Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Title IX states as follows: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Discrimination on the basis of sex (i.e., sex discrimination) includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual violence. Title IX also prohibits gender-based harassment, which includes acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping, even if those acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Title IX also applies to admissions, employment, financial aid, athletics, academic matters, career services, housing, counseling and medical services, and all other Illinois programs and activities.

Title IX may be invoked in, but is not limited to, the following circumstances:

   (1) The provision of less than a fair share of funds for athletic scholarships to females;

   (2) Inequitable pay for female employees holding similar positions to those held by male counterparts;

   (3) Discrimination against female students on the basis of pregnancy; and

   (4) Student-on-student harassment that creates a hostile environment and in which Illinois has failed: to take immediate action to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects; and to investigate a complaint of sexual misconduct promptly, thoroughly, and impartially.