

Giles County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March	Descriptor Term: Discrimination/Harassment of Employees (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious)	Descriptor Code: 5.500	Issued Date: 05/08/08
		Rescinds: 2.24 2.14	Issued: 02/17/98 01/09/07

1 Employees shall be provided a work environment free from sexual, racial, ethnic and religious discrimination/
 2 harassment. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee or any student to discriminate against
 3 or harass an employee through disparaging conduct or communication that is sexual, racial, ethnic or
 4 religious in nature. The following guidelines are set forth to protect employees from discrimination/
 5 harassment.

7 Employee discrimination/harassment will not be tolerated.¹ Discrimination/harassment is defined as con-
 8 duct, advances, gestures or words either written or spoken of a sexual, racial, ethnic or religious nature
 9 which:

- 11 1. Unreasonably interfere with the individual's work or performance; or
- 12 2. Create an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment; or
- 13 3. Imply that submission to such conduct is made an explicit or implicit term of employment;
- 14 4. Imply that submission to or rejection of such conduct will be used as a basis for an employ-
 15 ment
 16 decision affecting the harassed employee.

18 Alleged victims of sexual, racial, ethnic and religious discrimination/harassment shall report these inci-
 19 dents immediately.² This report should be made to the immediate supervisor except when the immediate
 20 supervisor is the offending party. If the immediate supervisor is the offending party, the report may be
 21 made to the director of schools. Allegations of discrimination/harassment shall be fully investigated (as
 22 set forth in *Complaints and Grievances 5.501*). An oral complaint may be submitted; however, such
 23 complaint must be reduced to writing to ensure a more complete investigation. The complaint should
 24 include the following information:

- 26 Identity of the alleged victim and person accused;
- 27 Location, date, time and circumstances surrounding the alleged incident;
- 28 Description of what happened;
- 29 Identity of witnesses; and
- 30 Any other evidence available.

32 The privacy and anonymity of all parties and witnesses to complaints will be respected. However, because
 33 an individual's need for confidentiality must be balanced with obligations to cooperate with police inves-
 34 tigations or legal proceedings, to provide due process to the accused, to conduct a thorough investigation
 35 or to take necessary action to resolve a complaint, the identity of parties and witnesses may be disclosed
 36 in appropriate circumstances to individuals with a need to know.

38 A substantiated charge against an employee shall result in disciplinary action up to and including termi-
 39 nation. A substantiated charge against a student may result in corrective or disciplinary action up to and
 40 including suspension.

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There will be no retaliation against any person who reports discrimination/harassment or participates in an investigation. However, any employee who refuses to cooperate or gives false information during the course of any investigation may be subject to disciplinary action. The willful filing of a false report will itself be considered harassment and will be treated as such.

An employee disciplined for violation of this policy may appeal the decision by contacting director of schools.

Legal References:

1. Title VII; 29 CFR §1604.11
2. Title IX (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1686)

Cross References:

Appeals To & Appearances Before the Board 1.404
Complaints and Grievances 5.501