

**TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION
AMENDMENTS OF 1972
AND SECTION 504 OF THE
UNITED STATES REHABILITATION ACT.**

The Portland Board of Education agrees to comply with all state and federal legislation regarding nondiscrimination in education programs and activities. The board designates the Director of Student Services as compliance officer for both Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the United States Rehabilitation Act. The board shall, at least annually, notify all students, parents, and employees of the name, address and phone number of the compliance officer and the procedure for processing grievances.

Section 504 is an act which prohibits discriminations against persons with a handicap in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a handicap as anyone who:
is not eligible for IDEA (Individual with Disabilities Education Act) services;
has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (major life activities include activities such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working);
has a documented record of such impairment; or
is regarded as having such an impairment.

All complaints shall be addressed in writing to the board's designated compliance officer, and he/she shall be responsible for investigating all complaints. Upon investigation the compliance officer shall effectuate any changes deemed necessary to eliminate any discriminatory practices and shall inform the complainant in writing of his/her actions within thirty days of the receipt of such complaint.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the actions of the compliance officer, within fifteen (15) days the complainant may appeal the actions of the compliance officer in writing to the superintendent of schools.

The superintendent must respond in writing within fifteen (15) days. If the complainant is not satisfied with the superintendent's response, an appeal in writing may be made to the local board of education within ten (10) days. The board of education shall hear the complaint at the next regular meeting or within thirty (30) calendar days. The board of education shall render a decision on such appeal in writing within twenty (20) days of the meeting or if a hearing should be held within twenty (20) days of the conclusion of such hearing.