

Series 4000  
**Personnel**  
**Non-Discrimination**

***Protected Class Discrimination Prohibited:***

The Eastford Board of Education (the “Board”) will not make employment decisions (including decisions related to hiring, assignment, compensation, promotion, demotion, disciplinary action and termination) on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, gender identity or expression, status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law (“Protected Class”), except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification.

It is the policy of the Board that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of an individual’s actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class, whether by students, Board employees, Board members or third parties subject to the control of the Board, is prohibited in the Eastford Public Schools (the “District”). The Board’s prohibition of discrimination or harassment in its educational programs or activities expressly extends to academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities, including athletics.

***Discrimination on the Basis of Erased Criminal History Prohibited:***

The Board will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment solely on the basis of the individual’s erased criminal history record information, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-80a.

***Retaliation Prohibited:***

The Board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any individual who reports incidents in good faith that may be a violation of this policy, or who participates in the investigation of such reports.

***Discrimination on the Basis of Protected Class Association Prohibited:***

Discrimination and/or harassment against any individual on the basis of that individual’s association with someone in a Protected Class may also be considered a form of Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment and is therefore prohibited by this policy.

***Scope and Applicability:***

Students, Board employees, Board members and community members (e.g., other individuals affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities)

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

#### *Definitions:*

The following definitions apply for purposes of this policy:

##### A. Discrimination

It is illegal for employers to treat employees differently in relation to hiring, discharging, compensating, or providing the terms, conditions, and privileges of employment because of such employee's actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class.

##### B. Harassment

Harassment is a form of Protected Class discrimination that is prohibited by law and by this policy. Harassment is unwelcome conduct that is based on an employee's actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class. Harassment constitutes unlawful discrimination when 1) enduring the offensive conduct becomes a condition of continued employment, or 2) the conduct is severe or pervasive enough to create a work environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.

The following non-exhaustive list provides examples of the types of prohibited conduct that may be considered Protected Class harassment that can lead to an intimidating, hostile, or abusive environment, and are therefore prohibited by this policy:

- objectively offensive racial, ethnic, or religious epithets (or epithets commonly associated with any Protected Class membership, including but not limited to epithets relating to sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression);
- other words or phrases commonly considered demeaning or degrading on the basis of Protected Class membership;
- display of images or symbols commonly associated with discrimination against individuals on the basis of their membership in a Protected Class;
- graphic, written or electronic communications that are harmful or humiliating based on Protected Class membership;
- bigoted conduct or communications; or
- physical, written, electronic or verbal threats based on Protected Class membership.

Harassment does not have to involve intent to harm, be directed toward a specific person, or involve repeated incidents.

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

Sexual harassment is a form of harassment that is prohibited by law and Board policy. For more information regarding harassment based on sex, contact the District's Title IX Coordinator at:

**Ms. Carole McCombe, Principal, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130**

#### C. Genetic information

The information about genes, gene products, or inherited characteristics that may derive from an individual or a family member. "Genetic information" may also include an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

#### D. Veteran

A veteran is any person honorably discharged from, released under honorable conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition from active service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Space Force and any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard. "Qualifying condition" means (i) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, (ii) an experience of military sexual trauma disclosed to an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, or (iii) a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as determined in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 27-103(c),(d).

#### E. Gender identity or expression

Gender identity or expression refers to a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose.

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

##### F. Sexual orientation

Sexual orientation refers to a person's identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are romantically, emotionally or sexually attracted, inclusive of any identity that a person (i) may have previously expressed, or (ii) is perceived by another person to hold.

##### G. Race

The term race is inclusive of ethnic traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles. "Protective hairstyles" includes, but is not limited to, wigs, headwraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.

##### H. Domestic violence

The term domestic violence means (1) a continuous threat of present physical pain or physical injury against a family or household member, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-38a; (2) stalking, including but not limited to, stalking as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-181d, of such family or household member; (3) a pattern of threatening, including but not limited to, a pattern of threatening as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-62, of such family or household member or a third party that intimidates such family or household member; or (4) coercive control of such family or household member, which is a pattern of behavior that in purpose or effect unreasonably interferes with a person's free will and personal liberty. "Coercive control" includes, but is not limited to, unreasonably engaging in any of the following: (a) isolating the family or household member from friends, relatives or other sources of support; (b) depriving the family or household member of basic necessities; (c) controlling, regulating or monitoring the family or household member's movements, communications, daily behavior, finances, economic resources or access to services; (d) compelling the family or household member by force, threat or intimidation, including, but not limited to, threats based on actual or suspected immigration status, to (i) engage in conduct from which such family or household member has a right to abstain, or (ii) abstain from conduct that such family or household member has a right to pursue; (e) committing or threatening to commit cruelty to animals that intimidates the family or household member; or (f) forced sex acts, or threats of a sexual nature, including, but not limited to, threatened acts of sexual conduct, threats based on a person's sexuality or threats to release sexual images.

