



Why Are We Here?



3







Why is this so important?

7

1 in 4 women
experiences sexual
assault before age 18

48% of U.S. students are
subject to sexual
harassment or assault at
school before graduating
high school

10% of children are
targets of educator
sexual misconduct
before high school
graduation

In 2010-2011, 36% of
girls, 24% of boys and
30% of all students
grades 7-12 experienced
online sexual harassment

According to a **2017 report from the Justice Department**, only

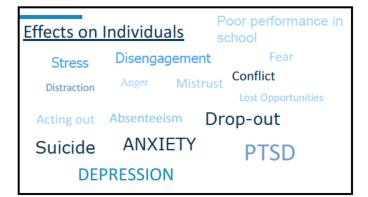
# 23 percent

of all sexual assaults are reported to the police.

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Harassment and assault can have long lasting, detrimental effects on victims





Unfair processes can have long lasting, detrimental effects on the parties

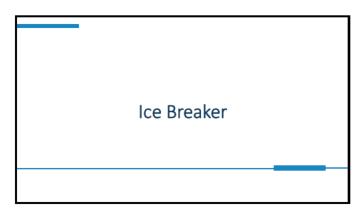


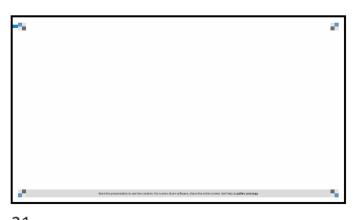
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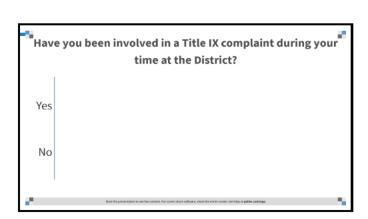




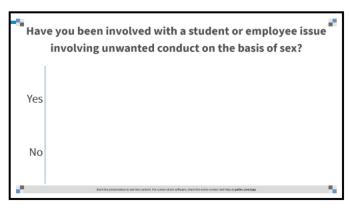




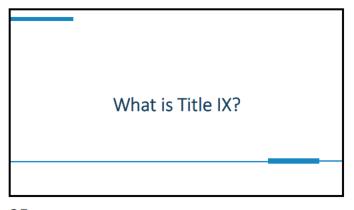


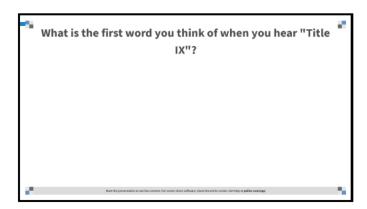


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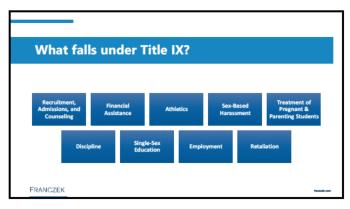
#### **Title IX Statute**

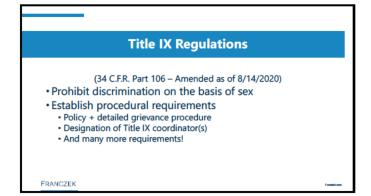
(20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688)

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

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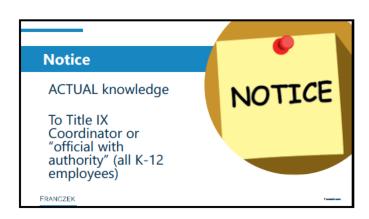
When Must the School Respond to Sexual Harassment? It Depends
Who [Well,
Which Law]
You Ask

| Il inois Human Rights Act
| Title IX

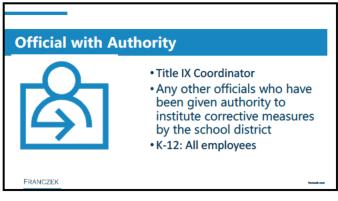
| Students
| Il inois Human Rights Act
| Il inois Sex Equity Regulations
| Title IX

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When must a school with actual knowledge of [Title IX] sexual harassment in an education program or activity against a person in the united States must respond promptly and in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.



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## Reporting Sexual Harassment: Who, How and When?

