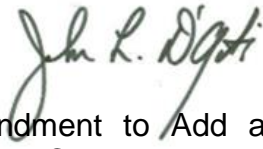






TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to Add a New Part 48 to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Related to Annual Aggregate Data Reporting by New York State Institutions of Higher Education Related to Reports of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking and Sexual Assault

DATE: April 27, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S):  

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed Part 48 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Related to Annual Aggregate Data Reporting by New York State Institutions of Higher Education Related to Reports of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking and Sexual Assault?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute (Ch. 76, Laws of 2015).

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at the May 2017 Board of Regents meeting (Attachment A is a copy of the proposed amendment).

Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on May 24, 2017. Supporting materials for the proposed amendment are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Background Information

On July 7, 2015, Governor Cuomo signed into law Chapter 76 of the Laws of 2015, Implementation by Colleges and Universities of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence and Stalking Prevention and Response Policies and Procedures, known as the “Enough is Enough” statute. This statute requires higher education institutions in New York State to adopt a set of comprehensive procedures and guidelines, including a uniform definition of affirmative consent, a statewide amnesty policy, and expanded access to law enforcement. The statute also requires that institutions annually report aggregate data to the State Education Department concerning reports of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault. The Department was required to create a reporting mechanism for these annual data submissions and to issue regulations, developed in consultation with the higher education sectors, concerning the annual data reports.

Education Law §6449, as added by Chapter 76 of the Law of 2015, delineates the following specific data elements that are required to be reported to the Department:

- a. The number of such incidents that were reported to the Title IX Coordinator.
- b. Of those incidents in paragraph a, the number of reporting individuals who sought the institution's judicial or conduct process.
- c. Of those reporting individuals in paragraph b, the number of cases processed through the institution's judicial or conduct process.
- d. Of those cases in paragraph c, the number of respondents who were found responsible through the institution's judicial or conduct process.
- e. Of those cases in paragraph c, the number of respondents who were found not responsible through the institution's judicial or conduct process.
- f. A description of the final sanctions imposed by the institution for each incident for which a respondent was found responsible, as provided in paragraph d, through the institution's judicial or conduct process.
- g. The number of cases in the institution's judicial or conduct process that were closed prior to a final determination after the respondent withdrew from the institution and declined to complete the disciplinary process.
- h. The number of cases in the institution's judicial or conduct process that were closed because the complaint was withdrawn by the reporting individual prior to a final determination.

In December 2016, the Department circulated a discussion draft of the regulations and convened a meeting of representatives of the four higher education sectors and the New York State Office of Campus Safety to discuss the regulations. During that meeting, and in subsequent email communications with the sector representatives, several suggestions were made for definitions and clarifications that would provide consistency and accuracy in reporting. Many of those suggestions were incorporated into the proposed regulations attached to this item. An additional suggestion from the sector representatives was that the timeline for submission of the annual data reports required by the “Enough is Enough” statute should align with the existing timeline for institutions to submit data required by the federal “Clery Act” under Title IX of federal statute, which are required by October 1st of each year. Consistent with that suggestion, institutions would be required to collect the required “Enough is Enough” data from January 1 –

December 31 of each calendar year, beginning with 2018, and submit the required data reports to the Department no later than October 1st of the next year. The first institutional data reports would be required to be submitted to the Department by October 1, 2019. After the submission of the first institutional data reports, the statute also requires the Department to issue a report to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the data collected by the Department.

The Office of Higher Education is working with staff in the Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) to develop an electronic data reporting system for the annual “Enough is Enough” data reports.

Related Regents Items

N/A

Recommendation

Not applicable.

Timetable for Implementation

Following the 45-day public comment period required under the State Administrative Procedure Act, it is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be adopted by the Board of Regents at its September 2017 meeting. If adopted at the September 2017 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on September 27, 2017.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to Education Law sections 101, 207, 305 and 6439 through 6449, as added by Chapter 76 of the Laws of 2015.

A new Part 48, is added to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, effective September 27, 2017, to read as follows:

Part 48

Annual Aggregate Data Reporting by New York State Institutions of Higher Education Related to Reports of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking and Sexual Assault

§48.1 Definitions. For purposes of this Part:

(a) Accused shall mean a person accused of a violation who has not yet entered an institution's judicial or conduct process.

(b) Domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault shall be defined by each institution in its code of conduct in a manner consistent with applicable federal definitions.

