

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2024 Contact: Terri Poore, terri@endsexualviolence.org

NAESV Applauds the Release of the New Title IX Rule to Prevent Harassment in Schools

Today, the Department of Education released new, long-awaited Title IX regulations governing how schools respond to harassment which will create safer and more supportive environments for survivors to come forward and seek assistance and justice.

"It is essential that students are safe in their educational environments and that they have fair recourse and ample support to protect them when they experience sexual harassment and violence. NAESV applauds the release of the new Title IX rule with gratitude to the many students, survivors, and advocates who fought to right the wrongs of the 2020 Title IX Regulation that left survivors of sexual violence vulnerable and unprotected." NAESV CEO & President Monika Johnson Hostler

Title IX's promise, when it was enacted over 50 years ago, was to broadly guarantee all students equal educational opportunities free from sex discrimination. These updates and revisions to the Title IX regulations clarify that student survivors of sexual harassment, pregnant and parenting students, and LGBTQI+ students have strong and comprehensive protections against discrimination in school. These new regulations are critical to reverse those put in place by the Trump 2020 regulations.

This new rule will restore a faithful understanding of Title IX's promise of strong protections for student survivors by:

- Requiring schools to address Title IX complaints even if the reported harassment is not yet severe and pervasive; it occurred off campus or abroad; or the survivor is no longer enrolled at the school.
- Ensuring that students are no longer forced into uniquely unfair and potentially traumatic grievance procedures that favor those who cause harm.
- Ensuring that more students have access to the resources they need to feel safe and supported at school.
- Guaranteeing the rights of LGBTQI+ students to come to school as themselves without fear of harassment or discrimination.
- Reaffirming what many federal courts have already made clear: that LGBTQI+ are protected against sex-based discrimination.

With the release of the new Title IX regulations, NAESV reaffirms the importance of schools having close working relationships with community-based organizations including rape crisis centers both in terms of confidential services and primary prevention of sexual violence.

The unofficial version of the final regulations is available <u>here</u>. In addition, the Department of Education has released a <u>fact sheet</u>, a <u>summary</u> of the major provisions of the final regulations, and a <u>resource</u> for drafting Title IX nondiscrimination policies, notices of nondiscrimination, and grievance procedures. The Final Rule will be effective on August 1, 2024.