



## **WESTPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

### **Civil Rights Laws/District Coordinator Information**

The Westport Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, liability for service in the Armed Forces, or any other protected status as defined by federal, state, or local law. Questions regarding implementation of these practices should be addressed to the appropriate coordinator listed below.

#### **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**

Statute prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color or national origin by recipients of federal financial assistance. This statute ensures that individuals are not excluded from participation in programs or activities receiving federal funds (or the benefits of) on account of their membership in one of these protected categories (42 USC S2000d). This statute has been interpreted to prohibit the denial of equal access to education because of a language minority student's limited proficiency in English.

Coordinator: Ann Marie Dargon, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
17 Main Road  
Westport, MA 02790  
508-636-1140

#### **Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974**

This federal statute prohibits states from denying equal educational opportunities to an individual based on certain protected classifications including national origin. It specifically prohibits denying equal educational opportunities by failing to take appropriate action to overcome language barriers that impede equal participation by its students in its instructional programs. [20 USC S1203 (f)]

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#### **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 provides that no individual may be discriminated against on the basis of sex in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Title IX requires that schools adopt and publish a policy against sex discrimination and have a grievance procedure through which students can complain of alleged sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. State law requires Massachusetts employers have a policy against sexual harassment. (M.G.L. Ch.151B, S3A)

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Coordinator: Jack Defusco, Title One Director and 504 Coordinator  
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### **MA General Laws Chapter 76, Section 5**

This state law provides that "Every person shall have a right to attend the public schools of the town where he actually resides. No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public schools of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation."

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### **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

Section 504 provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. The regulations implementing Section 504 require that public schools provide a free appropriate public education to each qualified handicapped person who is in the recipient's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the person's handicap. (34 CFR 104.33)

Coordinator: Jack Defusco, Title One Director and 504 Coordinator  
17 Main Road  
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### **Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965**

Title I is designed to help disadvantaged children meet challenging content and student performance standards. Staff should know that special education students are not deemed ineligible for Title I services because they receive special education services. Also, school districts must ensure that Title I funds are not being misused (e.g. referring an ESL student to a Title I program in order to meet the student's language needs rather than providing an ESL program/class).

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### **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**

The regulations implementing the ADA provide that: "A public entity that employs 50 or more persons shall designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under this part, including any investigation of any complaint communicated to it alleging its noncompliance with this part or alleging any actions that would be prohibited by this part. The public entity must make available to all interested individuals the name, office address, and telephone number of the employee(s) designated pursuant to this paragraph." [34 CFR 35.107 (a)]

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### **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act**

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act requires that school districts immediately enroll homeless students in school, even if they do not have the document usually required for enrollment, such as school records, medical records or proof of residency. Homeless students have a right to either remain in their school of origin or attend school where they are temporarily residing.

Coordinator: Ann Harkin, Special Education Director  
17 Main Road  
Westport, MA 02790  
508-636-1140