



# WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**The following is the Student Sexual Harassment Policy adopted by the School Committee. Please familiarize yourself with its contents.**

## **STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when such conduct unreasonably interferes with school performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive school environment.

Students are protected from sexual harassment under the provisions of Title IX since courts have found sexual harassment to be a form of sex discrimination. If sexual harassment involves a minor student in a school setting, it can also be considered a criminal offense under laws relating to child abuse.

What one person may consider acceptable behavior may be viewed as sexual harassment by another person. Therefore, in order to protect the rights of both parties, it is important that the victim make it clear to the harasser that the behavior is bothering him or her.

Any student who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment is strongly encouraged to report the offensive behavior to his/her teacher, the principal or the assistant principal. If the complaint involves a staff member, it will be reported by the Principal to a Grievance Officer.

Reports of sexual harassment will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to conduct a review of the facts involving as few people as possible with the goal of protecting both parties and stopping the behavior.

Upon receiving a complaint or information of possible student sexual harassment, the principal or assistant principal in charge will fully investigate the matter. The student involved will be given an opportunity to fully explain his/her side of the story. If there is evidence that a student has committed an act of sexual harassment, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

02/19/2014