

HANDS OFF IX

NOTICE-AND-COMMENT TOOLKIT

The Department of Education released its proposed guidance on Title IX. If these new rules go into effect, schools will be more dangerous for all students.

Tell the Department of Education #HandsOffIX. Take action now!

HOW DO I USE THIS TOOLKIT?

- 1 Discover the history of Title IX, why it is important, and how it protects survivors
- 2 Read about the harmful effects the proposed rules will have on survivors
- 3 Learn about the notice-and-comment process and how we can stop these dangerous changes
- 4 Write a comment telling the Department of Education what part(s) of the rule you disagree with and how it can be changed to better support survivors

WHAT IS TITLE IX?

Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity that receives federal funding. This includes most schools, including private institutions and grades K-12.

Title IX addresses sexual harassment, sexual violence, or any gender-based discrimination that may deny a person access to educational benefits and opportunities.

Under current Title IX regulations, schools must ensure that all students have equal access to education, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Sexual harassment and sexual violence are forms of gender discrimination prohibited by Title IX.

Along with providing a formal complaint and investigation process for survivors of sexual violence, Title IX allows survivors to receive living or academic accommodations, gives survivors the right to notify law enforcement, and allows survivors to choose interim measures, such as no contact orders and changes to transportation, dining, and working situations.

HOW DO THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS HARM SURVIVORS?

The definition of sexual harassment will be severely limited.



Survivors will have to endure severe, repeated, or escalating harassment before they can file a Title IX complaint.

Schools are not required to investigate assaults that occur off-campus.



Schools are not required to investigate assaults that take place off-campus, shutting out the thousands of survivors who are assaulted at parties held by fraternities, bars, or online.

Schools are only required to investigate complaints made to individuals who have the “authority to institute corrective measures”



College students would have to go directly to their Title IX coordinator or another high-ranking university official rather than being able to talk to a teacher or mentor they trust.

WHAT IS NOTICE-AND-COMMENT?



Notice-and-comment is a process for the public to give feedback and offer changes to proposed regulations before those regulations become law.



Once the comment period ends, the Department sorts the comments into two groups: substantive (comments that count) and not substantive (comments that do not count). The Department is required to respond to comments it deems substantive.



You can stop these harmful rules from becoming law by commenting on the proposed rule. Comments contain critiques about specific parts of the rule, offer data to back up those critiques, and offer alternatives.



Substantive comments can slow down the process of these rules becoming law, and potentially change proposed language to better support survivors.



The notice-and-comment period is 60 days and ends on 01/21/2019.



This is an incredible opportunity to take action and protect survivors' access to education.

HOW CAN I TAKE ACTION?



SPREAD THE WORD

Tweet, share, and repost this toolkit. Use the hashtags #HandsOffIX and #BelieveSurvivors.



SUBMIT A COMMENT

Use Hands Off IX's comment starters and data guide to draft and submit a comment of your own! Visit handsoffix.org to get started.



HOST A COMMENT WRITING EVENT

Gather your friends, co-workers, neighbors, classmates, organizations, teams, and student groups together to write and submit comments together!

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO HANDSOFFIX.ORG