- Any person may report sex discrimination, regardless of whether the person is the alleged victim of the reported conduct
- Reports can be made by mail, by telephone, or by email, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator
- Or by any means that resu ts in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's report
- Such a report may be made at any time, including during non business hours, by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address listed for the Title IX Coordinator

Key Word: "Allegation"

Once a school has notice of an allegation that, if true, would constitute sexual harassment, it must respond

"Well, we didn't believe there was enough evidence it happened" does not get you past your responsibility to use your Title IX procedures

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## Issue Spotting

Order of protection: Principal served with order of protection requiring 17 year old male student to have no contact with 16 year old female student due to alleged sexual assault off campus.

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Page and Associations

Raise Your Hand

Is this notice under the new Title IX?

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What is Sexual Harassment?

It Depends
Who [Well,
Which Law]
You Ask

Employment

Il inois Human Rights Act
Title IX

Students

Il inois Human Rights Act
Il inois Sex Equity Regulations
Title IX





Quid Pro Quo

Quid = Something

Pro = For

Quo = Something

Title IX Quid Pro Quo

Definition: An employee of the educational institution conditioning an aid, service, or benefit of the educational institution on participation in unwelcome sexual conduct

New: Only an employee (not a volunteer, another student, etc.)

Codified: Severity and harm presumed

45 46

VAWA "Big Four"

Sexual Assault 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v)

Domestic Violence 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8)

Dating Violence 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10)

Stalking 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30)



#### Title IX - What is Sexual Harassment?

#### **Old Definition**

Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be severe, pervasive or persistent as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or opportunities

#### New Definition (8/14)

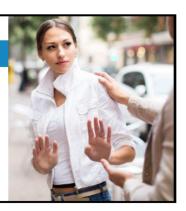
Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so sévere, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person's equal access to the school's education program or activity

#### **Unwelcome Conduct**

- Not Consent
- **Not Participation**
- Not Silence
- Age Matters
- Intoxication Matters
- **Culture Matters**
- **Ability Matters**

\*\*reasonable person

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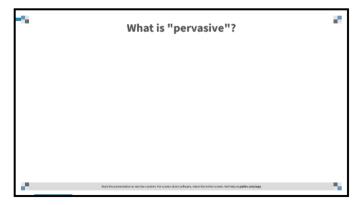
#### Severe

"Severe" means something more than just juvenile behavior among students, even behavior that is antagonistic, non-consensual, and crass. The Davis Court made an explicit admonishment that "simple acts of teasing and name-calling" are not enough, "even where these comments target differences in gender." Davis, 526 U.S. at 651, 119 S.Ct. 1661; 652 (" t is not enough to show ... that a student has been teased or called offensive names." (quotation marks and editorial marks omitted)).2

Kollaritsch v. Michigan State Univ. Bd. of Trustees, 944 F.3d 613, 620 (6th Cir. 2019)

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#### **Pervasive**

"Pervasive" means "systemic" or "widespread," id. at 652-53, 119 S.Ct. 1661, but for our purposes, it also means multiple incidents of harassment; one incident of harassment is not enough.  ${\it Id.}$  (explaining that this cause of action does not cover "claims of official indifference to a single instance of one-on-one peer harassment"). The Davis Court hypothesized that a single incident could be sufficiently severe that it would result in the articulated injury—and we do not doubt that a sexual assault would be such a severe incident—but the Court held that a single incident would nonetheless fall short of Title IX's requirement of "systemic" harassment.

Kollaritsch v. Michigan State Univ. Bd. of Trustees, 944 F.3d 613, 620-21 (6th Cir. FRANCZEK

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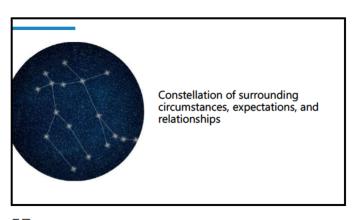


#### **Objectively Offensive**

"Objectively offensive" means behavior that would be offensive to a reasonable person under the circumstances, not merely offensive to the victim, personally or subjectively. Id. at 651, 119 S.Ct. 1661. "Whether gender-oriented conduct rises to the level of actionable harassment thus depends on a constellation of surrounding circumstances, expectations, and relationships, including, but not limited to, the ages of the harasser and the victim and the number of individuals involved." Id. (quotation marks omitted). The victim's perceptions are not determinative. "Indeed, the [Davis majority] ... suggests that the 'objective offensiveness' of a comment is to be judged by reference to a reasonable child at whom the comments were aimed." Id. at 678, 119 S.Ct. 1661 (Kennedy, J., dissenting).

