

Bullying

BP #####

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

The 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 immigration status, 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.

The District recognizes that some acts of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, and bullying may be isolated and/or unintentional incidents and these incidents require 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/their designee shall address any alleged instances of discrimination, harassment, and bullying. School administrators shall conduct an investigation prior to considering 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 with Students.

Bullying Prevention

To the extent possible, the District and school strategies to prevent bullying shall focus on establishing clear rules for student conduct and a positive, collaborative school climate. Students shall be informed, through student handbooks, postings in schools and offices, 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. The District shall also provide students who are victims of bullying, harassment, or discrimination and their families with supportive resources by posting them on the District's website.

Intervention

School staff who witness bullying shall immediately intervene to stop the incident unless doing so would be unsafe. Students are encouraged to notify school staff when they are being bullied or suspect that another student is being bullied. School staff and/or students who report bullying shall be protected from retaliation. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall develop means for students and school staff 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 cultivating acceptance and understanding in all students and staff to build each school's capacity to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment.

Teachers shall discuss this Bullying Policy with their students in age-appropriate ways and 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 shall be subject to discipline including referrals to counselors, in accordance with District policies and regulations.

Policy

[DISTRICT]

Adopted: [REDACTED]

[LOCATION]

Revised: [REDACTED]