#### ***Reporting to District Officials:***

It is the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging Protected Class discrimination or harassment. The District will

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

investigate both formal and informal complaints of discrimination, harassment or retaliation.

Any employee who believes they or another employee has experienced Protected Class discrimination or harassment or an act of retaliation or reprisal in violation of this policy should report such concern in writing to Mr. Charles Kernan, Pupil Services Director, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130 in accordance with the Board's complaint procedures included in the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination/Personnel, which accompany this policy and are available online at [www.eastfordct.org](http://www.eastfordct.org) or upon request from the main office of any District school.

Employees are encouraged to report incidents of alleged Protected Class discrimination, harassment, or retaliation immediately.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on sex, such complaints will be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on disability, such complaints will be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA.

In the event conduct reported as Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment allegedly violates more than one policy, the Board will coordinate any investigation in compliance with the applicable policies.

#### ***Mandatory Staff Reporting for Student Incidents:***

Board employees are required to report incidents of alleged student-to-student and employee-to-student discrimination, harassment or retaliation that may be based on a Protected Class when Board employees witness such incidents or when Board employees receive reports or information about such incidents, whether such incidents are verbal or physical or amount to discrimination, harassment or retaliation in other forms. **Reports should be made to any District administrator or to:**

**Mr. Charles Kernan, Pupil Services Director, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130**

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

##### *Remedial Action:*

If the District makes a finding of discrimination, harassment or retaliation, the District will take remedial action designed to:

- A. eliminate the discriminatory/harassing/retaliatory conduct,
- B. prevent its recurrence, and
- C. address its effects on the complainant and any other affected individuals.

Examples of appropriate action may include, but are not limited to:

- A. In the case of a student respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, discipline (including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion), educational interventions, exclusion from extra-curricular activities and/or sports programs, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- B. In the case of an employee respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, supervisor notification, discipline (including possible termination of employment), training, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- C. In the case of respondent who is otherwise associated with the school community, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, exclusion from school property and/or activities and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- D. Follow-up inquiries with the complainant and witnesses to ensure that the discriminatory/harassing conduct has stopped and that they have not experienced any retaliation;
- E. Supports for the complainant; and
- F. Training or other interventions for the larger school community designed to ensure that students, staff, parents, Board members and other individuals within the school community understand the types of behavior that constitute discrimination/harassment, that the District does not tolerate it, and how to report it.

##### *Reporting to State and Federal Agencies:*

In addition to reporting to the Board, any employee also may file a complaint with the following agencies:

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (“OCR”):

Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office  
U.S. Department of Education

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
 Washington, DC 20202-1475  
 (202 453-6020)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

#### Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office  
 John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
 475 Government Center  
 Boston, MA 02203  
 (800-669-4000)

#### Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities  
 450 Columbus Blvd.  
 Hartford, CT 06103-1835  
 (860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

#### *Questions/Requests for Accommodation:*

Any employee who:

1. has questions or concerns about this policy or its accompanying regulations;
2. wishes to request or discuss accommodations based on religion; OR
3. would like a copy the Board's complaint procedures or complaint forms related to claims of discrimination or harassment

should contact the following District official:

**Mr. Charles Kernan, Pupil Services Director, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130**

Any employee who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of sex applicable to employees should contact the District's Title IX Coordinator:

**Ms. Carole McCombe, Principal, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130**

Any employee who:

