



## **ATIXA**

provides a professional association for school Title IX Coordinators and administrators who are interested in serving their districts and campuses more effectively. Since 1972, Title IX has proved to be an increasingly powerful leveling tool, helping to advance gender equity. Title IX's benefits can be found in promoting equity in academic and athletics programs, preventing hostile environments on the basis of sex, prohibiting sexual harassment and sexual violence, protecting from retaliation and remedying the effects of other gender-based forms of discrimination. Every school district in the United States is required to have a Title IX Coordinator who oversees implementation, training, and compliance with Title IX. ATIXA brings district Title IX Coordinators and administrators into professional collaboration to explore best practices, share resources, and advance the worthy goal of gender equity in education.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Approximately 40 school districts are under OCR investigation for their handling of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence claims. Many believe these investigations and related lawsuits will increase, especially in light of OCR's April 2015 "Dear Colleague" letter (DCL), which emphasizes expectations for preK-12 schools. Yet, despite these indicators of growing scrutiny, many school districts appear to be out of compliance with Title IX's sexual harassment requirements.

In July 2015, the U.S. Senate introduced the Teach Safe Relationships Act of 2015 as part of its broader Every Child Achieves Act (an update of No Child Left Behind). The Teach Safe Relationships Act would award grants to public schools to teach safe relationship skills.

## **What Type of Training is Available for PreK-12?**

**504/ADA Certification**

**Title IX Coordinator**

**Civil Rights Investigator Certification**

<https://atixa.org/join/k-12-educator/>

**What is Sexual Harassment?** Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual conduct that creates an intimidating, hostile, or abusive environment that is so severe or pervasive it prevents a student from fully participating in an educational program or activity. Harassment includes unwanted verbal or written sexual statements, graffiti, name-calling, and sexual advances in person or via phone or Internet. OCR guidance stresses that there does not need to be intent to harm, nor does the activity need to be directed at a specific person to be considered harassment. OCR states that "the more severe the conduct, the less need there is to show a repetitive series of incidents to prove a hostile environment, particularly if the harassment is physical." Students of any sex may be subject to sexual harassment. In addition, harassment based on gender stereotypes is sexual harassment.

**What is the difference between Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence?**

**What is Sexual Violence?** OCR defines sexual violence as "physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol. An individual may also be unable to consent due to an intellectual or other disability. A number of different acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion. All such acts are forms of sexual harassment covered under Title IX."

**Are you a Title IX Coordinator?**

If so, ensure that you publish your contact information, including name, office address, telephone number, and email address to the school community, including on the district's website. If the district has more than one Title IX Coordinator, the contact information for the primary and all deputy Coordinators must also be published in the district's nondiscrimination policy. The lead Title IX Coordinator must be prominently designated, and deputy Coordinators' assignments to specific schools or regions should be noted. The Title IX Coordinators should communicate regularly with one another, such as weekly or monthly, to ensure consistent application of the district's policies.

For additional information,  
please contact  
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**\$149**  
per year

**Membership for PreK-12 through ATIXA**

K-12 Educator and Administrator membership benefits are tailored specifically for the unique ways that Title IX impacts K-12 education, and include a K-12 Community of Practice with access to:

- The best source materials on Title IX
- K-12 listserv
- Quarterly newsletters with a Tip of the Week
- The K-12 resource library