

1 [Sexual Assault and Harassment in Schools]
2 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Unified School District and the City and**
3 **County of San Francisco to increase transparency about the Title IX reporting**
4 **process to protect and create effective support systems for victims of sexual**
5 **assault and harassment, urging San Francisco schools to implement and invest**
6 **in healthy relationship and sexual assault and harassment prevention education,**
7 **and urging the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to restart the Safer Schools**
8 **Task Force with adequate youth representation.**

9 WHEREAS, Sexual assault and harassment, both between students and
10 between adults and students, has been a consistent and pervasive issue in San
11 Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) schools, San Francisco charter schools, and
12 San Francisco independent schools; and

13 WHEREAS, Multiple forms of student protest and collective action have taken
14 place for over two decades demanding action and resources, with large-scale walkouts
15 from SFUSD and independent high schools in December 2021¹; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2005, the San Francisco Youth Commission, in collaboration with
17 the SFUSD Student Advisory Council, produced a report on sexual assault and
18 harassment in San Francisco schools titled “Youth Commission Report on Sexual
19 Assault and Harassment in San Francisco Schools” which showed the primary factor
20 preventing students from receiving resources and support is the disconnection between
21 service providers and San Francisco students; and

¹ *Hundreds of SF Students Walk Out Over District's Handling of Sexual Assault Complaints* (NBC Bay Area), December 10, 2021.
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/sf-students-to-stage-walkout-to-protest-districts-handling-of-sexual-assault-complaints/2752577/>

1 WHEREAS, This report made general recommendations,² including: 1) that
2 students be encouraged and supported to be involved with the development of policies
3 aimed to address sexual assault and harassment, 2) that student government
4 organizations be engaged in work to stop sexual assault and harassment, and 3) that
5 there be a greater push for full cooperation between City departments, schools, and
6 Community Based Organizations (CBOs); and

7 WHEREAS, This report made specific recommendations to the Department on
8 the Status of Women,³ including: 1) that the department implement a student-oriented
9 public service announcement campaign, 2) that the department facilitate the outreach
10 and use of CBOs with San Francisco schools, 3) that the department aid schools in
11 training teachers on student-to-student sexual assault and harassment, and 4) that the
12 department aid schools in enriching curricula for all grade levels; and

13 WHEREAS, This report made specific recommendations to the Department of
14 Public Health,⁴ including: 1) that the department maintain or increase funding for
15 student counseling, and 2) that the department expand the Intimate Partner Violence
16 Screening Protocol to all public and private health clinics and hospitals; and

17 WHEREAS, This report made a specific recommendation to the Department of
18 Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF)⁵ that the department distribute information
19 about preventing and responding to sexual assault and harassment, including
20 information on how to identify sexual assault and harassment, how to report incidents of
21 sexual assault and harassment, and how to access counseling services; and

² *Youth Commission Report on Sexual Assault & Harassment in San Francisco Schools* (San Francisco Youth Commission), [Page 11].
https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/ftp/uploadedfiles/youth_commission/Documents_and_Publications/FINALSA%26HReport041205.pdf

³ *Youth Commission Report on Sexual Assault & Harassment in San Francisco Schools* (San Francisco Youth Commission), [Page 12].

⁴ *Youth Commission Report on Sexual Assault & Harassment in San Francisco Schools* (San Francisco Youth Commission), [Page 14].

⁵ *Youth Commission Report on Sexual Assault & Harassment in San Francisco Schools* (San Francisco Youth Commission), [Page 15].

1 WHEREAS, This report made specific recommendations to public, private, and
2 charter schools in San Francisco,⁶ including: 1) that they ensure they are in compliance
3 with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and 2) that they should fully
4 cooperate with any valuable support from outside sources, particularly CBOs; and

5 WHEREAS, In April 2016, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed, and
6 Mayor Edwin Lee signed, legislation ([FILE NO. 150944, ORDINANCE NO. 89-16]),
7 sponsored by Supervisor Jane Kim to create the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task
8 Force, and set out membership requirements for the ten seats⁷; and

9 WHEREAS, The legislation made the San Francisco Department on the Status of
10 Women responsible for providing administrative support and staffing the Task Force
11 through a consultant who began in October 2016⁸; and

12 WHEREAS, The Task Force made the overarching recommendations⁹ of 1)
13 establishing an ongoing Task Force and staff to coordinate sexual assault prevention
14 and response broadly, including on campus and in the broader community, and 2) fully
15 implementing state and federal laws reflecting years of work to prevent sexual assault
16 on campus and respond effectively when it occurs; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2017, the Department on the Status of Women compiled the 71-
18 page Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force Report and Recommendations, which
19 did not include any specific recommendations for reducing sexual assault on all school

⁶ *Youth Commission Report on Sexual Assault & Harassment in San Francisco Schools* (San Francisco Youth Commission), [Page 15].