Kollaritsch v. Michigan State Univ. Bd. of Trustees, 944 F.3d 613, 621 (6th Cir. 2019)

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**Hostile Environment Factors** 

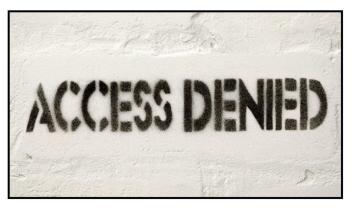
Context, Nature, Scope, Frequency, Duration, and Location of the Incidents

Identity, Number, Ages, and Relationships of the Persons involved

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#### **Denial of Access**

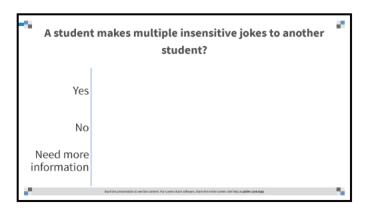
Nor do we contemplate, much less hold, that a mere "decline in grades is enough to survive" a motion to dismiss. Ibid. The dropoff in [the student]'s grades provides necessary evidence of a potential link between her education and [the perpetrator]'s misconduct, but petitioner's ability to state a cognizable claim here depends equally on the alleged persistence and severity of [the perpetrator]'s actions, not to mention the Board's alleged knowledge and deliberate indifference.

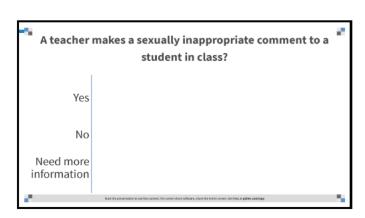
<u>Davis Next Friend LaShonda D. v. Monroe Cty. Bd. of Educ.</u>, 526 U.S. 629, 652, 119 S. Ct. 1661, 1676, 143 L. Ed. 2d 839 (1999)

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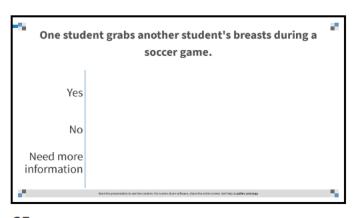


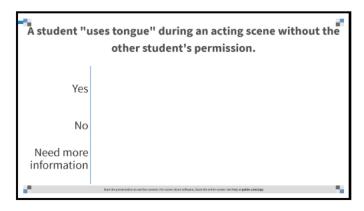






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A group of students (one sex) make a Facebook post rating students (another sex) by attractiveness and share with school community

Yes

No

Need more information

A teacher (one sex) tells a student (another sex) to trade a back rub in the classroom for a good grade on a test

Yes

No

Need more information

67 68

Students incessantly mock a female student for not wearing makeup saying she looks "like a boy"

Yes

No

Need more information

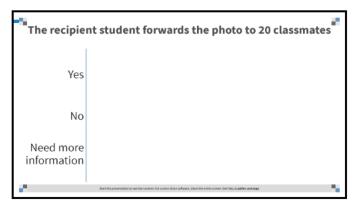
A student sends a completely nude picture to the student's significant other (another student)

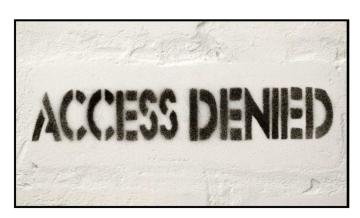
Yes

No

Need more information

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How Must You Respond?

#### **Board Policies on Harassment**

Option 1: NEW Board Policy 2:265 Title IX Sexual Harassment (for TIX Sexual Harassment *only*)

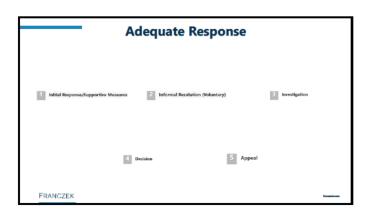
Option 2: Board Policy 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure (for any other violation of law, including other types of "sexual harassment")

Option 3: Other Board policies prohibiting conduct, e.g., bullying, sex equity policies



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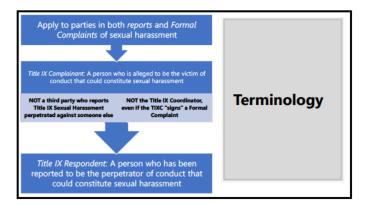
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1 Initial Response/Supportive Measures

## **Title IX Coordinator**

- Must be called Title IX Coordinator
- Must meet with alleged victims of sexual harassment (the Title IX Complainant) upon actual knowledge of TIX SH even if no formal complaint filed
- Can delegate responsibilities

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Title IX Coordinator (or designee) must promptly, even if no Formal Complaint is filed:

- Contact the Title IX Complainant to discuss the availability of "supportive measures"
- Consider the Title IX Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures
- Inform the Title IX Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint
- Explain the process for filing a Formal Complaint

New: Initial Response

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Supportive Measures What Changed?

