

CYBERBULLYING

The Board supports use of the computers, Internet and other network resources in the district's instructional and operation programs in order to facilitate learning, teaching and daily operations through interpersonal communications and access to information, research and collaboration. The District's computer network and the Internet, whether accessed at school or away from school, during or after school hours, may not be used for the purpose of cyber bullying.

Cyber bullying by definition is the use of the Internet and related technologies, including cell phones, to harass, threaten, intimidate or harm others, in a deliberate, repeated, and hostile manner. All forms of cyber bullying are unacceptable and viewed as a violation of this policy and the District's acceptable computer use policy and procedures.

Malicious use of the District's computer system to develop programs or to institute practices that harass other users to gain unauthorized access to any entity on the system and/or damage the components of an entity on the network is prohibited.

It is the responsibility of all staff members to take reasonable measures to prevent cyber bullying and shall report any such acts. It is also the responsibility of students who observe any acts of cyber bullying to report it to school authorities. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, the loss of computer privileges, detention, suspension, or expulsion for verified perpetrators of cyber bullying. In addition, when any kind of threat is communicated or when a hate crime is committed, it shall be reported to local law officials.

The administration shall fully investigate all reports of cyber bullying.

STUDENT BULLYING

The School District is committed to maintaining a constructive, safe school climate that is conducive to student learning and fostering an environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity.

Persistent bullying can severely inhibit a student's ability to learn and may have lasting negative effects on a student's life. The bullying of students by students, staff or third parties is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated.

Bullying is a pattern of repeated conduct that causes physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students that may include threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, theft, destruction of property, any threatening use of data or computer software, written or verbal communication, or conduct directed against a student that:

1. Places a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; and either
2. Substantially interferes with a student's educational performance; or
3. Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying also includes retaliation against a student for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

This policy is in effect while students are on property within the jurisdiction of the board; while students are in school-owned or school-operated vehicles; while students are attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities; and while students are away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations, in accordance with this policy, to protect the district's students from the harmful effects of bullying. Regulations accompanying this policy shall include, but are not limited to:

1. A procedure to report incidents of bullying;
2. A process to investigate reported acts of bullying;
3. A procedure, consistent with district policy, to provide appropriate consequences for any individual found to have engaged in bullying;
4. A statement prohibiting retaliation against individuals who, in good faith, report acts of bullying; and
5. A process to inform staff, students and parents of the district's bullying prevention policies and efforts.

This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit civil exchange of opinions or debate protected under the state or federal constitutions where the opinion expressed does not otherwise materially or substantially disrupt the education process or intrude upon the rights of others.

STUDENT BULLYING (REGULATION)

A. DEFINITION

1. Bullying: For the purposes of this policy, “bullying” is a pattern of repeated conduct that causes physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students that may include threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, theft, destruction of property, any threatening use of data or computer software, written or verbal communication, or conduct directed against a student that:

- Places a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; and either
- Substantially interferes with a student's educational performance; or
- Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying also includes retaliation against a student for asserting or alleging an act bullying.

Bullying may include, but is not limited to the following behaviors and circumstances:

Verbal, nonverbal, physical or written harassment, hazing, or other victimization that has the purpose of causing injury, discomfort, fear, or suffering to the victim;

- Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature that have the purpose or effect of causing injury, discomfort, fear, or suffering to the victim;
- Implied or explicit threats concerning grades, achievements, property, etc. that have the purpose or effect of causing injury, discomfort, fear, or suffering to the victim;
- Demeaning jokes, stories, rumors or activities directed at a student that have the purpose or effect of causing injury, discomfort, fear, or suffering to the victim; or
- Unreasonable interference with a student’s performance or creation of an intimidating, offensive or hostile learning environment.

2. Electronic: For the purposes of this policy, “electronic” means any communication involving the transmission of information by wire, wireless broadband, radio, optical cable or similar means. “Electronic” includes, but is not limited to, communication via electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, cell phones, electronic text messaging or similar technologies.

3. Third Parties: For the purposes of this policy, “third parties” includes, but is not limited to, school volunteers, parents,

B. REPORTING

Any individual who believes a student has been the victim of bullying, as defined above, by students, staff or third parties shall report the alleged acts immediately. The report may be made

anonymously. A form will be available from the building principal or from the district office. At the time a report is made, district staff may request any evidence of the alleged bullying, including, but not limited to, letters, tapes, pictures or electronic communication devices.

1. **Designated Personnel.** The building principal is designated to receive written reports of bullying at each school building. Reports may also be received by an alternate, as designated by the building principal. Upon receipt of a written report, the building principal shall reasonably and promptly notify the superintendent and provide a copy of the report to the superintendent. Failure to forward any report as provided herein will result in disciplinary action. If the complaint involves the building principal, the complaint shall be filed directly with the superintendent.
2. **District wide.** The School Board hereby designates the superintendent to receive reports of bullying from the building principal as outlined above. The superintendent shall designate an individual to receive reports in such cases that a report alleges bullying performed by the superintendent. If a report is filed involving the superintendent, the designated individual shall reasonably and promptly notify the Board Chair.
3. **Confidentiality.** The District will attempt to respect the confidentiality of the report and the individual(s) against whom the report is filed, consistent with district policy, legal obligations and the necessity to investigate allegations of bullying and take disciplinary action when the conduct has occurred.
4. **Procedure.** Any individual filing a report of bullying will be asked to put the facts surrounding the conduct in writing on a form provided by the District. The form shall include, but is not limited to: individual's name and address; date of the incident; description of the incident; name of any witnesses; what action, if any, has been taken; and signature of the complainant.
5. **Required Reporting.** If any accusations include possible criminal activity, the superintendent shall comply with all mandatory state reporting requirements.

C. INVESTIGATION

Upon receipt of any report, including those made anonymously, the building principal shall be responsible for reasonably and promptly conducting an investigation to determine whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy. At the building principal's discretion, an investigation may be conducted by an alternate investigator as designated by the building principal. After completion of the investigation, the investigating party shall provide written conclusions and findings to the superintendent.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with individuals named in the report and any others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the report.

HARASSMENT/BULLYING INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Date/Time: _____

Room/Location: _____

Student(s) being bullied/harassed:

_____ Grade: _____ Class: _____

_____ Grade: _____ Class: _____

Student(s) initiating bullying/harassment:

_____ Grade: _____ Class: _____

_____ Grade: _____ Class: _____

_____ Grade: _____ Class: _____

Type of harassment/bullying alleged (check all that apply):

Racial Sexual Religious Handicap Age Other: _____

Describe the incident:

Stated or identified inappropriate behavior (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Name calling | <input type="checkbox"/> Spitting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Demeaning comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate gesturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Stealing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staring/leering | <input type="checkbox"/> Damaging property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/graffiti | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoving/pushing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Threatening | <input type="checkbox"/> Hitting/kicking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taunting/ridiculing | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashing a Weapon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate touching | <input type="checkbox"/> Intimidation/extortion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Witness(es) present:

Physical Evidence (check all that apply):

graffiti notes email websites photos video/audio recording weapons

Staff Signature: _____ Date/Time: _____

Parent(s) contacted: _____ Date/Time: _____

Response Taken:

Administrative Response Taken:
