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August 11, 2015

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Approval of Revisions to Equal Educational Opportunities Policy

- Recommendation: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Equal Educational Opportunities Policy for the Cambridge Public Schools as detailed in the attached document. This is the second reading of the revisions to the Equal Educational Opportunities Policy.
- Description: This revision is being proposed in order to align it to the current language of M.G.L.c. 76, §5, which was amended to include the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of gender identity.
- Supporting Data: M.G.L.c. 76, §5

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey M. Young, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In recognition of the diversified characteristics and needs of our students and with the keen desire to be responsive to them, the School Committee will make every effort to protect the dignity of the students as individuals. It also will offer careful consideration and sympathetic understanding of their personal feelings, particularly with reference to their race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability.

To accomplish this, the School Committee and its staff will make every effort to comply with the letter and the spirit of the Massachusetts equal educational opportunities law (known as M.G.L.c. 76, §5), which prohibits discrimination in public school admissions and programs. The law reads as follows:

No child shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and course of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, gender identity or sexual orientation.

This means that every student will be given equal opportunity in school admission, admissions to courses, course content, guidance, and extracurricular and athletic activities.

All implementing provisions issued by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in compliance with this law will be followed.

LEGAL REFS.: Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000d as amended  
 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal  
 Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, 42 U.S.C. §2000-17  
 Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, as  
 amended  
 Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 as amended  
 M.G.L.c. 76, §§5&16; 603 C.M.R. 26.00 et seq.

CROSS REF.: AC Cambridge Public Schools Affirmative Action/Equal Employment  
 Opportunity  
 ACA through AC-R Subcategories of Nondiscrimination

*Adopted: March 3, 2009*