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

1. has specific questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of disability applicable to employees; OR
2. wishes to request an accommodation on the basis of disability

should contact the District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

**Ms. Carole McCombe, Principal, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130**

#### Legal References:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.  
 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq.  
 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.  
 Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq.  
 Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101  
 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794  
 Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008,  
 Pub.L.110-233, 42 U.S.C. § 2000ff; 29 CFR 1635.1 et seq.  
 Connecticut General Statutes § 1-1n, "Gender Identity or Expression"  
 defined  
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-153, Discrimination on the basis of sex,  
 gender or expression or marital status prohibited  
 Connecticut General Statutes § 27-103  
 Connecticut General Statutes § 31-51i  
 Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51, Definitions  
 Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-58, Deprivation of rights  
 Connecticut Fair Employment Practices Act, Connecticut General Statutes  
 § 46a-60  
 Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-80a  
 Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-81c, Sexual orientation discrimination:  
 Employment  
 Connecticut General Statutes § 46b-1, Family relations matters and  
 domestic violence defined

Public Act No. 25-139, "An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and  
 Sexual Assault Victims"

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

Series 4000  
**Personnel**  
**Non-Discrimination**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING DISCRIMINATION  
 COMPLAINTS (PERSONNEL)**

***Protected Class Discrimination Prohibited:***

The Eastford Board of Education (the “Board”) will not make employment decisions (including decisions related to hiring, assignment, compensation, promotion, demotion, disciplinary action and termination) on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, gender identity or expression, status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law (“Protected Class”), except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification.

It is the policy of the Board that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of an individual’s actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class, whether by students, Board employees, Board members or third parties subject to the control of the Board, is prohibited in the Eastford Public Schools (the “District”). Students, Board employees, Board members and third parties are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

***Discrimination on the Basis of Erased Criminal History Prohibited:***

The Board will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment solely on the basis of the individual’s erased criminal history record information, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-80a.

***Retaliation Prohibited:***

The Board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any individual who reports incidents in good faith that may be a violation of this policy, or who participates in the investigation of such reports.

The District will not tolerate any reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of Protected Class discrimination or harassment. Any such reprisals or retaliation may result in disciplinary action against the retaliator, and other corrective actions as appropriate.

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

##### *Discrimination on the Basis of Protected Class Association Prohibited:*

Discrimination and/or harassment against any individual on the basis of that individual's association with someone in a Protected Class may also be considered a form of Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment.

##### *Scope and Applicability:*

Students, Board employees, Board members and community members (e.g., other individuals affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

The following non-exhaustive list provides examples of the types of prohibited conduct that may be considered Protected Class harassment that can lead to a hostile environment, and are therefore prohibited:

- objectively offensive racial, ethnic, or religious epithets (or epithets commonly associated with any Protected Class membership, including but not limited to epithets relating to sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression);
- other words or phrases commonly considered demeaning or degrading on the basis of Protected Class membership;
- display of images or symbols commonly associated with discrimination against individuals on the basis of their membership in a Protected Class;
- graphic, written or electronic communications that are harmful or humiliating based on Protected Class membership;
- bigoted conduct or communications; OR
- physical, written, electronic or verbal threats based on Protected Class membership.

Harassment does not have to involve intent to harm, be directed toward a specific person, or involve repeated incidents.

##### *Reporting to District Officials:*

It is the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging Protected Class discrimination or harassment. The District will investigate both formal and informal complaints of discrimination, harassment or retaliation.

Employees are encouraged to report incidents of alleged Protected Class discrimination, harassment, or retaliation immediately.

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

Any employee who believes they or another employee has experienced Protected Class discrimination or harassment or an act of retaliation or reprisal in violation of Board policy should report such concern in writing to Mr. Charles Kernan, Pupil Services Director, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130 in accordance with the Board's complaint procedures included in these Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination/Personnel.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on sex, such complaints will be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on disability, such complaints will be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA.

In the event conduct reported as Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment allegedly violates more than one policy, the Board will coordinate any investigation in compliance with the applicable policies.

#### *Mandatory Staff Reporting for Student Incidents:*

Board employees are required to report incidents of alleged student-to-student and employee-to-student discrimination, harassment or retaliation that may be based on a Protected Class when Board employees witness such incidents or when Board employees receive reports or information about such incidents, whether such incidents are verbal or physical or amount to discrimination, harassment or retaliation in other forms. **Reports should be made to any District administrator or to:**

**Mr. Charles Kernan, Pupil Services Director, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130**

#### *Complaint Procedure:*

Preferably, complaints should be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the alleged occurrence. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the investigation and resolution of such complaints. The District will investigate such complaints promptly and equitably and will take corrective action when allegations are verified.

As soon as an individual feels that they, or another employee, have been subjected to Protected Class discrimination or harassment, the individual should make a written complaint to the Superintendent or designee.

