

TITLE IX

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS AT SCHOOL

What is Title IX?

Title IX is a federal civil rights law that **protects students from discrimination based on gender** in federally funded education programs, like public schools and private schools that accept federal money

Under Title IX, students are protected from discrimination such as **sexual harassment, sexual violence, and gender-based exclusion**



The **U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR)** enforces Title IX

What does this mean for me?

Your school is required to have **policies** in place that **prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence** from making it difficult for you to learn and participate in activities

Under Title IX, all genders have...

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITY, INCLUDING ATHLETICS AND CLUBS



EQUAL TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITY WITHIN THE CLASSROOM

EQUAL PROTECTION FROM UNWANTED TOUCHING AND SEXUAL ADVANCES



EQUAL TREATMENT IF PREGNANT OR PARENTING

Problem with your school? What can you do?

Have you or another student been **sexually harassed, assaulted, or discriminated against** because of your gender or sexual orientation?

1 Understand your school's obligations under Title IX. stopsexualassaultinschools.org/legal-faqs/ has a great summary.

2 Write to your school explaining the incident -- be sure to clearly state your expectations of the school to take action on the issue. Keep writing even if your school ignores you and keep a copy of all attempted communication.

You can also **verbally tell** a school official, like your principal or counselor, about the incident.

3 File a **formal complaint**, or have a parent/trusted adult do so for you, with the Office for Civil Rights (ocrcas.ed.gov).

You must do this within **180 days** of the date of the discrimination.

Tips for Filing a Complaint

- Be as specific and detailed as possible.
- You may declare discrimination on multiple levels including gender, sexual orientation, and ability status.
- It is illegal for anyone to retaliate against you, or try to get revenge, for filing a complaint. Your school is required to protect you against retaliation, even if you never file an official complaint.