

## Working with Schools to Respond to Sexual Assault in Uncertain Times



Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires schools to respond to many incidents of sexual violence reported by students because of the impact those incidents may have on access to education.

Educational institutions must investigate qualifying reports of sexual violence even if there is an active law enforcement investigation, or a closed investigation or criminal legal case determined no violation of law occurred. At the same time, school-based investigations must coordinate with law enforcement investigations to reduce the potential for negative impact on the criminal investigation or prosecution.

### Basic Requirements

For basic compliance with Title IX, educational institutions receiving federal funds must:

1. Have a policy of non-discrimination and publish it broadly.
2. Designate a responsible employee to ensure compliance (Title IX Coordinator).
3. Adopt grievance procedures that outline how the institution will respond to reports.

Grievance procedures must:

- a. Have a process for conducting prompt, thorough and impartial school-based investigations.
- b. Have timelines. Timelines may be extended based on the needs of criminal investigations.
- c. Require an investigation of all incidents reported to school that may impact a student's access to education by limiting that student's enjoyment of rights, privileges, advantages, or opportunities offered by the school, when the institution has some level of control over the parties involved.

For more information regarding Title IX or how schools, law enforcement, and community-based sexual assault programs can work together to respond to sexual violence, please contact, Annie Hightower, Director of Law & Policy at [annie@engagingvoices.org](mailto:annie@engagingvoices.org).

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