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California State Senate

SENATOR
ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES
TWENTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
HOUSING
JUDICIARY
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
RULES

SB 334 (Reyes): The Education Against Harassment Act

SUMMARY

SB 334 will require the Instructional Quality Commission to consider including resources and information related to sexual harassment and its related protections in the Health Education Framework in K-12 Public Schools. This bill will also establish “Sexual Harassment Safety Weeks” in California schools to inform students and parents of the resources available to them and also cultivate a safer school environment.

BACKGROUND

Title IX is a 1972 civil rights law designed to prevent schools that receive federal funding from engaging in sex discrimination against women, girls, sexual violence survivors, as well as pregnant and parenting students.

President Trump’s weakening of Title IX protections and curriculum endangers our students and California must step in to reinforce protections for students.

Education, particularly sexual harassment prevention, is critical for our students during a time when the continuity of federal protections remains uncertain.

Unfortunately, there is a deficit in school curriculum that clearly explains to students definitions related to sexual harassment, the protections they have, and how they can respond to such instances.

We are already seeing the results of not protecting students from sexual harassment. One striking example took place at Redlands USD, where the US Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights “*identified several areas needing improvement regarding their Title IX processes*” and entered into an agreement responding to dozens of reports of sexual harassment at the school district between 1999-2024.

Furthermore, the California Department of Justice determined that the school district systemically violated laws related to prevention of sexual assault, harassment, and abuse. Since 2016, the school district has spent more than \$45.5 million to settle lawsuits. We need to be preventative in our approach so that this does not continue anywhere in the state.

THIS BILL

SB 334 will require the Instructional Quality Commission, when the Health Education Framework for California K-12 Public Schools is next revised by the State Board of Education (SBE), to consider including in that curriculum framework information related to: the Uniform Complaint Procedures, Title IX and what a student should do if they believe another student has been subjected to sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or retaliation.

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The Education Against Harassment Act will also establish the first two weeks of April and September as the “Sexual Harassment Safety Weeks.” During this time, schools can foster a safe school environment by hosting interactive activities about preventative policies and engage with students and parents.

SUPPORT

Generation Up (Sponsors)
American Association of University Women CA
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
California State PTA
Californians for Justice
CFT- A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Children’s Law Center of California
Courage California
Generation Up
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Stop Sexual Assault in Schools
Together For Redlands
Voices for Progress

CONTACT

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