share with school community**

Yes

No

Need more information

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**A teacher (one sex) tells a student (another sex) to trade a back rub in the classroom for a good grade on a test**

Yes

No

Need more information

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**Students incessantly mock a female student for not wearing makeup saying she looks "like a boy"**

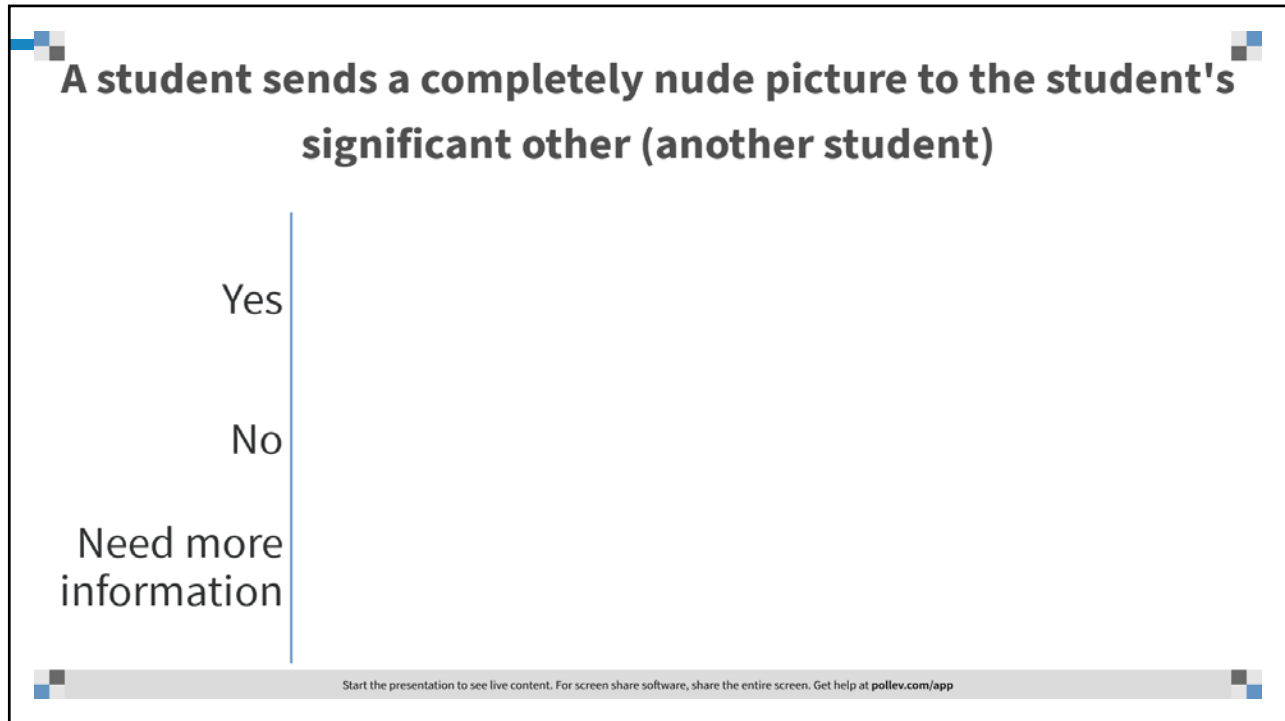
Yes

No

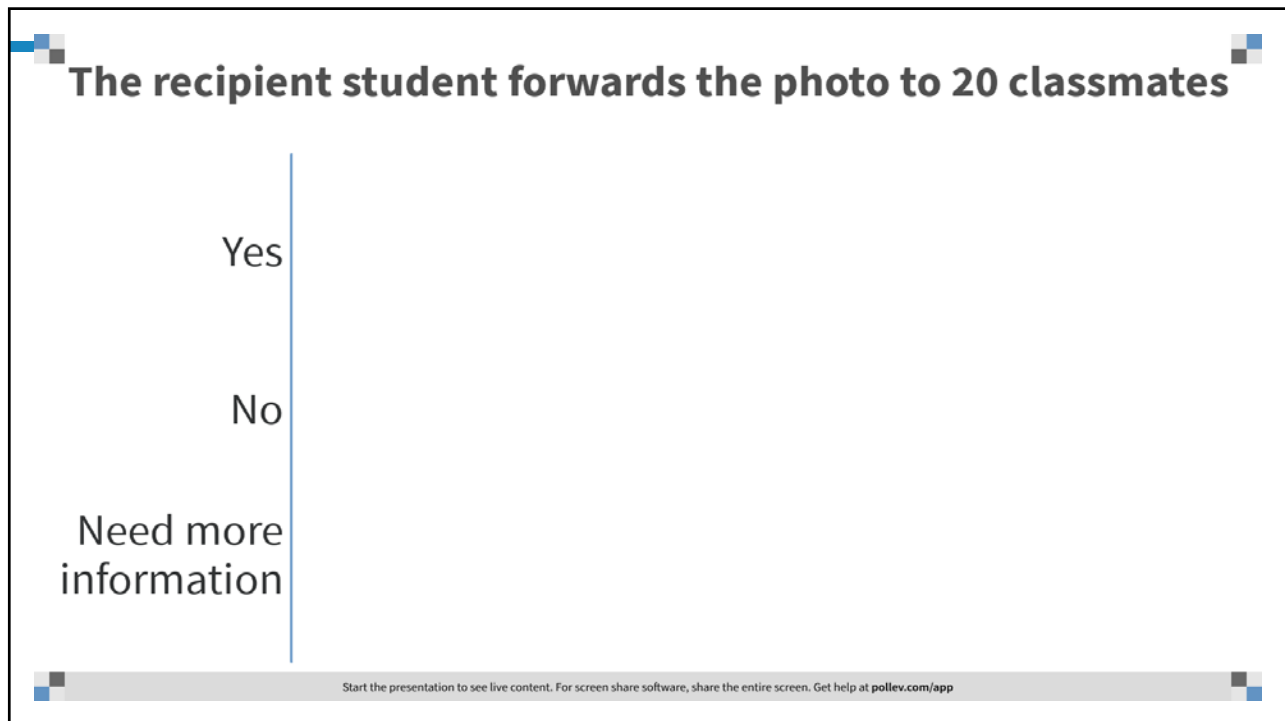
Need more information

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## When must a school respond to Title IX sexual harassment?

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Title IX Sexual  
Harassment  
Must Be “In a  
Program or  
Activity”

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**Program or Activity:** Any location, events, or circumstance over which the school exhibits substantial control over both the alleged harasser and the “context” in which the harassment occurred

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**When must a school respond to Title IX sexual harassment?**

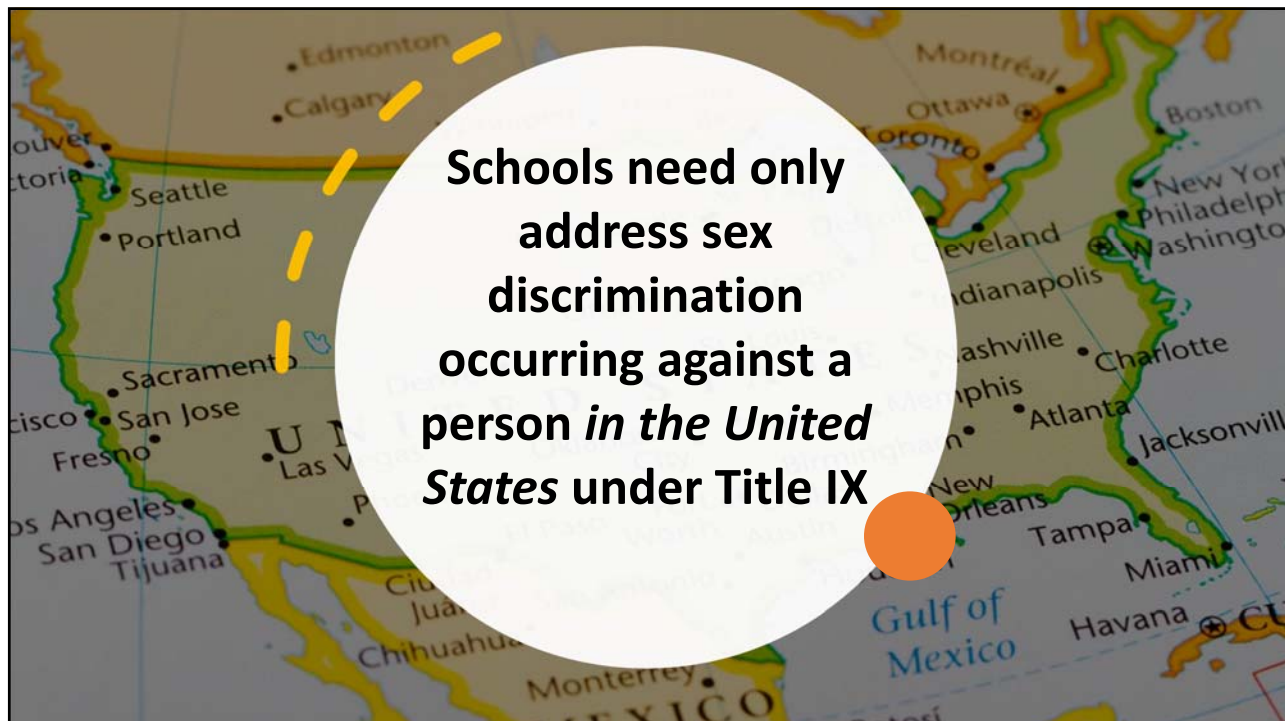
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**When must a school respond to Title IX sexual harassment?**

A school with actual knowledge of [Title IX] sexual harassment in an education program or activity **against a person in the United States** must respond

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A map of the United States is shown in the background. A white circular callout bubble with a dashed orange border is centered over the map. Inside the bubble, the text reads: "Schools need only address sex discrimination occurring against a person *in the United States* under Title IX". An orange circle is positioned at the bottom right edge of the white bubble.

**Schools need only address sex discrimination occurring against a person *in the United States* under Title IX**

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## DISMISSALS

**Mandatory if conduct alleged:**

Not Title IX Sexual Harassment  
Did not occur in the school's program or activity  
Did not occur in the United States

\*\*can still address under non-Title IX policy

**Permissive if:**

Complainant requests to withdraw in writing  
Respondent's enrollment or employment ends  
Specific circumstances prevent school from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determine (e.g., passage of time, lack of cooperation by complainant)

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## How Must You Respond?

