

## **HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING**

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students at school or negatively impacting the school environment is prohibited.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means any intentional gesture, any intentional electronic communication, or any intentional written, verbal or physical act that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of:

1. Harming a student physically or emotionally, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage;
2. Insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of school; or
3. Creating an intimidating, threatening, or abusive education environment for a student or group of students through sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive behavior.

"Written" acts include, but are not limited to handwritten or typed communications, e-mails, text messages, blogs, and other forms of electronic communications including photographs.

"At School" as used in this policy includes a classroom or other location on school premises, a school bus or other school-related vehicle, a school bus stop, an activity or event sponsored by a school, whether or not it is held on school premises, and any other program or function where the school is responsible for the child.

Actions "negatively impacting the school environment" as used in this policy include any acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying occurring off school grounds that compromises school safety, harms the learning environment, and/or harms the emotional or physical well-being of students at school.

Students shall conduct themselves according to the rules and policies of the school district, and shall conduct themselves in a respectful manner toward staff and other students.

Students who engage in bullying, harassment, or intimidation shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including

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suspension or expulsion.

Any student who is found to have made a deliberate or intentional false accusation, report, or complaint is subject to discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Students who witness harassment, intimidation, or bullying of another student are encouraged to report that conduct to a teacher, principal, or other school staff member as soon as possible. The principal or his/her designee shall request that the student make a written report describing the conduct they witnessed, including but not limited to the date, time, and location of the incident, and the names of the students involved, to the extent possible. If the complaining student chooses not to file a written report, the student will be asked to verbally describe the incident, including the information described above. Upon receiving the information, including the written report, if any, the building principal or his/her designee, shall immediately investigate the complaint, or designate another staff member to investigate the complaint. Student reports and information gathering by District personnel shall be kept confidential.

Students may anonymously report any harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Anyone making or receiving an anonymous report shall provide or collect as much information as possible, including but not limited to a description of the conduct, the date, time, and location of the incident and the names of the individuals involved. Disciplinary action shall not be taken against a student based solely on the basis of an anonymous report. Once a staff member receives a report of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the report shall be immediately given to the building principal or his/her designee, who shall initiate an investigation or designate another staff member to investigate the complaint.

When a student reports that he or she has been harassed, intimidated, or bullied in violation of this policy, the principal or his/her designee shall schedule meetings with the student, student's parent(s), and other appropriate staff member(s) as determined by the principal or his/her designee, to discuss steps or strategies to protect that student from additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying and from retaliation.

Retaliation or reprisal against a student or other individual

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who makes a good faith report or complaint of harassment, intimidation, or bullying is prohibited and shall not be tolerated. Anyone who engages in such retaliation or reprisal against an individual who makes a report of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

During the investigation, the principal or his/her designee shall interview witnesses, including, but not limited to the alleged victim and the student(s) alleged to have engaged in the harassment, intimidation or bullying. The person conducting the investigation shall prepare a written report of the findings and conclusions of the investigation. If the person who conducts the investigation determines that a student or students engaged in harassment, bullying, or intimidation, the building principal or his/her designee shall take appropriate disciplinary action toward the student or students.

At the start of each school year, students will be provided information regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying. This policy shall be included in the student handbook and shall also be available to the public on the school district's website in a manner to be determined by the superintendent or his/her designee.

The school district shall provide information on this policy in its professional development programs and the policy shall be provided to volunteers and other non-certified employees of the district who have significant contact with students.

W.S. 21-4-311 through 21-4-314

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