



EDUCATION PROTECTIONS

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION FREE FROM ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION

PROTECTED CLASSES



Under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (PHRA), it is illegal to discriminate in educational settings on the basis of:

- race (including protective hairstyles)
- color
- ancestry
- national origin
- sex (including pregnancy status, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc.)
- religious creed
- disability
- the use, handling, or training of guide or service animal

The Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act (PFEOA) provides these protections in postsecondary education and secondary vocational and trade schools.

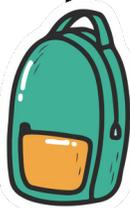
EXAMPLES OF EDUCATION DISCRIMINATION



- A teacher disciplines or grades students differently based on their race, sex, religious creed, disability, or other protected class.
- Students are denied admission, or opportunities, such as scholarships or extracurricular activities, because of their race, sex, religious creed, disability or other protected class.
- A student cannot physically access a facility because of barriers or a lack of ramps or elevators.
- A school refuses to make reasonable accommodations for a student's disability or religion.
- Classmates harass or bully a peer because of their race, sex, religious creed, disability, or other protected class and the school district does not address these behaviors.
- A teacher requests sexual favors in return for grades or repeatedly makes sexual comments to a student.
- A classmate repeatedly makes sexual comments or gestures or subjects a peer to sexually offensive images and the school does not address these behaviors.

EDUCATION DISCRIMINATION CAN BE:

- The actions of a student, teacher, administrator, third party contractor, or other school employee.
- A school's policy or the way the policy is applied.
- A school's policy or procedure that negatively affects a particular group.



WHAT DO I DO IF I EXPERIENCE DISCRIMINATION?

- File a complaint with the PHRC, you have 180 days to file from when the alleged discrimination happened or when you turn 18.
- Save any evidence that you may have (text messages, pictures, etc.)

EDUCATION OUTREACH

The PHRC offers free trainings and outreach programs for communities and schools including:

- Bullying and Harassment Prevention
- Cross-cultural Communication
- Sexual Harassment Prevention
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB)
- Unconscious Bias

Trainings are tailored to the specific needs of your organization or community.



To file a complaint, call 717-787-4410 (717-787-7279 TTY)

or contact the regional office nearest you:

Harrisburg

555 Walnut Street, Suite 808
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-787-9780 | 717-787-7279 (TTY)

Philadelphia

110 N. 8th Street, Suite 501
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-560-2496 | 215-560-3599 (TTY)

Pittsburgh

301 5th Avenue, Suite 390, Piatt Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15222 412-545-5395 |
412-565-5711 (TTY)

