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SENATOR ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES

TWENTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
HOUSING
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# SB 334 (Reyes): Title IX Education Against Harassment Act

### **SUMMARY**

SB 334 will require the Instructional Quality Commission to consider including resources and information related to Title IX protections and sexual harassment in the Health Education Framework in K-12 Public Schools. This bill will also establish "Title IX Safety Weeks" in California schools to inform students and parents of the resources available to them and also cultivate a safer school environment.

## **BACKGROUND**

Title IX is a 1972 civil rights law designed to prevent schools that receive federal funding from engaging in sex discrimination against women, girls, sexual violence survivors, as well as pregnant and parenting students. Title IX education, particularly sexual harassment prevention, is critical for our students during a time when the continuity of federal protections remains uncertain.

Unfortunately, there is a deficit in school curriculum that clearly explains to students definitions related to sexual harassment, the protections they have, and how they can respond to such instances.

President Trump's weakening of Title IX protections and curriculum endangers our students and California must step in to reinforce protections for students.

We are already seeing the results of not protecting students from sexual harassment. One striking example took place at Redlands USD, where the US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights "identified several areas needing improvement regarding their Title IX processes" and entered into an agreement responding to dozens of reports of sexual harassment at the school district between 1999-2024.

Furthermore, the California Department of Justice determined that the school district systemically violated laws related to prevention of sexual assault, harassment, and abuse. Since 2016, the school district has spent more than \$45.5 million to settle lawsuits. We need to be preventative in our approach so that this does not continue anywhere in the state.

### THIS BILL

SB 334 will require the Instructional Quality Commission, when the Health Education Framework for California K-12 Public Schools is next revised by the State Board of Education (SBE), to consider including in that curriculum framework information related to: the Uniform Complaint Procedures, Title IX and what a student should do if they believe another student has been subjected to sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or retaliation.

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The Title IX Education Against Harassment Act will also establish the first two weeks of April and September as the "Title IX Safety Weeks." During this time, schools can foster a safe school environment by hosting interactive activities about Title IX policies and engage with students and parents.

Additionally, this bill will require the Department of Education to review their Uniform Complaint Process (UCP) and post on their website additional training materials related to sexual harassment.

### **SUPPORT**

California Federation of Teachers California Parent Teacher's Association GENup

Los Angeles County Office of Education

### **CONTACT**

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