

Title IX Support & Reporting Options

College & Post-secondary

What is Title IX?

A civil right law that creates a process to protect students from sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination, and sexual violence in education.

How can Title IX help me?

If you experience sexual harassment, discrimination, or violence, Title IX is there to be sure your school supports you. If you decide to file a complaint, your school must do an investigation. During the investigation, your school must provide you with options for staying safe and getting support, such as changing your schedule, connecting you to someone who is trained in issues of sexual assault, and providing a support person.

What is an investigation?

An investigation is when the school or someone who works for the school talks to all people involved to find out what happened and if any rules and/or laws were violated. If rules have been violated, consequences could include expulsion, suspension, punishment, change in privileges, etc.

What is mediation?

Mediation is decision making where everyone gets a chance to tell their side of the story. Then everyone must agree on the solution.

Who is the Title IX Coordinator?

Every school or school district has a Title IX Coordinator. Their job is to make sure students who experience harassment, discrimination, or violence can make a report and get support. Look on your school or district website for contact information.

Why would I work with an advocate?

Advocates work with people who have experienced sexual harassment or abuse. They can explain your options, talk about what happens next, and listen to your worries. An advocate might be able to connect you to a lawyer or counseling.

Sexual assault advocates are available statewide, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year - 1-800-871-771 or mecasa.org

Sexual harassment, discrimination, & sexual violence protected under Title IX may include:

sexist or sexual comments

bullying based on being LGBTQ

unwanted sexual contact

rape & sexual assault



mecasa
MAINE COALITION AGAINST
SEXUAL ASSAULT



Road Map for Title IX

For College & University Students

Pine Tree Legal Assistance - August 2020

Report

When you experience sexual assault or harassment:
- On Campus
- Property under school control
- Any school sanctioned trip

Tell an advocate specially trained to help with sexual assault/harassment, such as MECASA (www.mecasa.org)

Tell your school's Title IX coordinator, with the help of an advocate.

The school must post contact information for the Title IX coordinator under their Title IX policy

Support

Ask for help--there are many ways a school can help you feel supported when you may have problems with school following the sexual harassment/assault

Examples of Help a School Can Offer:

- Counseling
- Extension of Deadlines
- Modification of Class Schedule
- Campus Escort Services
- Mutual restrictions on contact between parties
- Change in work or housing locations
- Increased security and monitoring of certain areas of campus
- Leaves of absence

School Process

A Title IX official called an investigator will set up a meeting to ask you questions about what happened.

They might ask you if there is any other people who witnessed what happened or if you have any evidence

Formal Process

Informal Process

The school will have a meeting called a hearing where you and the other party will meet with a Title IX official. You must have an advisor, like an attorney or parent, come with you

At this hearing, you'll be able to tell your side of the story through questions asked by your advisor. The advisor for the other party may also ask you questions.

The school will tell you what their informal process looks like. This could lead to mediation, restorative justice (where both sides determine a way to cure the harm that was done), or another way determined by the school

If you decide at any point before a decision is made that you want to return to the formal process, let your Title IX coordinator know

The school will send you their decision on what they decide to do--this can include discipline from the school, expulsion, or other things the school sees fit

If you don't agree with the school's decision, you can write to the Title IX coordinator to ask for an appeal and explain why you don't agree with them