



State Title IX Gender Equity Coordinators

The attached list was developed by the Title IX Action Network and the Education Equity Program of the Feminist Majority Foundation. It is one of the ways the Network has started to identify and work with Title IX coordinators at all levels of education throughout the U.S.

Title IX is our federal law that says, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” (*Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972*).

Title IX prohibits discrimination against girls and boys, women and men, students and employees, in all levels of education. In accordance with the 1987 Civil Rights Restoration Act, Title IX applies to all institutions with education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. For example, it prohibits sex discrimination in facilities, access to courses, athletic and academic opportunities, career guidance, student financial aid, health and insurance benefits, employment in educational institutions, and sexual harassment. In addition to schools and all but two colleges, it covers scientific laboratories, prisons, museums, and a variety of other public and private institutions.

Title IX regulations specify that each recipient of federal financial assistance “designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out Title IX responsibilities” and that names and contact information for Title IX coordinators be made public. If everyone complies with this law there should be over a hundred thousand Title IX coordinators making sure that all students and staff are informed of their rights and protections against sex discrimination. However, it is difficult to find these coordinators so it is not surprising that a recent study found that fewer than 20 percent of teachers understand what Title IX covers and only a miniscule percent of students and parents are aware of their rights under Title IX. More Title IX coordinators doing their job in a proactive way with support from their employers and external advisers can prevent sex discrimination rather than just helping those who have suffered from discrimination file complaints.

State Title IX coordinators. While State Education Agencies (SEAs) are required to designate at least one Title IX coordinator, some states

designate more than one. For example, they may have a Title IX coordinator specializing in internal agency issues as well as separate Title IX coordinators working with K-12, career and technical education, and postsecondary education. These coordinators address policy issues related to Title IX and other state gender equity laws. The roles and responsibilities of Title IX designees vary widely. They range from advising their agencies on internal Title IX personnel issues, to serving as legal experts, or most importantly providing leadership in gender equity by identifying, training, assisting, and helping Title IX coordinators in the school districts, community colleges or postsecondary institutions in their state. Some of these SEA Title IX coordinators help conduct periodic gender equity assessments or investigate complaints of non-compliance with Title IX. The attached list contains contact information on Title IX coordinators from all SEAs. Some states have Title IX coordinators in their several state education agencies focusing on different levels of education such as K-12 and postsecondary. We hope to identify additional Title IX coordinators in each. The following list indicates some Title IX coordinators who also serve as gender equity specialists for career and technical education programs.

School District Title IX coordinators are often district office employees with related human resources or diversity office assignments. Ideally they would network with each other and the state Title IX coordinator(s) and they would maintain contact information on Title IX coordinators in each school in their district. District Title IX coordinators often replicate the networking and assistance pattern established by state Title IX coordinators and help train and provide assistance to individual school Title IX coordinators and others interested in gender equity.

School level Title IX coordinators are often interested teachers or staff with related assignments such as the school Title I coordinator, anti sexual harassment coordinator, or even the principal. Postsecondary institutions should have one or more Title IX coordinators. These coordinators are often found in human resources, athletics, or diversity offices. At all levels of education, in addition to school Title IX gender equity coordinators there may also be other school or school district equity or diversity coordinators. These individuals can share strategies and provide support to address multiple educational equity issues. We encourage them to work with an advisory group of internal and external supporters who know and care about advancing gender equity.

For more information on The Title IX Action Network composed of Title IX coordinators and equity allies, please visit: www.feminist.org/education or <http://www.feminist.org/education/TitleIXcoordinatorsNetwork.asp>.

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Notes

- * These State websites have lists of Title IX coordinators (for school districts and/or other categories)
- **Responsible for gender equity work in vocational technical education. For information on these experts see **National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)** <http://www.napequity.org/page.php?80>

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Please send updates to: Dr. Sue Klein, Education Equity Director, sklein@feminist.org**