

Bullying

BP #####

California law requires that schools provide students with a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment, free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying.

[District] will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety or well-being of students, staff, or any other persons within the district's jurisdiction whether directed at an individual or group. A student shall not intimidate, harass, or bully another student through words or actions. Such behavior includes direct physical contact, such as hitting or shoving; verbal assaults, such as teasing or name-calling; and social isolation or manipulation. This includes but is not limited to discrimination, intimidation, harassment, and bullying based on actual or perceived characteristics, including disability status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

[District] recognizes that some acts of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, and bullying may be isolated and/or unintentional incidents requiring that the school respond appropriately to the individuals committing the acts. Other acts may indicate a larger pattern of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, or bullying that require a response either at the classroom, school site, or district levels.

The principal or his/her designee shall address any alleged instances of discrimination, harassment, and bullying. The principal or his/her designee shall only contact law enforcement officers when there is a real and immediate physical threat to student, teacher, or public safety. School administrators should conduct an investigation prior to making a decision to request the involvement of law enforcement officers. The school investigation should include interviewing the student suspect and other witnesses to determine whether law enforcement involvement is appropriate, pursuant to the standards set forth in BP #####, Law Enforcement Contact.

Bullying Prevention

To the extent possible, [District] and school strategies shall focus on prevention of bullying by establishing clear rules for student conduct and strategies to establish a positive, collaborative school climate. Students shall be informed, through student handbooks and other appropriate means, of district and school rules related to bullying, mechanisms available for reporting incidents or threats, and the consequences for perpetrators of bullying.

Intervention

School staff who witness bullying shall immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so. Students are encouraged to notify school staff when they are being bullied or suspect that another student is being victimized. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall develop means for students to report threats or incidents confidentially and anonymously.

Each complaint of bullying should be promptly investigated. This policy applies to students on school grounds, while traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, during the lunch period, whether on or off campus, and during a school-sponsored activity.

To ensure bullying does not occur on school campuses, the [District] will provide staff development training in bullying prevention and cultivate acceptance and understanding in all students and staff to build each school's capacity to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment.

Teachers should discuss this Bullying Policy with their students in age-appropriate ways and should assure students that they need not endure any form of bullying. Students who bully are in violation of this policy and are subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Discipline

Any student who engages in bullying on school premises or off campus during a school-sponsored activity in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, shall be subject to discipline including referrals to counselors, in accordance with district policies and regulations.

Policy

Adopted: [REDACTED]

Revised: [REDACTED]

[DISTRICT]

[LOCATION]