

**TWIN LAKES STEM ACADEMY
STUDENT SEX AND GENDER NONDISCRIMINATION (522)**

I. PURPOSE

Students are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex and gender pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. The purpose of this policy is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students and to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex or gender.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Twin Lakes STEM Academy provides equal educational opportunity for all students, and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex or gender. No student will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity operated by Twin Lakes STEM Academy on the basis of sex or gender.
- B. It is the responsibility of every Twin Lakes STEM Academy employee to comply with this policy.
- C. The school board hereby designates the Director as its Title IX coordinator. This employee coordinates Twin Lakes STEM Academy's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX.
- D. Any student, parent or guardian having questions regarding the application of Title IX and its regulations and/or this policy should discuss them with the Title IX coordinator. Questions relating solely to Title IX and its regulations may be referred to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education. In the absence of a specific designee, an inquiry or complaint should be referred to the Director.

III. REPORTING GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- A. Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of unlawful sex or gender discrimination by a teacher, administrator or other Twin Lakes STEM Academy personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute unlawful sex or gender discrimination toward a student should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate Twin Lakes STEM Academy official designated by this policy or may file a grievance. Twin Lakes STEM Academy encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the School Director of each building or available from the Twin Lakes STEM Academy office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting unlawful sex or gender discrimination toward a student directly to the Director.

- B. The Director is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports or grievances of unlawful sex or gender discrimination toward a student at the building level. Any adult Twin Lakes STEM Academy personnel who receives a report of unlawful sex or gender discrimination toward a student shall inform the Director immediately.
- C. If the report was given verbally, the Director shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours. Failure to forward any report or complaint of unlawful sex or gender discrimination toward a student as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the Director. If the complaint involves the Director, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the school board chair by the reporting party or complainant.
- D. The school board hereby designates the Director as the Twin Lakes STEM Academy human rights officer(s) to receive reports, complaints or grievances of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the board chair.
- E. Twin Lakes STEM Academy shall conspicuously post the name of the Title IX coordinator and human rights officer(s), including office mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
- F. Submission of a good faith complaint, grievance or report of unlawful sex or gender discrimination toward a student will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.
- G. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.
- H. Twin Lakes STEM Academy will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with Twin Lakes STEM Academy's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

IV. INVESTIGATION

- A. By authority of Twin Lakes STEM Academy, the Director, upon receipt of a report, complaint or grievance alleging unlawful sex or gender discrimination toward a student shall promptly undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by Twin Lakes STEM Academy officials or by a third party designated by Twin Lakes STEM Academy.
- B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and

documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.

- C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, Twin Lakes STEM Academy should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.
- D. In addition, Twin Lakes STEM Academy may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, pupils, teachers, administrators or other school personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged unlawful sex or gender discrimination toward a student.
- E. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The Director shall make a written report to the board chair upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the Director, the report may be filed directly with the school board chair. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

V. Twin Lakes STEM Academy ACTION

- A. Upon conclusion of the investigation and receipt of a report, Twin Lakes STEM Academy will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. Twin Lakes STEM Academy action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law and Twin Lakes STEM Academy policies.
- B. The result of Twin Lakes STEM Academy's investigation of each complaint filed under these procedures will be reported in writing to the complainant by Twin Lakes STEM Academy in accordance with state and federal law regarding data or records privacy.

VI. REPRISAL

Twin Lakes STEM Academy will discipline or take appropriate action against any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel who retaliates against any person who reports alleged unlawful sex or gender discrimination toward a student or any person who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation, or who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such unlawful sex or gender discrimination. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

VII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, initiating civil action or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law, or contacting the Office of Civil Rights for the United States Department of Education.

VIII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND EVALUATION

- A. This policy shall be made available to all students, parents/guardians of students, staff members, employee unions, and organizations.
- B. Twin Lakes STEM Academy shall review this policy and Twin Lakes STEM Academy's operation for compliance with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination on a continuous basis.

Adopted: 01/06/2015

Reviewed: 04/28/25