

## **Sparta Area School District**

### Article 517 - Student Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the Sparta Area School District to comply with all applicable state or federal laws concerning non-discrimination and, therefore, no person may be denied admission to any public school in this District or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity on grounds that include the person's sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, socio-economic status, homeless status, religion, pregnancy or marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap, or any other factor outlined in state or federal law.

This policy of nondiscrimination shall include:

1. Admissions to regular, exceptional, or enriched programs
2. Standards and rules of behavior
3. Disciplinary actions
4. Acceptance and administration of gifts, bequests, or scholarships
5. Instructional and library/media materials selection
6. Testing, evaluation and counseling methods
7. Access to facilities
8. Participation in athletic programs and other activities
9. Participation in school sponsored food programs
10. Recognition programs or awards
11. Grading, promotion or graduation

In order to maintain a school environment that encourages equal opportunity, diversity, and fairness for all of its students it is the policy of the District to maintain and ensure a learning and working environment free of any form of discrimination toward students.

Children of homeless individuals and unaccompanied homeless youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian) residing in the District shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including comparable services, as provided to other children and youth who reside in the District. Homeless children and youth shall not be required to attend a separate school or program for homeless children and shall not be stigmatized by school personnel. The District shall establish safeguards that protect homeless students from discrimination based on their homelessness status.

Students who have been identified as having a handicap or disability, under section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) shall be provided with reasonable accommodations in educational services or programs and facilities. When program or classroom modifications are necessary in order to provide a student with disabilities equal opportunity, they will be made as required by law. Facility modifications necessary to provide for appropriate access and participation for persons with disabilities shall be made to the extent required by law. Students may be considered handicapped or disabled under this policy even if they are not covered under the District's special education policies and procedures.

The District shall provide for the reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to examinations and other academic requirements. Requests for accommodations shall be made in writing and approved by the building principal. Accommodations may include, but not necessarily be limited to, exclusion from participation in an activity, alternative assignments, release time from school to participate in religious activities and opportunities to make up work missed due to religious observances. Any accommodations granted under this policy shall be provided to students without prejudicial effect.

The Superintendent shall act as compliance officer for all areas of discrimination. **The mailing address of the Superintendent is 201 East Franklin Street, Sparta, WI 54656. The phone number for the office of the Superintendent is 366-3400.**

**Complaint Procedure:**

Any person who believes he/she has been subject to discrimination within the District may file a complaint in accordance with procedures established for dealing with discrimination. (See Administrative Rule 513 – Student Discrimination Complaint Procedure.) **Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations may be referred to the Superintendent or to the federal Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.**

Legal Reference: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972  
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997  
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
Civil Rights Act of 1991  
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act  
Sections 115.28(31) and 118.13 of Wisconsin Statutes  
PI 9 and PI 41 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code

Cross Reference: Article 317 – Affirmative Action

Legal Reference:

Cross Reference:

Approved:

Revised:

May 25, 2004  
February 26, 2019  
August 27, 2019