

DATE:	July 29, 2021
SUBJECT:	Required Annual Notification of Nondiscrimination
CATEGORY:	Methods of Administration Regarding Access to CTE Programs
NEXT STEPS:	Post notice prior to the start of school

The purpose of this letter is to provide local educational agencies (LEAs), including school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, with information regarding the 2021–2022 required Annual Notification of Nondiscrimination regarding Career and Technical Education Programs and employment practices.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the United States Department of Education requires that school districts, including open-enrollment charter schools, provide career and technical education (CTE) programs, services, and activities in accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has regulatory responsibilities for CTE programs in Texas public secondary schools and is required to adopt a civil rights compliance program to identify, remedy, and/or prevent discrimination in the CTE programs operated by districts.

Requirements for compliance are found in the document, Vocational Education Programs Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination and Denial of Services on the Basis of Race, Color, National Origin, Sex and Handicap (*Guidelines*). A link to the full text can be found at the Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights webpage at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/vocre.html>.

One important requirement of the *Guidelines* is that, prior to the beginning of each school year, every district providing CTE programs must advise students, parents, employees, and the public that all career and technical education opportunities will be offered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. Local newspapers, websites, or other media that reach the public may be utilized to disseminate the required notification. Information regarding this requirement can be found in Section IV-O of the *Guidelines* under *Public Notification*.

An English and Spanish version of a sample public notification form, which includes all required elements for complying with this requirement, may be downloaded from the Methods of Administration (MOA) Guidance and Resources webpage at: <https://tea.texas.gov/student-assessment/monitoring-and-interventions/program-monitoring-and-interventions/methods-of-administration-guidance-and-resources>. Please note, the *Guidelines* state that “if the district contains a community of national minority persons with limited English language skills, public notification materials must be disseminated to that community in its language and must state that the district will take steps to assure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in vocational education programs.” Therefore, if

your district contains communities who speak languages other than English or Spanish, it also will be necessary for the district to prepare and disseminate the required notice in those languages.

TEA staff will provide support to districts and charter schools in complying with the requirement to eliminate discrimination in CTE programs. If additional information is needed, please contact the Division of Special Populations Monitoring at ReviewandSupport@tea.texas.gov or by phone at 512-463-9414. Information can also be found at: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/review-and-support>.