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

The individual who is alleged to have experienced Protected Class discrimination/harassment (the “complainant”) and any individual accused of Protected Class discrimination/harassment (the “respondent”) (if applicable) will be provided a copy of the Board’s policy and regulation and made aware of the individual’s rights under this policy and regulation. In the event the Superintendent or designee receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment based on sex, the Superintendent or designee shall follow the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment. In the event the Superintendent or designee receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment based on disability, the Superintendent or designee shall follow the procedures set forth the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA.

The complaint should state the:

- A. Name of the complainant,
- B. Date of the complaint,
- C. Date(s) of the alleged harassment/discrimination,
- D. Name(s) of the alleged harasser(s) or discriminator(s),
- E. Location where such alleged harassment/discrimination occurred,
- F. Names of any witness(es) to the alleged harassment/discrimination,
- G. Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged harassment/discrimination; and
- H. Proposed remedy.

Any individual who makes an oral complaint of alleged discrimination or harassment of an employee will be provided with a copy of this regulation and will be requested to make a written complaint pursuant to the above procedure. If an individual is unable to make a written complaint, the employee receiving the oral complaint will either reduce the complaint to writing, assist the individual with completing the written complaint form or request that a District administrator assist the individual.

All complaints received by employees are to be forwarded immediately to the Superintendent or designee. Upon receipt of a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment of an employee under this complaint procedure, the Superintendent shall promptly investigate the complaint or designate a District administrator or other trained individual to do so.

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

**Series 4000**  
**Personnel**  
**Non-Discrimination**

During the course of the investigation, the investigator shall interview or consult with all individuals reasonably believed to have relevant information, including the complainant, the reporter (if different from the complainant), the respondent, and any witnesses to the conduct. Complaints will be investigated promptly within the timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and/or other extenuating circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible, to the extent consistent with due process, as determined by the investigator.

Upon receipt of a written complaint of alleged discrimination or harassment of an employee, the investigator should:

1. Offer to meet with the complainant and respondent (if applicable) within ten (10) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) to discuss the nature of the complaint, discuss the availability of interim measures, identify individuals the complainant or respondent believes has relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant or respondent may have;
2. Provide the complainant and respondent (if applicable) with a copy of the Board's non-discrimination policy and accompanying regulations;
3. Conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis of the complaint, including, as applicable, conducting interviews with the parties to the complaint and any relevant witnesses or other individuals deemed relevant to the complaint;
4. Review any records, notes, statements, or other documents relevant to the complaint;
5. Maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable throughout the investigative process, in accordance with state and federal law;
6. Complete a final investigation report that includes: (i) a findings of fact based on the evidence gathered; (ii) for each allegation, the conclusion(s) and reasoning(s) as to whether the discrimination or harassment occurred; and (iii) for any individual(s) found to have engaged in discrimination or harassment, a broad statement of consequences imposed (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements) (e.g., "Consequences were imposed.").

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

Series 4000  
Personnel  
Non-Discrimination

7. Communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant and respondent (if any) (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within thirty (30) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) from the date the complaint was received by the Superintendent's office. The complainant and respondent (if any) shall be notified of such extension. The written notice shall include a finding whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify, to the extent possible, how the District will take steps designed to remedy the discrimination or harassment, adhering to the requirements of state and federal law;
8. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of employees and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint. If fixed timeframes cannot be met, the complainant and respondent (if any) will receive notice, and interim measures may be implemented as necessary;
9. Whenever allegations are verified, ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken (including, but not limited to, disciplinary action) aimed at preventing the recurrence of the discrimination or harassment. Corrective action should include steps designed to avoid continuing discrimination or harassment;
10. After receiving the written notice of the outcome, parties shall have ten (10) school days to submit a formal written statement of appeal, if they so choose, to the Superintendent challenging the outcome of the investigation and explaining the basis for appeal. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Superintendent shall appoint a decisionmaker(s) for the appeal, who may be the Superintendent or designee. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal will provide the appealing party's written statement to the non-appealing party. The non-appealing party will then have ten (10) school days to submit to the decision-maker(s) for the appeal a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome of the investigation. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal shall review the evidence and the information presented by the parties and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with the investigator(s) and the parties, a meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint, or a decision affirming or overruling the written outcome. Generally, a party's disagreement with the outcome of the investigation alone will not be basis for further action. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal will attempt to issue written notice of the outcome of the appeal to

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

the parties within thirty (30) school days of receipt of all written statements from the parties.

