

Committed to Equity & Excellence
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HOPKINS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Members of the Education Policy Committee:

Hopkins Public School District supports 121a.032. This is a bill that draws attention to the critical need for system-wide training and development for school district Title IX Coordinators. The bill addresses the absence of any centralized system of support for school district Title IX coordinators.

As we in Hopkins have been reviewing our policies and procedures related to (1) anti-harassment best practices and (2) training that incorporates federal Title IX guidance and Minnesota Human Rights Act requirements, it is clear there is little to no technical assistance that supports specific requirements of Title IX and sexual harassment prevention, investigation, and remediation.

During our review, we learned:

1. There are few training options accessible at multiple times during the year. There may be one or two trainings that aren't always available to Title IX Coordinators when the information and training is most needed.
2. Our safe and supportive school efforts around bullying and safe environment training make it clear that technical assistance must be available to school districts, in real time, when incidents arise.
3. Post-secondary learning institutions experienced coalescence when they implemented statutory requirements.
4. Other states' practices around a centralized, coordinated effort presented consistent, best-practices that helped reduce incidents and generated greater student awareness and understanding.
5. A network of individuals, distributed training materials, educational interventions, and awareness campaigns help schools enhance their efforts and effectiveness.

Together, we can strengthen the capacity of our school district staff to bring about positive changes and impacts to our learning environments. Increasing materials, training, and networks available to Title IX Coordinators is a key first step in this effort. We need your support of the changes proposed in 121a.032.

Sincerely,



Nik Lightfoot

Hopkins Schools Assistant Superintendent
Hopkins Schools Title IX Coordinator