

Bullying

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors is an important District goal.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school sponsored or school sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.

For purposes of this policy, the term bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
3. Substantially interfering with the student's academic performance.
4. Substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying, intimidation, and/or harassment may take various forms, including without limitation: threats, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. For purposes of this policy, the term bullying includes harassment, intimidation, retaliation, and school violence.

A student who is being bullied is encouraged to immediately report it orally or in writing to the District Complaint Manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the District Complaint Manager or any staff member. The District will not punish anyone because he or she made a complaint or report, supplied information, or otherwise participated in an investigation or proceeding, provided the individual did not make a knowingly false accusation or provide knowingly false information.

Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment Procedures

1. A student who is being bullied is encouraged to immediately report it orally or in writing to the Building Principal, School Psychologist, Social Worker, Classroom Teacher, District Complaint Manager, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking.
2. Anyone who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the Building Principal, School Psychologist, Social Worker, Classroom Teacher, District Complaint Manager, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking.
3. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate.
4. Parents/guardians will be contacted by phone or written correspondence if the situation warrants.
5. Disciplinary action will be taken if the situation warrants.
6. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment Can Include, But Is Not Limited, to these Behaviors:

- Emotional - being actively unfriendly, excluding, tormenting

- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any violence
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually orientated comments
- Homophobic - because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumors, teasing
- Cyber - Internet misuse through offensive website postings, e-mail, and instant messaging. Misuse of mobile phones through text messaging, camera and video facilities, etc
- Property - damage to or hiding or another's property

The Role of Parents

- It is clearly helpful where parents/guardians are able to support the values and measures represented within this policy and to discuss relationships, incidents, and concerns in the same light.
- Parents/guardians, who are concerned that their student may be being bullied, or may be a perpetrator of bullying, should contact the Building Principal immediately. We advise against contacting other parents/guardians to sort out matters.