#### ***Complaint Procedure for Superintendent/Board Members Complaints:***

Any District administrator or Board member who receives a complaint of discrimination, harassment or retaliation of any employee by a Board Member or by the Superintendent shall forward the complaint promptly to **Ms. Carole McCombe, Principal, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130**. Complaints pertaining to the Superintendent or Board of Education members will be forwarded to the Chair of the Board of Education. Complaints pertaining to the Board Chair will be forwarded to the Board Vice Chair. In all cases, the individual receiving the complaint shall take appropriate steps to cause the matter to be investigated in a manner consistent with the procedures described above.

If a complainant or a respondent is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of an investigation in which the Superintendent or a member of the Board is the respondent, within ten (10) school days of receiving the findings such party may present the complaint and written outcome to the Board Chair (or, if initially presented by the Board Chair, the Board Vice Chair), who will take appropriate steps to cause the matter to be reviewed in a manner consistent with the Board's non-discrimination policy and regulation. Such steps may include retention of an investigator different from the investigator who investigated the complaint.

#### ***Remedial Action:***

If the District makes a finding of discrimination, harassment or retaliation of an employee, the District will take remedial action designed to:

- A. eliminate the discriminatory/harassing/retaliatory conduct,
- B. prevent its recurrence, and
- C. address its effects on the complainant and any other affected individuals.

Examples of appropriate action may include, but are not limited to:

- A. In the case of a student respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, discipline (including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion), educational interventions, exclusion from extra-curricular activities and/or sports programs, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- B. In the case of an employee respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to,

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

- supervisor notification, discipline (including possible termination of employment), training, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- C. In the case of a respondent who is otherwise associated with the school community, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, exclusion from school property and/or activities and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
  - D. Follow-up inquiries with the complainant and witnesses to ensure that the discriminatory/harassing conduct has stopped and that they have not experienced any retaliation;
  - E. Supports for the complainant; and
  - F. Training or other interventions for the larger school community designed to ensure that students, staff, parents, Board members and other individuals within the school community understand the types of behavior that constitute discrimination/harassment, that the District does not tolerate it, and how to report it.

#### ***Staff Development:***

The District will periodically provide staff development for District administrators and periodically distribute the Board's Non-Discrimination policies and the implementing administrative regulations to staff and students in an effort to maintain an environment free of discrimination and harassment.

#### ***Reporting to State and Federal Agencies:***

In addition to reporting to the Board, any employee also may file a complaint with the following agencies:

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education ("OCR"):

Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office  
 U.S. Department of Education  
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
 Washington, DC 20202-1475  
 (202 453-6020)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office  
 John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
 475 Government Center

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

## Series 4000

### Personnel

#### Non-Discrimination

Boston, MA 02203  
(800-669-4000)

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities  
450 Columbus Blvd.  
Hartford, CT 06103-1835  
(860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

#### ***Questions/Requests for Accommodation:***

Any employee who:

1. has questions or concerns about this policy or its accompanying regulations;
2. wishes to request or discuss accommodations based on religion; OR
3. would like a copy the Board's complaint procedures or complaint forms related to claims of discrimination or harassment

should contact the following District official:

**Mr. Charles Kernan, Pupil Services Director, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130**

Any employee who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of sex applicable to employees should contact the District's Title IX Coordinator:

**Ms. Carole McCombe, Principal, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130**

Any employee who:

1. has specific questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of disability applicable to employees; OR
2. wishes to request an accommodation on the basis of disability

should contact the District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

**Ms. Carole McCombe, Principal, 12 Westford Road, PO Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242, 860.974.1130**

**Adopted: 1999**

**Revised: 12/13/18, 4/9/20, 8/19/21, 12/9/21, 6/13/24, 11/14/24, 12/11/25**

*Eastford Board of Education*

Series 4000  
Personnel  
Non-Discrimination

**DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM**  
**(For complaints based on race, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, genetic information, veteran status, or status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking)**

Name of the reporter \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the complainant/victim \_\_\_\_\_

Reporter's relationship complainant/victim \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the complaint \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the alleged discrimination/harassment \_\_\_\_\_

Name or names of the alleged discriminator(s) or harasser(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Location where such alleged discrimination/harassment occurred \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the alleged discrimination/harassment \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged discrimination or harassment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed remedy \_\_\_\_\_