

STUDENT CONDUCT

BULLYING

Students are prohibited from bullying, harassing, threatening, or intimidating other students or school personnel. Bullying, harassment, threatening, or intimidation includes any gesture, written or verbal expression, electronic communication, or physical act that a reasonable person should know will harm another person, damage another's property, place a student in reasonable fear of harm, or insult or demean another in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the District's educational mission or the education of students. With respect to electronic communications, students are specifically prohibited from bullying, harassing, threatening, or intimidating other students or school personnel whether or not the electronic communications originated at school or with school equipment.

The following steps shall apply to the investigation of reported incidents of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or threatening behavior:

- If any person is aware of, observes, or is a victim of bullying, harassing, threatening, or intimidating behavior or communications from a student, such person must immediately report the behavior or communication to the principal of the school on the appropriate form. Reports may be made anonymously; however, no formal disciplinary action will be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report. Any written documentation of the alleged incident(s) shall be provided to the principal. If the bullying involves electronic communication as defined below, a printed copy of the communication as well as any identifying information, such as an email or web address, shall be provided to the principal.
- The principal or a designee of the principal (Administrator) will gather the information he/she deems necessary and evaluate the incident to determine whether the conduct is actually occurring, the severity of the incident and the potential for future violence.
- After completing any necessary investigation, the Administrator shall determine if the student accused of bullying, harassing, threatening, or intimidating behavior or communications engaged in prohibited conduct and, if so, shall determine the appropriate discipline.
- During the pendency of the investigation, the Administrator may take appropriate action to ensure the safety of all students or school personnel involved.
- If warranted, the Administrator shall notify law enforcement of the reported incident and cooperate with any law enforcement investigation.

- If the student's actions are determined to constitute prohibited harassing, intimidating, threatening, hazing, or bullying behavior or communications, the principal may, as a condition and part of any disciplinary action that is taken, recommend that available community mental health care options be provided to the student. And where applicable, a referral will be made to a delinquency prevention and diversion program administered by the Office of Juvenile Affairs.
- The Administrator may further require the student (if 18 or over) or the parent or guardian of the student to allow the mental health care provider to disclose any information concerning the student who has received mental health care for conduct which indicates an explicit threat to the safety of students or school personnel as a condition of being allowed to return to school.
- The Administrator may also require that the student and the student's parent or guardian meet with the principal, a school counselor, and other appropriate school personnel before being allowed to return to school.
- Site administration will conduct an annual training of preventing, identifying, responding and reporting incidents of bullying with their faculty and staff. District will also provide for an educational program as designed and developed by the State Department of Education in consultation with the Office of Juvenile Affairs for students and parents in preventing, identifying, responding to and reporting incidents of bullying.
- Timely notification shall be provided to the victim and/or parents/guardians of a victim of verified, documented bullying as well as to the perpetrator and/or parents/ guardians of the perpetrator upon the conclusion of the investigation.
- If a student is found to have falsely accused another student of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or threatening behavior as a means of retaliation, reprisal or a means of bullying then they may be assigned disciplinary consequences as deemed appropriate by the administration.
- The Superintendent will make sure that the provisions of this policy are disseminated in writing annually to staff and students. Information from this regulation shall be posted on the school district website, at other areas deemed appropriate by the administration and as required by law, and will be included in student and faculty handbooks.
- The District will report the number of documented and verified incidents of bullying to the State Department of Education.