

Hey Arlington Students! Do You Know Your Title IX Rights?

What exactly is Title IX (*Title 9*)?

- Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits schools from discriminating (or allowing discrimination to happen) on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that receives federal funding. This includes Arlington Public Schools.
- Title IX protects students who feel unsafe at school and/or feel they are denied educational benefits or opportunities because of sex based discrimination.
- Under Title IX, discrimination on the basis of sex may include: sexual harassment, assault, dating violence, stalking, gender identity discrimination, or gender discrimination that deny a person access to any educational benefits or opportunities.
- At APS, once a school staff or administrator is notified of possible sexual harassment occurring, the school should take immediate and appropriate steps to investigate or otherwise determine what occurred to: end any harassment, eliminate a hostile environment if one has been created and prevent harassment from occurring again.

Did you know?

- Anyone can file a Title IX complaint, even bystanders.
- Title IX protects and benefits **all students**, regardless of gender, gender identity or sexual orientation.
- The incident does not have to happen at school; if the harassment is affecting one's ability to be get an education and feel safe at school, it may fall under Title IX.
- All APS administrators can take complaints and conduct investigations into Title IX complaints, not just Title IX Coordinators.
- You have a right to APS support through the process and all services are free.
- All APS schools have a Title IX Coordinator:
 - @Career Center/Arlington Tech: Assistant Principal Jessica Baker, jessica.baker@apsva.us
 - @ HB-Woodlawn: Assistant Principal Kate Seche, kate.seche@apsva.us
 - @Washington-Lee: Student Activities Director Carol Callaway, carol.callaway@apsva.us
 - @Wakefield: Assistant Principal Dr. Betty Sanders, betty.sanders@apsva.us
 - @Yorktown: Assistant Principal William (Bill) Lomax, william.lomax@apsva.us

There is support.

If you are not sure what happened, who can help or what your options are, you can call the Doorways' 24-hour hotline for support at 703-237-0881. The hotline can be confidential and you only have to share with them what you feel comfortable sharing. Learn more at www.DoorwaysVA.org

How do I file a Title IX report in APS?

You can speak to any administrator at your school to file a complaint. While you can speak to counselors or other trusted adults in the school, if you want action to be taken quickly, it is best to speak with the Title IX Coordinator or another administrator. It's also helpful to use phrases such as "I'd like to file a Title IX report,"

or “I’d like to report a claim/complaint of sexual harassment, etc.” to ensure that administrators recognize that your claim may fall under Title IX.

What can I expect if I file a Title IX complaint?

1. Once a complaint has been made, your school must notify those outlined in the complaint within five school days. Parents will only be notified if you’re under 18. The school should support all parties involved since they are the neutral party investigating any complaints.
2. After a complaint is made, you have 10 days to provide the school with any evidence you think is important (texts, images, etc.)
3. While the complaint is being investigated, the school can offer *interim measures* to help you feel safer. These measure can include but are not limited to: re-arranging class schedules or locker placement.
4. Within 30 school days of the filing of a complaint, the administrator or school’s Title IX Coordinator must issue a report with the findings.
5. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, consequences are given by the administrator in collaboration with the individuals involved. The consequences range depending on the case.
6. The school is required to report certain offenses to the Arlington County Police Department if the incident rises to the level of a criminal offense, such as a such as sexual assault or rape. In these cases, law enforcement would conduct their own investigation, which may take priority over any investigation done by the school.
7. If you are at all unhappy with the investigation conducted by the school, or their response to you, you can request to speak to Dr. Jeanette Allen, Director of APS Administrative Services, jeannette.allen@apsva.us

To view the specific APS policy and learn about the types of harassment and discrimination covered, visit www.apsva.us and search “25-1.15 Student Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination.”

Learn more and get involved!

Want to make a school AND community impact? Consider joining The Arlington Healthy Relationships Task Force (Arlington HRT). Arlington HRT is a group of students from all of the Arlington high schools who meet monthly to raise awareness about sexual assault and healthy relationships. The Task Force promotes awareness through educational campaigns, monthly meetings and outreach efforts throughout Arlington County Public Schools. To learn more and to get involved, email hrt-projectpeace@arlingtonva.us and follow HRT on Instagram [@HRTArlington](https://www.instagram.com/HRTArlington)

The ultimate goal of these groups is to give students a voice and an opportunity to actively spread awareness and make changes in Arlington, to improve relationships between students and eradicate sexual assault.

Created by the Arlington Healthy Relationships Task Force with the support of Project PEACE. Learn more at www.health.arlingtonva.us/project-peace/