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## Board Policies on Harassment

Option 1: T9 SH Sexual Harassment Policy and related administrative procedures (for Title IX Sexual Harassment)

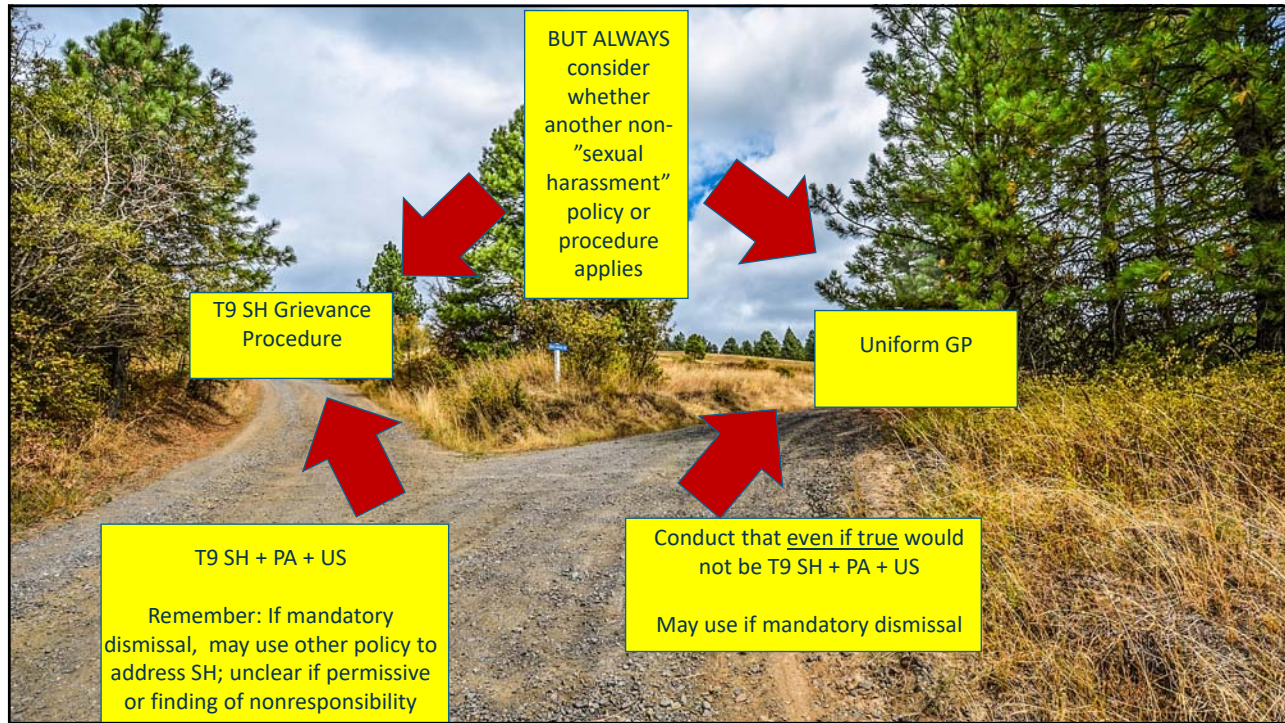
Option 2: Uniform Grievance Policy and related administrative procedures (other sexual harassment, other violations of law and of board policy)

Option 3: Other rules or policies not related to SH

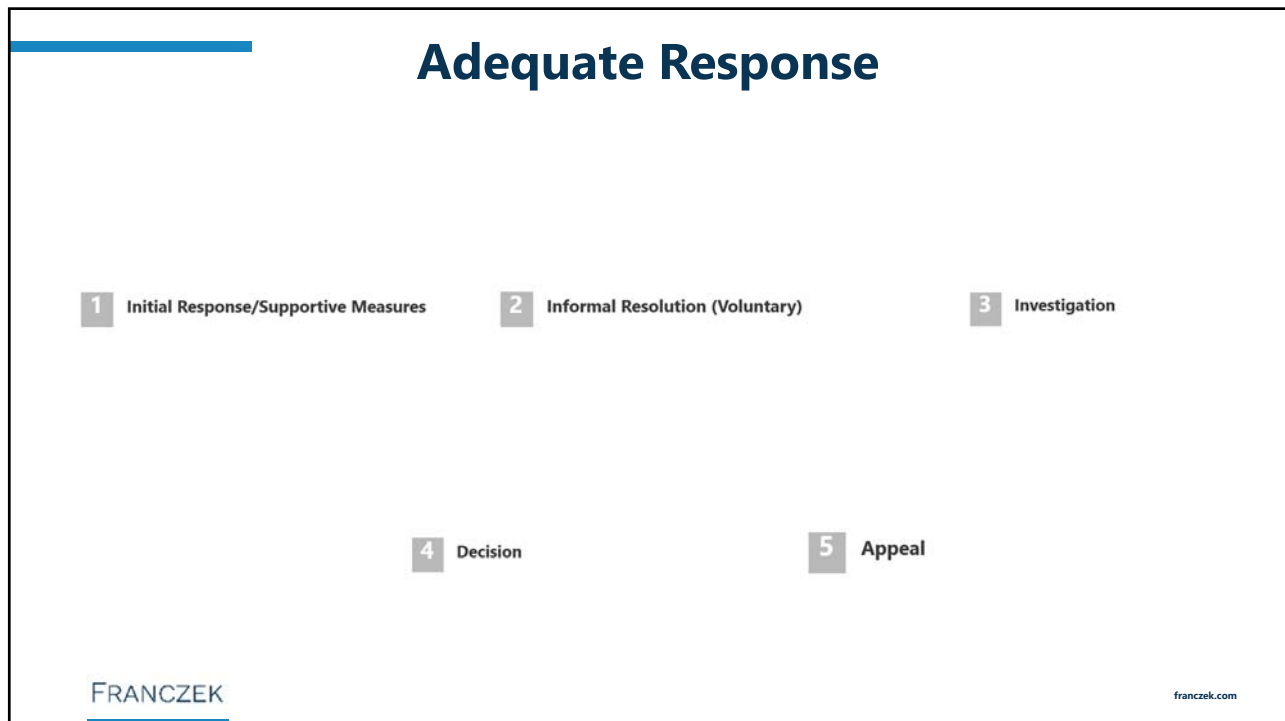
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86

