

BULLYING

The Board of Education is committed to providing an educational and working environment that promotes respect, dignity and equality and that is free from all forms of harassment, including bullying. The Board condemns all forms of harassment, including bullying.

For the purposes of this policy and its implementation, “bullying” is defined as the repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, or through attacks on the property of another that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or that takes place off of school grounds but that is designed to or has the effect of interfering with a one’s ability to be educated in a safe, non-hostile environment.”

"Bullying may include, but not limited to actions such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, including ethnically-, racially-, or religion-based; and gender-or sexual orientation-based verbal put downs, extortion of money or possessions, and exclusion from peer groups within school. Such conduct is disruptive of the educational process and, therefore, is not acceptable behavior in this district, and is prohibited".

In order for the Board to effectively enforce this policy and to take prompt corrective measures, it is essential that all victims of bullying and persons with knowledge of bullying report the harassment immediately to the Building Principal or Title IX Officer. Employees must report any incidents they observe, and intervene to stop such activities. The district will promptly investigate all complaints of bullying, formal or informal, verbal or written. To the extent possible, all complaints will be treated in a confidential manner. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

If, after appropriate investigation, the district finds that a student, an employee or a third party has violated this policy, prompt corrective action will be taken in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement, district policy and state law. Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a student found to have engaged in bullying range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension as permitted under the Code of Conduct. If the alleged behavior constitutes or may constitute a crime, the police authorities or any other appropriate agency shall be immediately notified.

The Board prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed towards any person who reports an act of bullying as well as against anyone who participates in the investigation of a complaint of bullying.

This policy shall be published in student, parent, and employee handbooks, the district Code of Conduct and other appropriate school publications as directed by the Superintendent of Schools.

Cross-ref: 5300 – Code of Conduct
5300.1 – Athletic Code of Conduct C-RCS

Ref: Penal Law, §§120.15, 120.05, 120.06, 120.65

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