

## **EQUAL EDUCATIONAL ACCESS**

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, color, creed, gender, gender identity, gender expression, gender conformity, gender transitioning, transgender status, gender variance, religion, national origin, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition, homelessness, and disability.

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 law (known as M.G.L ch. 76, 5) which prohibits discrimination in public school admissions and programs. The law reads as follows:

No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and causes of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, gender conformity, gender transitioning, transgender status, gender variance.

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 Education in compliance with this law will be followed.

LEGAL REFERENCES: Title VI, Civil Rights 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 E.O. 11375  
Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972  
M.G.L. 76:5; 76:16 (Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971)  
BESE Regulations 03 CMR 26:00  
BESE Regulations 603 CMR 28:00  
The McKinney-Vento Act and Title I Part A, as Amended by the Every  
Student Succeeds Act of 2015

CROSS REF: AC, Nondiscrimination

Adopted: November 9, 2016  
Revised and Readopted: December 18, 2019