



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying/Cyberbullying
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Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students.

Definitions

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following: [\[1\]](#)

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening school environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. **Physical** - hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing and taking of personal belongings.

2. **Verbal** - taunting, malicious teasing, name calling and making threatening statements or gestures.
3. **Psychological or Relationship** - involves spreading malicious rumors and engaging in social isolation or intimidation.
4. **Cyberbullying** includes, but is not limited to, misuses of technology which have the effect of harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening or terrorizing another student, teacher or employee carried out by means of sending or posting inappropriate email messages, instant messages, text messages, pictures, images or other text by means of computers or electronic devices. Inappropriate or derogatory use of personal profiles on websites or other website postings, etc. is also considered cyberbullying.

The terms **bullying** and **cyberbullying** shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.

School setting shall mean in a school building, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any school-sponsored, supervised or sanctioned activity. Regardless of whether the bullying occurs in the school setting or outside the school setting, such bullying is prohibited if it impacts the school environment and otherwise meets the definition set forth above.^[1]

Outside school setting means school-sponsored activities.

Authority

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.^[1]

The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.

Delegation of Responsibility

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.

Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free of bullying or cyberbullying. Employees must be observant of bullying, take immediate, appropriate action to intervene upon observing bullying and report the bullying to the school principal or designee.

Upon learning of a bullying incident, if deemed necessary, the building principal or other designee shall undertake a thorough investigation. The building principal or designee will inform parents/guardians of the victim and person accused of the complaint and investigation if deemed necessary.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.[\[1\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.[\[1\]](#)

District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:[\[1\]](#)

1. Board's Bullying Policy.
2. Report of bullying incidents.
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.

Guidelines

The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

This policy or a summary of this policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district website, if available.

Education

The district has developed and implemented bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.[\[4\]](#)[\[1\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:[\[1\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

1. Counseling within the school.
2. Parental conference.
3. Loss of school privileges.
4. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
5. Detention.
6. Suspension.
7. Expulsion.

8. Referral to student assistance program and guidance department.[6]
9. Referral to law enforcement officials.

Last Modified by Lisa M Brown on June 2, 2016