(c) Incident shall mean an incident of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual assault, where the reporting individual and/or the accused were subject to the code of conduct at the time of the incident.

(d) Institution shall mean any college or university chartered by the Board of Regents or incorporated by special act of the Legislature and that maintains a campus in New York.

(e) Reporting individual shall encompass the terms victim, survivor, complainant, claimant, witness with victim status, and any other term used by an institution to reference an individual who brings forth a report of a violation.

(f) Respondent shall mean a person accused of a violation who has entered an institution's judicial or conduct process.

(g) Title IX coordinator shall mean the Title IX Coordinator and/or his or her designee or designees.

(h) On campus shall be defined as campus is defined in the Higher Education Act (Clery Act), 20 U.S.C. §1092(f)(6)(A)(ii).

(i) Off campus shall be defined as any location not included in the definition of on campus.

§48.2 Annual Aggregate Data Reporting.

On or before October 1, 2019, and by October 1 of each subsequent year thereafter, institutions shall report to the Department the following information concerning incidents that were reported during the prior calendar year in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner:

(a) the following numbers of incidents reported to the Title IX Coordinator (which shall be established based upon the number of reporting individuals, not by the number of the accused or respondents):

(1) the number of incidents that occurred on campus;

(2) the number of incidents that occurred off campus; and

(3) the total of incidents in (1) and (2) above.

(i) of those incidents reported in paragraph (a)(3) of this subdivision:

(a) the number of incidents that the Title IX Coordinator is aware of, that were reported to law enforcement prior to being reported to the Title IX Coordinator;

(b) the number of incidents reported to campus police/campus security/campus public safety; and

(c) the number of incidents that the Title IX Coordinator is aware of, for which the reporting individual requested referral to additional services through the institution, including counseling, mental health, medical or legal services, whether those services were provided

on-campus or through outside service providers.

(b) of those incidents reported in subdivision (a) (3) of this section,

(1) the number of incidents for which the reporting individual sought the institution's judicial or conduct process (which includes incidents for which a reporting individual made a request, in writing or orally, to engage the judicial or conduct process, whether an investigator or hearing model, and those incidents where, pursuant to section 6446(4) of the Education Law, the institution made a determination to pursue the judicial or conduct process without the consent of the reporting individual); and

(2) the number of incidents that are not included in (b)(1) of this section, including those for which there was no institutional jurisdiction over the accused or respondent, and those incidents for which the judicial or conduct process could not otherwise go forward.

(3) the number of incidents for which the reporting individual sought an order of “no contact” with the respondent(s), and the number of “no contact” orders issued.

(c) of those incidents reported in subdivision (b)(1) of this section, the number of cases processed through the institution's judicial or conduct process, (which process shall commence upon a respondent's receipt of a notice of charges pursuant to section 6444(5)(b) of the Education Law);

(d) of those cases in subdivision (c) of this section, the number of respondents who were found responsible through the institution's judicial or conduct process after all levels of appeal were exhausted, which number shall include those cases in which the respondent accepted responsibility at any point in the process;

(e) of those cases in subdivision (c) of this section, the number of respondents who were found not responsible through the institution's judicial or conduct process, or whose finding of responsibility was overturned on appeal;

(f) a description of the final sanctions imposed by the institution for each incident for which a respondent was found responsible for sexual assault, dating violence, domestic

violence or stalking, as provided in subdivision (d) of this section, through the institution's judicial or conduct process, which shall be defined as:

(1) the number of respondents found responsible who were expelled/dismissed from the institution;

(2) the number of respondents found responsible who were suspended from the institution;

(3) the number of respondents found responsible who received sanctions other than expulsion/dismissal or suspension;

(4) the number of respondents found responsible who received a notation added to their official transcript noting a violation of the institutions' code of conduct; and

(5) the number of respondents found responsible who received a notation added to their official transcript noting withdrawal from the institution with conduct charges pending.

(g) the number of cases in the institution's judicial or conduct process that were closed prior to a final determination after the respondent withdrew from the institution and declined to complete the disciplinary process; and

(h) the number of cases in the institution's judicial or conduct process that were closed because the complaint was withdrawn by the reporting individual prior to a final determination or an informal resolution was reached. Such number shall include all cases, regardless of the stage at which the reporting individual withdrew the complaint or the informal resolution was reached.

(i) Additional training information. Institutions may additionally report the number of trainings held by the institution, the number of staff trained, and the number of students trained during the reporting period.