South Carolina
VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOL
Est. 2008

TITLE IX

OUR MISSION

To improve student educational achievement through the provision of an individualized, rigorous, standards-based virtual education to students in the State of South Carolina.

TITLE IX COORDINATOR

Kristen Stolpa
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WHAT IS TITLE IX?

Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.

It protects all students and employees from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment.

SCVCS is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

HOW TO FILE A TITLE IX COMPLAINT

1. **Make a Report**
   Contact the Title IX Coordinator to report sexual harassment or sex discrimination. Reports can be made by students, parents/guardians, employees, or other individuals.
2. **Submit a Formal Complaint**
   A formal complaint must be in writing and signed by the complainant (or parent/guardian if the complainant is a student) for the formal grievance process to begin.
3. **Provide Information**
   Include as much detail as possible, such as the individuals involved, what happened, dates, locations (including online), and any supporting information.
4. **Next Steps**
   The Title IX Coordinator will review the information, discuss supportive measures, and work alongside you to coordinate each process step.

TITLE IX GRIEVANCE PROCESS

Report of Conduct
Made to the Title IX Coordinator or any employee with authority.

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Supportive Measures
Offered to the complainant and respondent (available at any time).

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Does the conduct meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment and occur in SCVCS's education program or activity?

YES

Formal Complaint Signed
Title IX Coordinator signs the formal complaint and provides notice of allegations.

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Investigation
Fact-gathering, interviews, and evidence review.

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Review of Evidence
Parties have an opportunity to inspect and review evidence and provide a written response (10 days).

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Investigative Report
Summarizes relevant evidence; may include recommended finding.

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Resolution
Decision-maker determines responsibility. A live hearing is not required for K–12.

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Appeal
Either party may appeal based on specific grounds.

NO

Conduct does NOT meet the definition or jurisdiction of Title IX sexual harassment.

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Dismissal of Formal Complaint
If conduct does not meet definition, occur in SCVCS's education program or activity, or in the United States.
May also be dismissed at the request of the complainant or if the respondent is no longer enrolled/employed or evidence cannot be gathered.

TITLE IX IN A VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT AND AT SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS

SCVCS's education program and activity includes our virtual learning environment, school-sponsored events, and all school operations. Title IX applies to conduct that occurs in these settings.

Virtual Learning Environment

For SCVCS, the virtual learning environment includes online classes, virtual school activities, school-sponsored devices, computers and internet networks, and digital platforms operated by or used in the operation of the school, including emergent technologies such as generative AI tools and technologies.

School-Sponsored Events and Activities

Title IX also applies to conduct that occurs during any school-sponsored event or activity, including but not limited to:

- In-person or virtual school events, such as social outings
- STEM days, spelling bees, job fairs, field trips, and similar activities
- Programs, activities, or events organized, sponsored, or supervised by SCVCS
- Any location, on-campus or off-campus, where the school exercises substantial control over the context and the respondent

Examples of Conduct That May Fall Under Title IX

- Sexual harassment during online classes or school events
- Sexual harassment through school email, messaging, or learning platforms (e.g., LMS, discussion boards, virtual classrooms)
- Nonconsensual sharing of intimate images (real, altered, or created using AI technologies)
- Text-based stalking, cyberharassment, or tech-facilitated threats
- Misconduct that occurs using school-issued devices or school networks
- Conduct that substantially interferes with a student's ability to participate in SCVCS's education program or activity

Important Considerations

- SCVCS is not required to monitor private, off-platform online activity outside of our educational program.
- We may take action when we become aware of conduct that occurs in our education program or activity.
- Supportive measures in a virtual setting may include changes to online course sections, removal from a live session, restrictions on messaging, platform blocks, or other appropriate measures.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Charter Institute at Erskine and South Carolina Virtual Charter School do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, genetic information, age, marital status, religion, or immigrant status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Questions pertaining to Section 504 and Title IX or the school's non-discrimination policies may be directed to Kristen Stolpa, Federal Programs and Data Analytics, 2023 Platt Springs Road, West Columbia, SC 29169, (803) 253-6222.