⁷ *Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force Report and Recommendations* (San Francisco Department on the Status of Women), [Page i].
<https://sfgov.org/dosw/sites/default/files/Safer%20Schools%20Sexual%20Assault%20Task%20Force%20Report.pdf>

⁸ *Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force Report and Recommendations* (San Francisco Department on the Status of Women), [Page 1].

⁹ *Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force Report and Recommendations* (San Francisco Department on the Status of Women), [Page 23].

1 campuses, failed to provide concrete recommendations and solutions, and interviewed
2 only 18¹⁰ of the 60,263 SFUSD students at the time;

3 WHEREAS, On November 16, 2021, San Francisco youth leaders wrote a public
4 letter¹¹ to the then-SFUSD Superintendent Vincent Matthews, SFUSD Board of
5 Education Commissioners, and SFUSD administrators to support and amplify demands
6 from student activists at Lowell High School and Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of
7 the Arts, as well as numerous other San Francisco middle and high schools, including:
8 1) Protecting and creating effective support systems for victims of sexual assault and
9 harassment, even if abuse occurred off site, 2) Increasing transparency about the Title
10 IX reporting process and other reporting processes for sexual assault and/or
11 harassment, 3) Providing students with more physical and mental support, especially
12 during the documenting process to not re-traumatize the victim, 4) Avoiding and
13 condemning victim blaming, 5) Prioritizing and validating student voice when sharing
14 incident(s) of sexual assault and/or harassment without demanding physical violence, 6)
15 Mandating that school sites transfer assaulters out of any classes and/or extracurricular
16 activities with their victims, ensuring that responsibility does not fall upon the survivor to
17 avoid their assaulter, 7) Holding attackers accountable for trying to contact survivors
18 after the incident, including but not limited to not allowing them to participate on sports
19 teams and extracurriculars, suspension, or expulsion, and 8) Taking every report of
20 sexual violence seriously and investigate to the fullest extent that the survivor is
21 comfortable with; and

¹⁰ *Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force Report and Recommendations* (San Francisco Department on the Status of Women), [Page 22].

¹¹ *Letter on Sexual Violence in SFUSD Schools*. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZK5jW0clsjUBpb47zAw2xdEsk0wp20Xf/view?usp=sharing>

1 WHEREAS, Reporting from KQED from February 2021 shows that sexual
2 assault and harassment in SFUSD high schools has been “swept under the rug” and
3 there has been grave neglect from the Lowell High School administration to take action
4 in complaints and accusations made by colleagues and students accusing a teacher of
5 sexual harassment who was able to continue to teach with only a verbal reprimand¹²;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Reporting from the San Francisco Chronicle and the San Francisco
8 Standard in August 2022 shows serious allegations that an SFUSD athletic director at
9 George Washington High School who had been accused of sexual abuse, despite law
10 enforcement being contacted and an active lawsuit, was permitted to “quietly resign”¹³;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Research and expert advice shows the need for age-appropriate
13 relationship education, including personal boundaries and healthy relationships between
14 peers, beginning in early education¹⁴; and

15 WHEREAS, On October 27, 2022, over a dozen students demanded a response
16 to sexual harassment and assault from San Francisco school administrations at a Board
17 of Supervisors committee hearing called by Supervisor Myrna Melgar to determine what
18 role the city plays and what more it can do to intervene¹⁵; and

¹² Lowell Students Say #MeToo. *Sexual Abuse Allegations Spark Reckoning at SF High School* (KQED), February 11, 2021.

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11859164/lowell-students-say-metoo-sexual-abuse-allegations-spark-reckoning-at-sf-high-school>

¹³ *George Washington High's Ex-Athletic Director Molested Student, Groomed Classmates for Years, Lawsuit Claims* (San Francisco Standard), August 29, 2022 <https://sfstandard.com/education/george-washington-high-athletic-director-molested-student-groomed-classmates-for-years-lawsuit-claims/>;

S.F. high school athletic director who abused a student was allowed to 'quietly resign,' lawsuit alleges (San Francisco Chronicle), August 30, 2022.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/S-F-high-school-athletic-director-who-abused-a-17406113.php>

¹⁴ *Sex Education that Goes Beyond Sex* (Harvard Graduate School of Education). <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/18/11/sex-education-goes-beyond-sex>

¹⁵ Mojada, I. (2022, October 28). Citing No 'Tangible Change,' SF Students Renew Demands Over Sexual Harassment, Assault Reforms. The San Francisco Standard. Retrieved January 31, 2023, from <https://sfstandard.com/education/students-demands-sexual-assault-reforms-san-francisco/>

