

Title IX and the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline

Background and Resources

March 10, 2016

Summary

- Schools (PK-12 and postsecondary) are required to take a proactive role in reducing sex discrimination. This includes taking steps to address sexual violence that students experience at school.
- Schools typically should bear some responsibility in providing accommodations to survivors who experienced abuse outside of school as well, because they may continue to experience the effects of trauma while at school.
 - See info from Know Your IX here:
<http://knowyourix.org/title-ix-in-high-school-in-detail/>
 - And additional information from OCR here (p.29):
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>

Challenges to Implementation

- Many schools (from what I can tell, especially secondary schools) do not have Title IX coordinators, or their contact information is not readily available. Networks among Title IX coordinators at peer institutions are also lacking.
- Implementation of Title IX has grown increasingly complex and nuanced, and is used for more/different things than it was when it was implemented. This places increased demand on Title IX coordinators.
- Title IX coordinator responsibilities may be given to an individual with an already heavy workload, with little help or financial support.
- Young victims (particularly high schoolers) may not be empowered to come forward to take advantage of Title IX resources available to them. Parental involvement may place more pressure on schools, but this resources may not be available to already disenfranchised young people.
- School districts may prioritize their own liability and/or treat assault as an individual rather than systemic problem. Teachers may be unable to unwilling to get involved in students' lives outside of the classroom.

Areas for Further Research and Discussion

- Title IX coordinators, when available, often work in close conjunction with other diversity officers--possibility for collaboration?
- Reading material I have found is unclear on differences between high schools and universities, with respect to accessibility of Title IX coordinator
 - How can college model be applied to high schools?

Resources

Stop Sexual Assault in Schools

Dedicated to stopping sexual violence in PK-12 settings

<http://stopsexualassaultinschools.org/>

Contact: Esther Warkov (ED and Co-Founder)

Know Your IX

Excellent background info on Title IX, plus section devoted to abuse in high schools

<http://knowyourix.org/title-ix/title-ix-in-detail/>

<http://knowyourix.org/title-ix-in-high-school-in-detail/>

Feminist Majority Foundation

“Title IX Coordinators: Key to Fighting Sex Discrimination in Education”

<http://www.feminist.org/education/pdfs/TitleIXHandout.pdf>

Also visit FMF’s homepage on this issue for additional information

<http://www.feminist.org/education/NetworkCoordinators.asp>

Additional Materials (Policy Readings)

- “Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out, Overpoliced and Underprotected”
http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org/sites/default/files/uploads/BlackGirlsMatter_Report.pdf
- “Unlocking Opportunity for African American Girls”
http://www.naacpldf.org/files/publications/Unlocking%20Opportunity%20for%20African%20American%20Girls_0.pdf