# 1

## Initial Response/Supportive Measures

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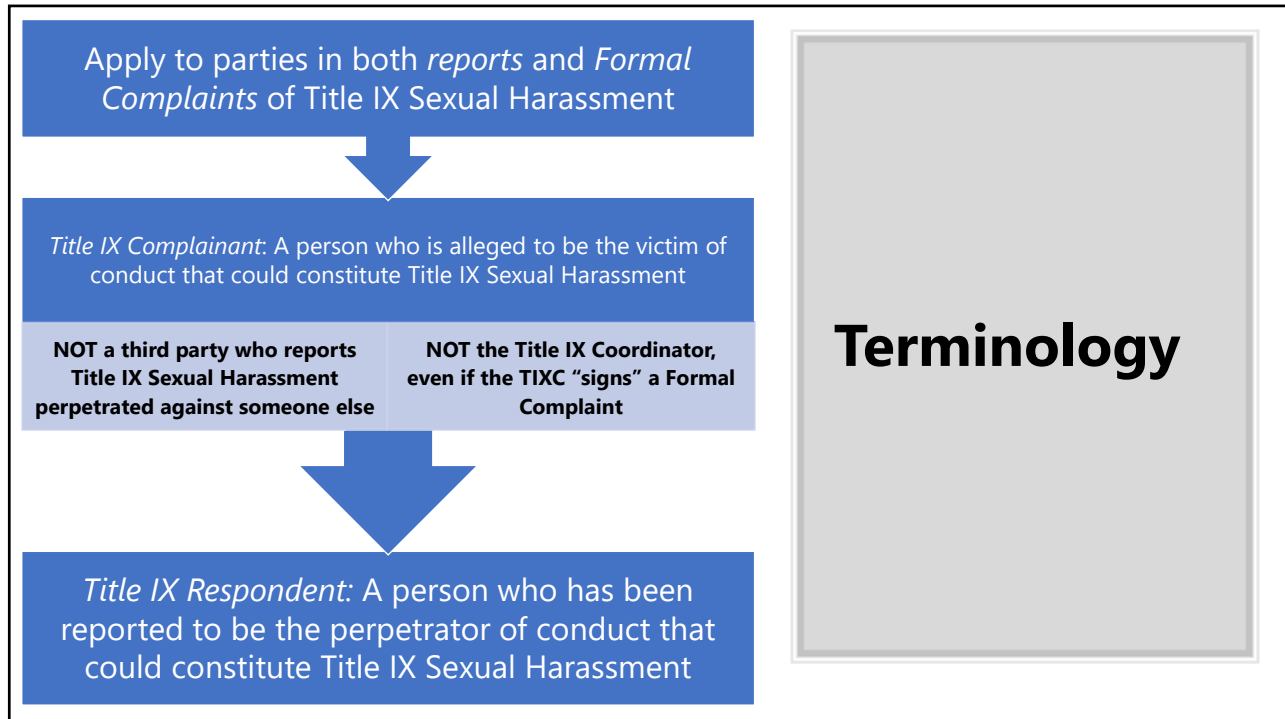
## Title IX Coordinator

- Must be called Title IX Coordinator
- Must meet with alleged victims of sexual harassment (the Title IX Complainant)  
*upon actual knowledge of TIX SH even if no formal complaint filed*
- Can delegate responsibilities

