

## Anti-Bullying Policy 2023 - 2024

### (All Grade Levels)

ASP2 Bullying Policy Adopted and Reviewed April 27, 2023

Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of the non-sectarian nonpublic school and is consistent with subsection (a-5) of this Section [free exercise of religion].

Nothing in this Section is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or under Section 3 of Article 1 of the Illinois Constitution.

Procedures for promptly reporting bullying, including, but not limited to, identifying and providing the school e-mail address (if applicable) and school telephone number for the staff person or persons responsible for receiving such reports and a procedure for anonymous reporting; however, this shall not be construed to permit formal disciplinary action solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

a. Bullying" includes "cyber-bullying" and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property
- Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health
- Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance
- Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

b. Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic methods, or physical conduct against another student on academy property, at an academy-sponsored or -related activity, or in a district operated vehicle.

c. Results in harm to the student or the student's property.

2)

a) Places a student in fear of physical harm or damage to the student's property

b) Is so severe that it creates an intimidating educational environment.

c) This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator(s) and the student victim and if it interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of the academy. Bullying is prohibited at ASP2 STEAM

Academy and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyberbullying."

- d) If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, staff member, director, or another employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The Director will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct. If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the Director will take appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. The district will also contact the parents of the victim and of the student who was found to have engaged in the bullying. Available counseling options will be provided to these individuals, as well as to any students who have been identified as witnesses to the bullying. Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited. Upon the recommendation of the Director, the board may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to expel a student for such behavior.

3)

- a. Bullying, may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. Including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photoelectronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications.
- b. "Cyberbullying" includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying in this Section.
- c. "Cyberbullying" also includes the SAFE AND HEALTHY CLIMATE – SCHOOL WELLNESS, distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying.
- d. Prohibition on Cyberbullying at ASP2 STEAM Academy is prohibited through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by a school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school. This item applies only in cases in which a school administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this means has occurred and does not require a district or school to staff or monitor any nonschool-related activity, function, or program.
- e. The Process to Determine if an Incident is Within the Scope of the Policy. Also requires that a district's bullying policy or implementing procedure shall include a process to investigate whether a reported act of bullying is within the permissible scope of the district's or school's

jurisdiction. Also, shall require that the district or school provide the victim with information regarding services that are available within the district and community.

4)

- a. If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, staff member, director, or another employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. This may be done via email at [education@asp2steamacademy.org](mailto:education@asp2steamacademy.org) or by contacting the school at (618) 416- 8181. The Director, Tanya Ferguson, will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct. If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the Director will take appropriate disciplinary action: (A) ASP2 will make reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report of the incident of bullying was received and taking into consideration additional relevant information received during the investigation about the reported incident of bullying.
- b. ASP2 will involve appropriate school support personnel and other staff persons with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate, in the investigation process.
- c. ASP2 will be consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, providing parents and guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation information about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the principal or school administrator or his or her designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.
- d. The Director will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct. If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the Director will take appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. The district will also contact the parents of the victim and of the student who was found to have engaged in the bullying.
- e. Available counseling options will be provided to these individuals, as well as to any students who have been identified as witnesses to the bullying. Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited. Upon the recommendation of the Director, the board may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to expel a student for such behavior. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying.

5)

- a. ASP2 prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying and the consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation.
- b. Anyone found to have falsely accused another of bullying will be punished in accordance with our Redirection Policy. Students involved in false accusations will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion based on the seriousness of the offense as determined by the Director.
- c. ASP2 Bullying Policy is consistent with other policies of non-public schools. ASP2 Interventions that will be implemented to prevent bullying are described below: 1) Provide

addition staff training in the areas of bullying prevention and increasing adult supervision during times were bullying may take place.

- d. Involve parents in anti-bullying efforts. These will include raising awareness of bullying by communicating with them on what bullying is and how to set class behavior expectations. 3) Establish classroom rules against bullying, set classroom behavior expectations, and have consequences for violations of rules.
- e. Meet with involved students immediately following bullying incidents or accusations to communicate that bullying is not acceptable and to provide victims with psychological support. ASP2 will include students and parents or guardians in raising awareness of bullying by inviting them to a school anti-bullying conference day or by distributing newsletters, memos, and website post to communicate with them. This communication will include bullying prevention, school policies, and activities to support anti-bullying concepts and skills taught to our students. During these conferences ASP2 will be recommended forming an anti-bullying committee to facilitate and coordinate bullying prevention/intervention efforts.

ASP2 Bullying Policy is available on the Internet website of the school. All information is also provided to school administrators, school board members, school personnel, parents, guardians, and students. The ASP2 Bullying Policy is evaluated and updated annually to evaluate its effectiveness. In addition, any requirements, or recommendations per ISBE will be included during this evaluation process.

ASP2 STEAM Academy Inc for Complaints: Tanya Ferguson, Director of School Affairs (618) 416-8181  
email: [education@asp2steamacademy.org](mailto:education@asp2steamacademy.org)