



Lowell Public Schools Policy Revisions

To: Dr. Salah Khelfaoui, Superintendent of Schools

From: Jeannine M. Durkin, Deputy Superintendent for Student Support Services *jdurkin*

Date: March 30, 2018

Please see the attached recommended revisions to the following Lowell Public School policies:

- Equal Educational Opportunities
- Instructional Materials

The items highlighted in red text in each policy reflect the revisions to said policies to ensure that they align with Massachusetts State Laws and the Massachusetts Association of School Committee (MASC) suggested guidelines.

I would like to thank Attorney Jane Mosher-Canty and Attorney Michael Ortiz for reviewing state regulations and MASC guidelines relative to the aforementioned policies in order to make the revisions provided for your consideration.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In recognition of the diversified characteristics and needs of our students and with the keen desire to be responsive to them, the School Committee will make every effort to protect the dignity of the students as individuals. It also will offer careful consideration and sympathetic understanding of their personal feelings, particularly with reference to their race, **age, color**, religion, **national origin**, sex, **sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy or pregnancy related conditions, homelessness**, or physical and intellectual differences.

To accomplish this, the Committee and its staff will make every effort to comply with the letter and the spirit of the Massachusetts equal educational opportunities laws (known as Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971, **BESE regulation 603 CMR 26.00 and M.G.L 76:5**) which prohibit discrimination in public school admissions and programs. The law **BESE 603 CMR 26.00** reads as follows:

No child shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school or any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and course of study of such public school or account of race, color, sex, **gender identity**, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or **homelessness**.

This will mean that every student will be given equal opportunity in school admission, admissions to courses, course content, guidance, and extracurricular and athletic activities.

All implementing provisions issued by the Board of **Elementary and Secondary** Education in compliance with this law will be followed.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS: Title VI, Civil Rights of Act of 1964

Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972

Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375

Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972

M.G.L. 76:5; 76:16 (Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971)

Board of Education Chapter 622 Regulations pertaining to Access to Equal Educational Opportunity, Adopted 6/24/75, amended 10/24/78

BESE regulations 603 CMR 26:00

BESE regulations 603 CMR 28:00

CROSS REF: AC Nondiscrimination (related statement in manual)

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The school committee believes that materials appropriate to the needs of the school program must be available to each student and teacher. These will be furnished by the school committee subject to budgetary constraints.

The task of selecting instructional materials for programs will be delegated to the professional staff of the school system. Because instructional programs and materials are of great importance, only those that meet the following criteria will be approved by the committee:

1. They must present balanced views of international, national, and local issues and problems of the past, present and future.
2. They must provide materials that stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic and ethical values.
3. They must help students develop abilities in critical reading and thinking.
4. They must help develop and foster an appreciation of cultural diversity and development in the United States and throughout the world.
5. They must provide for all students an effective basic education that does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, sex, **sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy or pregnancy related conditions, homelessness**, or physical and intellectual differences.
6. They must allow sufficient flexibility for meeting the special needs of individual students and groups of students.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:48, 71:49, 71:50

Contract Ref.: ULT Agreement XXXIV