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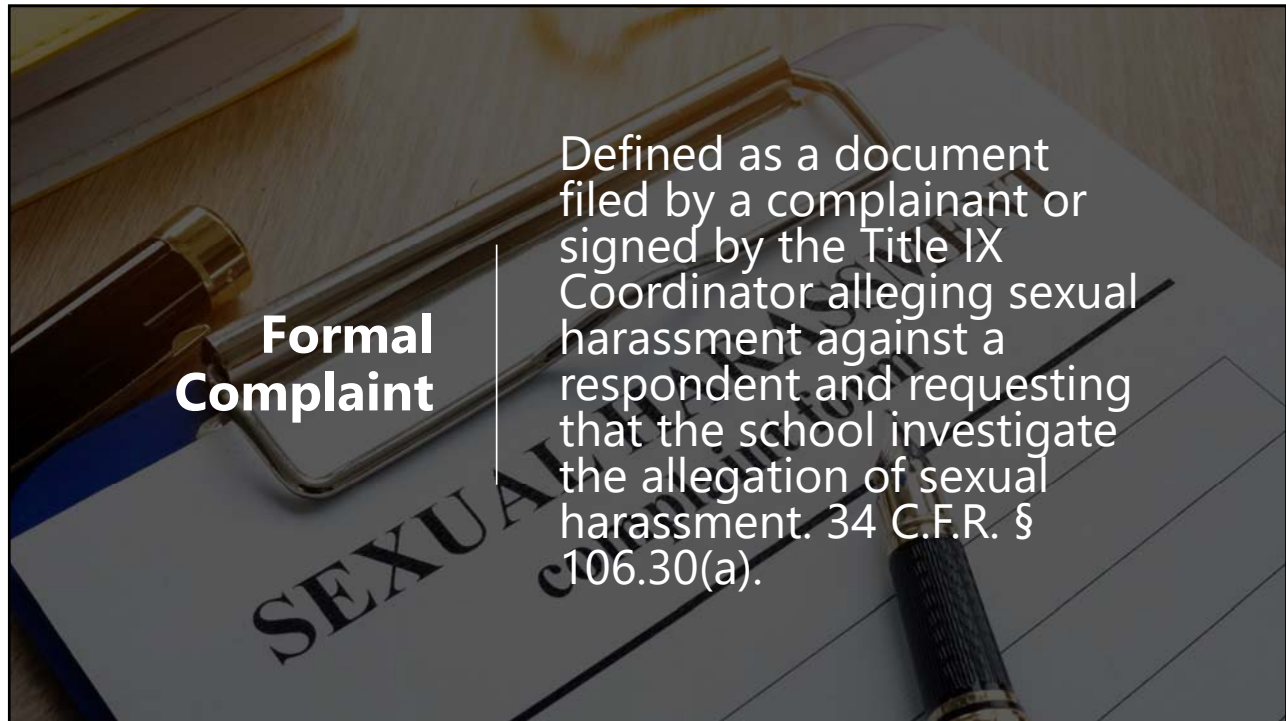
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Title IX Coordinator (or designee) must promptly, **even if no Formal Complaint is filed**:

- Contact the Title IX Complainant to discuss the availability of "supportive measures"
- Consider the Title IX Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures
- Inform the Title IX Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint
- Explain the process for filing a Formal Complaint

**New:  
Initial  
Response**

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<p><b>Supportive Measures</b></p> <p><b>What Changed?</b></p>	<p><b>OLD TERM (OCR Guidance)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Used terms such as “interim measures” or “interim steps” to describe measures to help a complainant maintain equal educational access</li><li>• Implied only available during pendency of investigation, did not mandate offering them, not clear if could be punitive or disciplinary, and did not clarify if available to respondents</li></ul>	<p><b>NEW TERM (Final Rule)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Non-punitive</b>, individualized services, offered as appropriate and without charge to a complainant or a respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint, or where no complaint has been filed (34. C.F.R.106.30(a)).</li><li>• <b>Should be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity without “unreasonably” burdening the other party</b></li><li>• <b>Should be confidential</b></li></ul>
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<p><b>Emergency Removal/ Admin Leave</b></p>	
<p><b>Immediate emergency removal</b> (34 C.F.R. 106.44(c))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Based on an individualized safety and risk analysis</li><li>• Necessary to protect a student or other individual from <b>immediate threat to physical health or safety</b></li><li>• <b>Notice, opportunity to challenge</b> provided “immediately” provided the removal</li><li>• Consider other laws, e.g., expulsion laws, “change in placement” under IDEA or 504</li></ul>	<p><b>Employee administrative leave</b> (34 C.F.R. 106.44(d))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not prohibited</li><li>• Consider state law, board policy, handbooks, and bargaining agreements</li></ul>

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# 2 Informal Resolution (Voluntary)

95

<b>Informal Resolution</b>	
<b>INFORMAL RESOLUTION IS NOT PERMITTED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:</b>	<b>INFORMAL RESOLUTION MAY MOVE FORWARD UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cannot condition enrollment, employment, or any right on waiver of right to investigation and adjudication of formal complaints under grievance procedure</li><li>• Cannot require use of informal resolution process</li><li>• Cannot offer informal resolution process until formal complaint is filed</li><li>• Not available to resolve allegations that employee sexually harassed a student</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any time prior to reaching a determination, either party may request informal resolution</li><li>• Requires voluntary, written consent from both parties</li><li>• Any party has a right to withdraw prior to agreement</li></ul>

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## Informal Resolution Facilitators

- We do not recommend using the Title IX Coordinator or investigator(s) or decisionmakers (complaint and appeal)

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## Investigation

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## New: Formal Complaint Response

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34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)

- Requires a number of specific steps for investigating
- Major shift from previous, more deferential stance toward specific policies and practices for complaint resolution

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### Who should investigate?

