

Earlier today Education Sec. Betsy DeVos announced that the department will implement a process to develop a revised approach for handling complaints of sexual assault and harassment.

As the Department of Education acts to clarify Title IX guidance in cases of sexual harassment and assault on our campuses, the University of Alaska will continue its work to improve overall campus safety while ensuring a process that is fair to all involved.

As changes in guidance emerge, we will of course alter our policies and procedures to ensure compliance. But what will not change is our constant vigilance regarding sexual assault and harassment. Our efforts include: improved campus climate through training and prevention; effective and balanced measures to ensure due process and continued access to education, as well as fair, prompt, thorough and trauma-informed investigation when incidents occur; and fair and effective sanctions when warranted.

When the university signed its [voluntary resolution agreement](#) in February with the Office for Civil Rights, I promised the university would continue to work toward campus safety. I remain committed to that promise.

Jim Johnsen