#### **OLD TERM** (OCR Guidance)

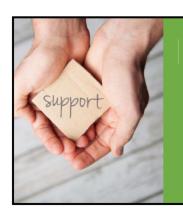
- Used terms such as "interim measures" or "interim steps" to describe measures to help a complainant maintain equal educational access
- equal educational access Implied only available during pendency of investigation, did not mandate offering them, not clear if could be punitive or disciplinary, and did not clarify if available to respondents

#### **NEW TERM**

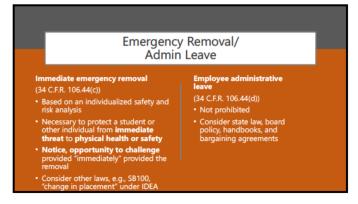
(Final Rule)

- Non-punitive, individualized services, offered as appropriate and without charge to a complainant or a respondent before or after the filling of a formal complaint, or where no complaint has been filed (34. C.F.R.106.30(a)).
- (34. C.F.K. 106.30(a)).

  Should be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity without "unreasonably" burdening the other
- Should be confidential



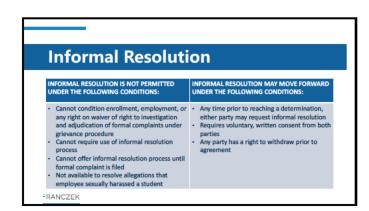
#### Examples of Supportive Measures



What about Protective Orders?

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2 Informal Resolution (Voluntary)



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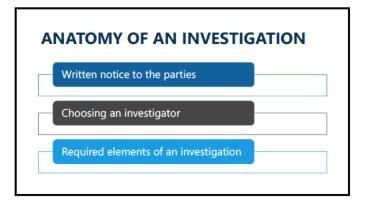




New:
Formal
Complaint
Response
34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)

• Requires a number of specific steps for investigating
• Major shift from previous, more deferential stance toward specific policies and practices for complaint resolution

97 98



- Written notice to known parties "upon receipt of written complaint"
- In sufficient time to allow respondent to prepare a response before any initial interview
- · Must include:
  - Notice of grievance process, including any informal resolution process
  - Notice of allegations, in sufficient detail to allow respondent to prepare a response (names of known parties, conduct alleged, date and location of conduct, if known)

More Steps: Written Notice

99 100

- Must include:
  - Statement that respondent presumed not responsible and that responsibility determined at conclusion of grievance process
  - Notice of parties' rights to have an attorney or non-attorney advisor and to inspect and review evidence
  - Notice of any provision in the code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or providing false evidence during the grievance process
- Must be supplemented if new allegations opened for investigation

More Steps: Written Notice



Written Notice: Required .

- Informal resolution notice
- Notice at start of investigation
- Dismissal notice
- Interview notices
- Report
- Notice why proposed questions not asked on cross and why
- Written determination and notice of appeal rights



Written Notice: Recommended

- Document information to complainant at initial meeting, including supportive measures requested/provided
- Document that review of evidence provided to both parties
- Document opportunity to ask questions, answers, follow-up questions, etc.



## Who should investigate?

- Trained
- Unbiased
- No actual or perceived conflict of interest > Consider "institutional interests"
- No prejudgment of the facts

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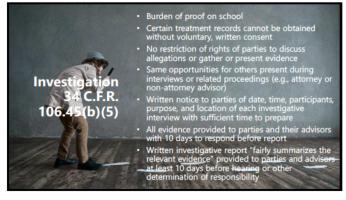
## Who should investigate?