- Can be the Title IX Coordinator
- But should it?

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- Written notice to known parties “upon receipt of written complaint”
- In sufficient time to allow respondent to prepare a response before any **initial** interview
- Must include:
  - Notice of grievance process, including any informal resolution process
  - Notice of allegations, in sufficient detail to allow respondent to prepare a response (names of known parties, conduct alleged, date and location of conduct, if known)

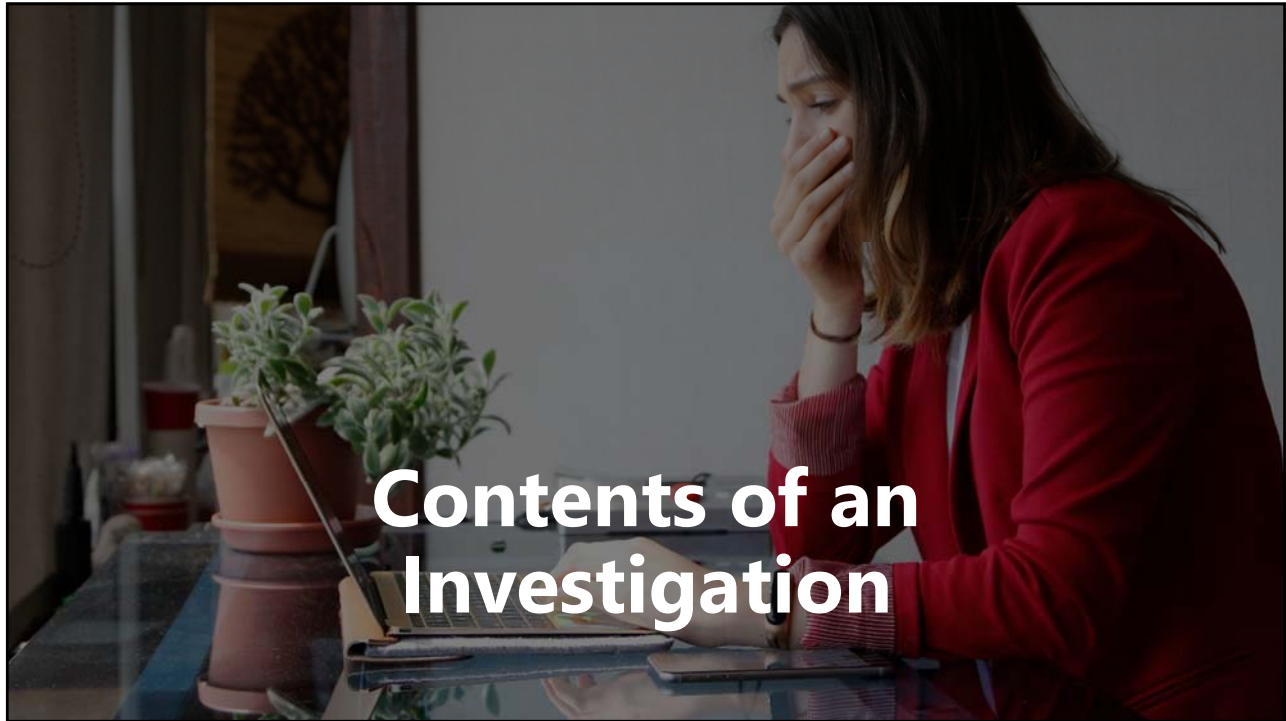
**More  
Steps:  
Written  
Notice**

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- Must include:
  - Statement that respondent presumed not responsible and that responsibility determined at conclusion of grievance process
  - Notice of parties’ rights to have an attorney or non-attorney advisor and to inspect and review evidence
  - Notice of any provision in the code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or providing false evidence during the grievance process
- Must be supplemented if new allegations opened for investigation

**More  
Steps:  
Written  
Notice**

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A person in a white protective suit and mask is shown in a dark, dimly lit environment, possibly a forensic investigator. The text "Investigation 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(5)" is overlaid in large white font. To the right of the image is a list of bullet points.

**Investigation**  
**34 C.F.R.**  
**106.45(b)(5)**

- Burden of proof on school
- Certain treatment records cannot be obtained without voluntary, written consent
- No restriction of rights of parties to discuss allegations or gather or present evidence
- Same opportunities for others present during interviews or related proceedings (e.g., attorney or non-attorney advisor)
- Written notice to parties of date, time, participants, purpose, and location of each investigative interview with sufficient time to prepare
- All directly related evidence provided to parties and their advisors with 10 days to respond before report
- Written investigative report "fairly summarizes the relevant evidence" provided to parties and advisors at least 10 days before hearing or other determination of responsibility

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## Investigation Plans Aren't Static

Reassess plan for  
investigation  
frequently



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Gathering Other Evidence

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## Warning! Hands off

- Rape shield (for CP)
  - Unless
    1. Used to prove someone other than respondent committed the conduct or
    2. Specific incidents related to the RP to show consent
- Medical records (treatment)
- Privileged information