1 WHEREAS, At this hearing, student organizers restated their demands to
2 SFUSD for 1) creating and presenting lessons—starting in elementary school—about
3 consent over verbal and physical interactions in health curriculum, 2) making mandatory
4 consent orientations for all student athletes and the requirement that athletic coaches
5 undergo the same training as district employees, and 3) making information about Title
6 IX accessible to students via posters on campus and in digital school platforms along
7 with guaranteeing that a list of resources is given to sexual assault and/or harassment
8 survivors; and

9 WHEREAS, On December 1, 2022, the Youth Commission, in collaboration with
10 the Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) and
11 the Human Rights Commission, hosted a Youth Town Hall on Sexual Violence and
12 Gender-Based Violence to focus on the needs of youth/students regarding safety and
13 healing from all forms of sexual violence; and

14 WHEREAS, In this Youth Town Hall, there was a various youth/student age
15 range that attended and discussed four main questions: 1) What is safety?, What does
16 it look/feel like?, What does safety look like at home/community/school?, 2) What
17 tools/resources are needed in supporting young survivors of SA, both short term and
18 long term?, 3) What tools/resources are needed to prevent sexual violence from
19 happening in the first place?, and 4) Which demands do we want to work on?; and

20 WHEREAS, The main takeaways from these discussions were: 1) San Francisco
21 needs to focus on preventative work in early education, 2) San Francisco must get to
22 the root of the problem and actually implement classes, lesson plans, workshops, etc. in
23 schools, and implement all of the practical tools to be able to move forward the work on

1 stopping sexual assault and harassment, 3) conversations regarding sexual assault and
2 harassment must go deeper than beyond just the surface, 4) the creation of an app or
3 website with all the information needed to receive support and resources after
4 experiencing sexual assault and/or harassment, and 4) re-starting the Safer Schools
5 Task Force with youth and community participation; and

6 WHEREAS, It is long overdue that San Francisco addresses this pervasive and
7 long-lasting impact on our youth/students, hears their voices, and takes action; now
8 therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission publicly
10 states its support for all victims of sexual assault and/or harassment in San Francisco
11 schools and calls on the City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Unified
12 School District, San Francisco charter schools, and San Francisco independent schools
13 to reevaluate their responses to and prevention policies for sexual assault and
14 harassment; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
16 urges the San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco charter schools, San
17 Francisco independent schools, and the City and County of San Francisco to address
18 and implement the aforementioned demands shared by student activists at Lowell High
19 School, Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts, and numerous other San
20 Francisco middle and high schools in 2021; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
22 urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to restart the Safer Schools Sexual
23 Assault Task Force, while including adequate youth voice and representation for middle

1 and high school students (ages 10-18) and for college/higher education students (ages
2 18-24), as well as policymakers, volunteers, experts, parents, stakeholders, and
3 survivors, and do so in consultation with the Youth Commission; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
5 urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to make the Human Rights Commission
6 (particularly the Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention)
7 and the Department on the Status of Women responsible for providing administrative
8 support and staffing to the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
10 urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to maintain the Safer Schools Sexual
11 Assault Task Force continuously to provide oversight and resources over the issue of
12 sexual assault and/or harassment in schools; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
14 urges the Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee to
15 work with SFUSD to adopt mandatory training for youth, education, and school site staff
16 on the definitions of sexual harassment and assault, reporting procedures, supporting
17 students, and identifying and preventing these crimes; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
19 strongly urges that these mandatory trainings for youth, educators, and school site staff
20 aforementioned be conducted at least once per year; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
22 strongly urges that these aforementioned mandatory trainings be interactive and
23 conducted in a safe environment to promote conversation and learning, and

1 recommends schools coordinate these trainings with the appropriate CBOs and City
2 department(s); and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
4 urges the City and County of San Francisco to foster a safe and trusting environment
5 between the San Francisco Police Department and the youth of San Francisco by
6 prioritizing and validating youth voices when sharing incident(s) of sexual harassment
7 and/or assault; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
9 urges the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability, San Francisco Unified
10 School District, and other independent and charter schools to gather data regarding
11 sexual harassment and/or assault in reports specifically for San Francisco Youth Aged
12 15-25; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That Youth Commission staff are directed to transmit
14 copies of this resolution to the Office of the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, Department
15 on the Status of Women, Department of Public Health, Human Rights Commission,
16 Police Department, Department of Police Accountability, SFUSD, SFUSD Board of
17 Education, and the SFUSD Student Advisory Council.