- Consider the perception of bias
- >Your friendship or other relationship with the accused or their family
- ➤ Your personal characcteristics
- ➤ Your personal conflicts (even if just perceived)
- ➤ Personality conflicts

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## **Investigation Best Practices**

- Investigation plan
- Follow steps in policies closely
- Coordinate with law enforcement as required by policy and District practice
- Remember that both complainants and respondents may be experiencing trauma and other strong emotions
- Consult with Title IX Coordinator and/or counsel as needed

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## **Interviewing Best Practices**

- · Explain your role as a neutral
- Open-ended questions followed by more tailored follow up
- Allow ample time, don't interrupt or rush
- Ask "Is there anything else?"
- · Ask for other witnesses, evidence, incidents

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#### **Notice to Parties in Interviews**

- What to expect about future contact (timing, updates, encourage follow-up to you)
- Written copy of policies/procedures
- Notify about protections from retaliation provide specific examples
- No "Gag" order but can warn of retaliation risks

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## **First Amendment Rights**



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## **Investigation Plans Aren't Static**

Reassess plan for investigation frequently



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## **Warning! Medical Records**

- Notice of allegations should not divulge either party's medical information
- Prohibited from accessing or using medical, psychological, or similar records in grievance process without a party's (or parent's) voluntary, written consent

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## **Opportunity to Review Evidence**

- Before the investigatory report is completed, evidence relating to the allegations must be sent to each party and advisor and should include <u>all</u> <u>evidence</u> (including that which the school does not intend to rely upon and exculpatory and inculpatory evidence
- Parties have 10 days to provide a written response

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Applicable policies and procedures

Timeline of investigation

Investigation

Report

Should
Include

Applicable policies and procedures

Description of allegations

Unbiased summary of evidence gathered, including interviews

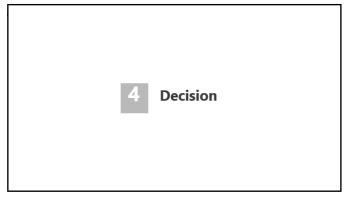
Credibility determination(s)

## **Investigation Report Writing**

- Fairly summarizes the relevant evidence
- Provide the report to the parties and their advisors, if any, for their review and written response, at least 10 days before a hearing or other determination of responsibility

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Determinations of Responsibility 34 C.F.R. 106.45(b)(6)

- Live hearing with live cross by party advisors required for higher ed, not K-12; Hearings permitted for K-12
- Each party allowed to submit written, **relevant** questions to be asked of another party or witness to the decisionmaker, who will provide each party with the answers and the opportunity for follow-up questions

#### Relevance

- Rape shield laws for CP only
  - ▶Unless
  - 1. Used to prove someone other than respondent committed the conduct or
  - 2. Specific incidents related to the RP to show consent
- Treatment records
- Legally privileged information

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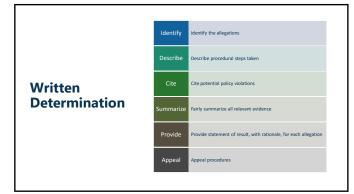
## **Rulings on Relevance in Written "Cross"**

- Provide reasoning for irrelevance
- Admit and consider all relevant evidence
- Questions must be appropriate
- Identify exceptions

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The Decision

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## **Remedies**

- Can be punitive/disciplinary
- Can be supportive measures or similar actions as well
- Can address individuals or larger community

5 Appeal

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## **Appeal Process**

- Available to both parties
- Three bases for appeal:
  - Procedural issue affecting the outcome;
  - New evidence that wasn't reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made that could affect the outcome; or
  - TIXC, investigator, or decision-maker had conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

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## **Appeal Process**

- · Notify party of appeal in writing
- Apply procedures equally for both parties
- Opportunity to submit written statement
- Issue written decision to both parties

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Bias, Conflicts of Interest, and Other Fairness Concerns

#### **Bias**

The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or informal resolution facilitator must not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or for or against any individual Complainant or Respondent. And that they not prejudge any matter before them.

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What is the first word you think of when you think of "conflict of interest"?

What is the first word you think of when you think of "prejudgment"?

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Recordkeeping

## Recordkeeping

Must maintain the following for 7 years:

- · Sexual harassment investigation documents, including:
- Determination regarding responsibility
- · Recordings or transcripts of live hearing
- Disciplinary sanctions imposed on Respondent
   Remedies provided to Complainant
- Remedies provided to Complair
   Appeal and result
- · Informal resolution and result
- Actions taken in response to a report of sexual harassment
- Actions taken in response to a formal complaint of sexual harassment

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## Recordkeeping

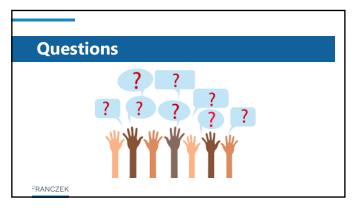
Responses to formal and informal complaints and actions taken in response should include:

- The basis for the school's conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent
- Documentation that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school's education program or activity
- Supportive measures or if no supportive measures are provided, document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances

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