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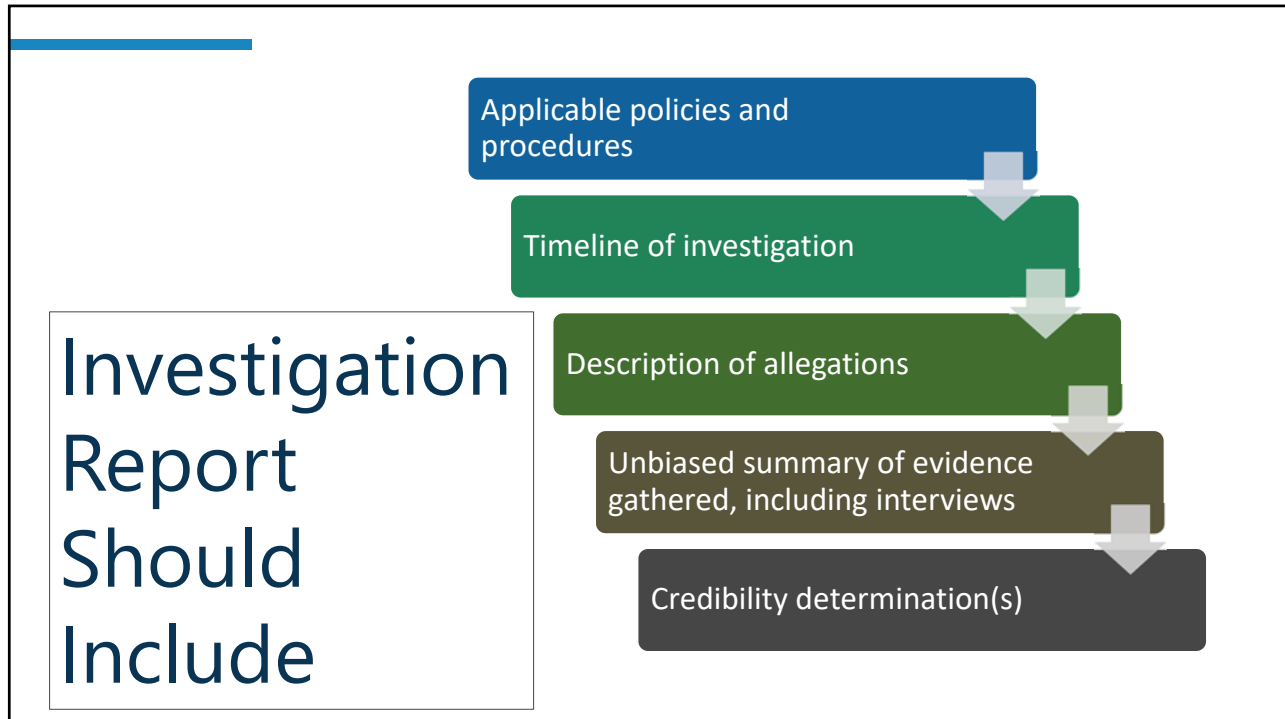
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## Opportunity to Review Evidence

- Before the investigatory report is completed, evidence relating to the allegations must be sent to each party and advisor and should include all directly related evidence (including that which the school does not intend to rely upon and exculpatory and inculpatory evidence)
- Parties have 10 days to provide a written response

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## Investigation Report Writing

- Fairly summarizes all relevant evidence
- Provide the report to the parties and their advisors, if any, for their review and written response, at least 10 days before a hearing or other determination of responsibility

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## 4 Decision

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### **Decisionmaker(s) (Complaint)**

- Cannot be the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s)

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## Determinations of Responsibility 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(6)

- Live hearing with live cross by party advisors required for higher ed, **not K-12**; Hearings permitted for K-12
- Each party allowed to submit written, **relevant** questions to be asked of another party or witness to the decisionmaker, who will provide each party with the answers and the opportunity for follow-up questions

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## Warning! Hands off

- Rape shield (for CP)
  - Unless
    1. Used to prove someone other than respondent committed the conduct or
    2. Specific incidents related to the RP to show consent
- Medical records (treatment)
- Privileged information

