

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Meriden Board of Education, in compliance with federal and state law, affirms its policy of equal educational opportunity for all students and equal employment opportunity for all persons. It is the policy of the Meriden Board of Education to provide equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs offered in all Meriden schools regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, disability, marital status or pregnancy. Course offerings, counseling, assistance, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities shall be provided to all students without discrimination. Reasonable accommodations shall be made for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with federal and state statutes and regulations.

Complaints involving alleged discrimination based on one of the classifications listed above should be promptly reported to the Director of Pupil Personnel at 203-630-4177 or the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel/Staff Development at 203-630-4209. All complaints of discrimination or harassment shall be investigated promptly. Corrective action must be taken when allegations are substantiated. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the Board of Education's legal and investigative obligations. Neither reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith charges of discrimination or harassment.

A complete procedure for filing complaints is available both in the school's office and in the district's central office of Pupil Personnel Programs. Anyone wishing to file a formal complaint to the Office for Civil Rights should submit it in writing to the Boston Regional Office, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 5 Post Office Square, 8th Floor, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02109-3921.

In addition, complaints may be filed online at: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintprocess.html>.