Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

Education Provisions

Pennsylvania Human Relations Act
Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (PHRAct) prohibits discrimination against prospective and current students of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, high schools, academies, colleges and universities, extension courses and all educational institutions under the supervision of the Commonwealth. The PHRAct prohibits discrimination because of an applicant's or current student's **race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, record of a disability, or relationship or association with an individual with a disability, use of a guide or support animal, and/or handling or training of support or guide animals.**

The PHRAct does not protect prospective and current students of "distinctly private" educational institutions such as parochial schools, nor does it protect prospective and current students from age discrimination.

The Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act (PFEOAct) prohibits discrimination against prospective and current students of any postsecondary institution and any secondary or post-secondary secretarial, business, vocational or trade school subject to the visitation, examination or inspection of and/or actual or potential licensure by the Department of Education because of a prospective or current student's **race, religion, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, disability, and/or relationship or association with an individual with a handicap or disability.**

The PFEOAct permits religious or denominational institutions to use religion in their admissions, enrollment and program decisions. Educational institutions which are neither state-owned, state-related, nor state-aided may offer single-sex classes. The PFEOAct does not protect prospective or current students from age discrimination.

It is also unlawful to retaliate against any prospective or current student because he or she has filed a complaint with the Commission or to aid or abet any unlawful discriminatory practice under the PHRAct or the PFEOAct.

This notice must be posted conspicuously in easily accessible and well-lit places at the educational institution where it may be readily seen by those seeking, using or granting any of the educational institution's accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges. This notice should be exhibited prominently wherever the educational institution exhibits informational notices, *e.g.* Web sites, bulletin boards, and student handbooks and publications.

WARNING: Removing, defacing, covering up or destroying this notice is a violation of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code and may subject you to fine or imprisonment.

For further information, write, phone or visit the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission:
Executive Offices: 333 Market Street, 8th Floor · Harrisburg, PA 17101-2210
(717) 787-4410 · (717) 787-7279 (TTY) or visit us at
www.pa.gov/agencies/PHRC

Complaints must be filed within 180 days of the alleged act of discrimination.

To file a complaint contact the Regional Office nearest you:

Pittsburgh
301 5th Avenue,
Suite 390, Piatt Place
Pittsburgh, PA 1522
(412) 565-5395
(412) 565-5711(TTY)

Harrisburg
333 Market Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2210
(717) 787-9780
(717) 787-7279 (TTY)

Philadelphia
110 North 8th Street, Suite 501
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 560-2496
(215) 560-3599 (TTY)