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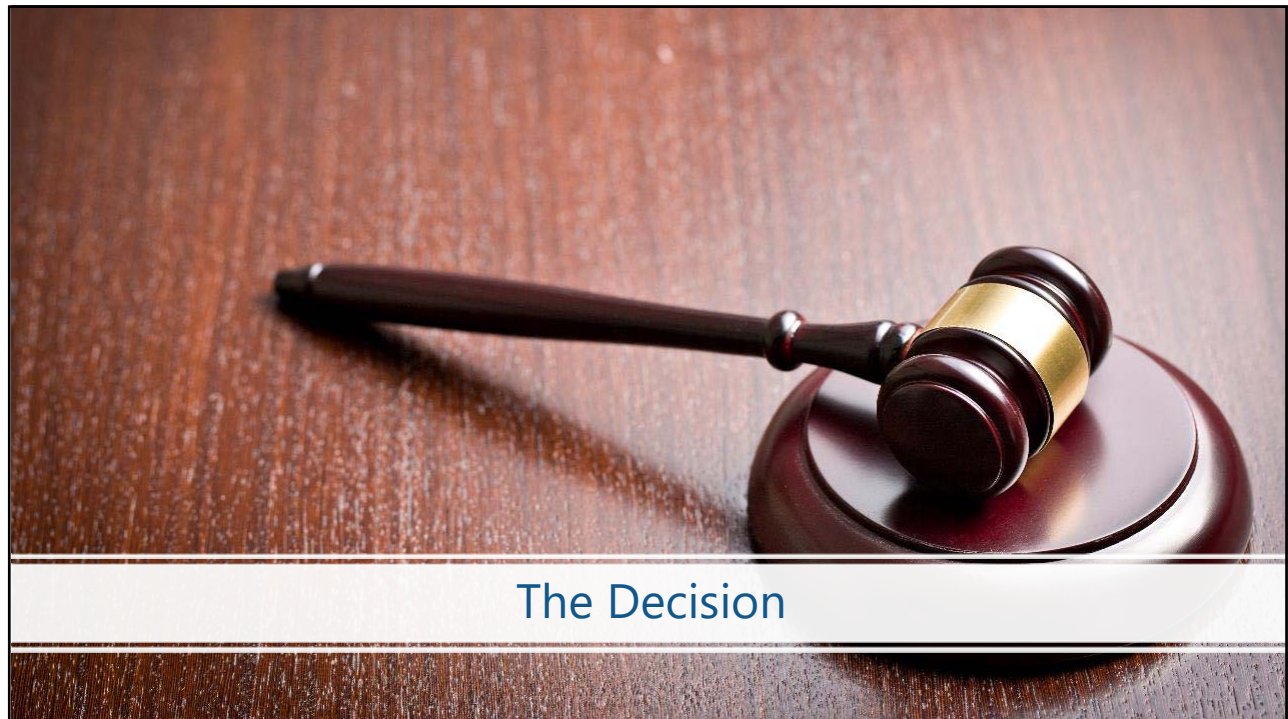


## Rulings on Relevance in Written “Cross”

- Provide reasoning for irrelevance
- Admit and consider all relevant evidence
- Questions must be appropriate
- Identify exceptions

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The Decision

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## Written Determination

Identify	Identify the allegations
Describe	Describe procedural steps taken
Cite	Cite potential policy violations
Summarize	Fairly summarize all relevant evidence
Provide	Provide statement of result, with rationale, for each allegation
Appeal	Appeal procedures

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**Remember the  
Standard of  
Proof**

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**Preponderance  
of the Evidence**

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# Remedies

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- Can be punitive/disciplinary
- Can be supportive measures or similar actions as well
- Can address individuals or larger community

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## 5 Appeal

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## Appeal Process

- Available to both parties
- Can appeal determination regarding responsibility or dismissal
- Three bases for appeal (must impact outcome):
  - Procedural issue;
  - New evidence not reasonably available; or
  - Conflict of interest or bias

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## Appeal Process

- Notify party of appeal in writing
- Apply procedures equally for both parties
- Opportunity to submit written statement
- Issue written decision to both parties

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**Decisionmaker(s)  
(Appeal)**

Cannot be the Title IX  
Coordinator or the  
investigator(s) or the  
decisionmaker (complaint)

123

**Bias, Conflicts of Interest,  
and Other Fairness  
Concerns**

124

## Bias, Conflict, Prejudgment

The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or informal resolution facilitator must not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or for or against any individual Complainant or Respondent. And that they not prejudge any matter before them.

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## Bias, Conflict, Prejudgment

- Consider perceptions, not just reality
  - Institution bias
  - Your friendship or other relationship with the accused or their family
  - Your personal characteristics
  - Your personal conflicts (even if just perceived)
  - Personality conflicts

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**What is the first word you think of when you hear "bias"?**

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**What is the first word you think of when you hear "conflict of interest"?**

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at [pollev.com/app](https://pollev.com/app)

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**What is the first word you think of when you hear  
"prejudgment"?**

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at [polllev.com/app](https://polllev.com/app)

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# Go Back and Think

What steps can you take to avoid:

- Prejudgment*
- Conflict of Interest*
- Bias*

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# Recordkeeping

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## Written Notice: Required

- Informal resolution notice
- Notice at start of investigation
- Dismissal notice
- Interview notices
- Report
- Notice why proposed questions not asked on cross and why
- Written determination and notice of appeal rights

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## Written Notice: Recommended

- Document information to complainant at initial meeting, including supportive measures requested/provided
- Document that review of evidence provided to both parties
- Document opportunity to ask questions, answers, follow-up questions, etc.

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## Recordkeeping

Must maintain the following for 7 years:

- Sexual harassment investigation documents, including:
  - Determination regarding responsibility
  - Recordings or transcripts of live hearing
  - Disciplinary sanctions imposed on Respondent
  - Remedies provided to Complainant
- Appeal and result
- Informal resolution and result
- Actions taken in response to a report of sexual harassment
- Actions taken in response to a formal complaint of sexual harassment

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## Recordkeeping

Responses to formal and informal complaints and actions taken in response should include:

- The basis for the school's conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent
- Documentation that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school's education program or activity
- Supportive measures or if no supportive measures are provided, document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances

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## Questions



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