

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

As a general rule, a Board of Education should take care to ensure that there is no discrimination in the operation of the District's program or activities due to a student's race, religion, national origin, sex or disability. This is required specifically by several federal statutes or civil rights, including:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin;
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex;
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.

Under New York State law, discrimination against individuals due to their race, color, religion, disability, national origin, age, marital status, deafness or blindness is specifically prohibited by the Human Rights Law. The Education Law further specifies that no student may be denied admission based on race, creed, color, national origin or sex.

The Commissioner's Regulations state that there may be no discrimination in any school program, including extra-curricular activities, based on race, sex, marital status, color, religion, national origin or disability. Division of sports teams into male and female teams is permissible.

Each of these statutes has its own enforcement process, with sanctions for violations. Guidelines for recognizing and eliminating discriminatory practices are published by the Office for Civil Rights.

Ref: US Constitution, Amendment XIV
NY State Constitution, Article I, §11; Article XI, §1
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
Civil Rights Acts of 1964
Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Educational Amendments of 1972, Title IX
Education Law §3201, 3201a, 4402
Human Rights Law, Executive Law, §§291; 296
8NYCRR §§100.2(k); 100.4; 135.4; 141.1;

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