

TAMAROA GRADE SCHOOL

Ant-Bias Education Policy

Acts of discrimination, bullying, harassment, violence, vandalism, or any form of intimidation have no place in an academic environment, no matter their source, target, or reason. We as a school district have developed proactive strategies aimed at preventing forms of discrimination and bigotry before they occur. No matter the situation or climate, it is unacceptable to delay action until after intolerable behavior takes place in our place of learning. Preventative measures include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Commit to consistent review and dissemination of bullying, harassment, and other anti-discriminatory policies to all students, educators, staff, and other stakeholders.
- Initiate training for educators, staff, and administrators to recognize and act on the signs of students being a victim of discrimination, including anxiety, trauma, and sudden changes in academic performance.
- Ensure that there are clear lines of communication so that discriminatory acts can be reported and that individual or group support services are available.
- Be aware of behavior that may occur at extracurricular events, on social media, and at other outside locations by communicating with students that discrimination and harassment is unacceptable at any level.
- Develop, either internally or with the assistance of outside entities, programs aimed at promoting cultural understanding, preventing bullying or harassment, and fostering positive learning environments.

March 2017

6:70

Instruction

Teaching About Religions

The School District's curriculum may include the study of religions as they relate to geography, history, culture, and the development of various ethnic groups. The study of religions shall give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any single religion, religious belief, or to religion in general. The study of religions shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or practice of religion.

Teaching about Controversial Issues

The Superintendent shall ensure that all school-sponsored presentations and discussions of controversial or sensitive topics in the instructional program, including those made by guest speakers, are:

- Age-appropriate. Proper decorum, considering the students' ages, should be followed.
- Consistent with the curriculum and serve an educational purpose. 2
- Informative and present a balanced view.
- Respectful of the rights and opinions of everyone. Emotional criticisms and hurtful sarcasm should be avoided.

- Not tolerant of profanity or slander.

The District specifically reserves its right to stop any school-sponsored activity that it determines violates this policy, is harmful to the District or the students, or violates State or federal law.

Students

Equal Educational Opportunities

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to color, race, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity, status of being homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy. Further, the District will not knowingly enter into agreements with any entity or any individual that discriminates against students on the basis of sex or any other protected status, except that the District remains viewpoint neutral when granting access to school facilities under School Board policy 8:20, *Community Use of School Facilities*. Any student may file a discrimination grievance by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Sex Equity

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any student may file a sex equity complaint by using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A student may appeal the Board's resolution of the complaint to the Regional Superintendent (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/3-10) and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/2-3.8).

Administrative Implementation

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator. The Superintendent and Building Principal shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy and grievance procedure.

Students: Harassment of Students Prohibited

Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment Prohibited

No person, including a District employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate, or bully a student on the basis of actual or perceived: race; color; national origin; military status; unfavorable discharge status from military service; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; religion; physical or mental disability; order of protection status; status of being homeless; actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy; association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; or any other distinguishing characteristic. The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, sexual, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive

educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited

Sexual harassment of students is prohibited.

Any person, including a district employee or agent, or student, engages in sexual harassment whenever he or she makes sexual advances, requests sexual favors, and/or engages in other verbal or physical conduct, including sexual violence, of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that:

1. Denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or that makes such conduct a condition of a student's academic status; or
2. Has the purpose or effect of:
 - a. Substantially interfering with a student's educational environment;
 - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
 - c. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or
 - d. Making submission to or rejection of such conduct the basis for academic decisions affecting a student.

The terms intimidating, hostile, and offensive include conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities. The term sexual violence includes a number of different acts. Examples of sexual violence include, but are not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

Making a Complaint; Enforcement

Students are encouraged to report claims or incidences of bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. A student may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

An allegation that a student was a victim of any prohibited conduct perpetrated by another student shall be referred to the Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, or Dean of Students for appropriate action.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers.

At least one of these individuals will be female, and at least one will be male.

The Superintendent shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students of this policy, such as, by including it in the appropriate handbooks.

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with the behavior policy. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

Students

Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important District goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the School District or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school. This paragraph (item #4) applies only when a school administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this means has occurred; it does not require staff members to monitor any nonschool-related activity, function, or program.

Definitions from Section 27-23.7 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-23.7)

Bullying includes cyberbullying 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:

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

October 2017

7:180

Page 2 of 5

Cyberbullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, 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, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. 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. Cyberbullying also includes the 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.

Restorative measures means a continuum of school-based alternatives to exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions and expulsions, that: (i) are adapted to the particular needs of the school and community, (ii) contribute to maintaining school safety, (iii) protect the integrity of a positive and productive learning climate, (iv) teach students the personal and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful in school and society, (v) serve to build and restore relationships among students, families, schools, and communities, and (vi) reduce the likelihood of future disruption by balancing accountability with an understanding of students’ behavioral health needs in order to keep students in school.

School personnel means persons employed by, on contract with, or who volunteer in a school district, including without limitation school and school district administrators, teachers, school guidance counselors, school social workers, school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, school resource officers, and security guards.

Bullying Prevention and Response Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a bullying prevention and response plan that advances the District’s goal of providing all students with a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassment. This plan must be consistent with the requirements listed below;

each numbered requirement, 1-12, corresponds with the same number in the list of required policy components in 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(b) 1-12. 4

1.The District uses the definition of bullying as provided in this policy.

2.Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of this District. However, nothing in the District’s bullying prevention and response plan 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 U.S. Constitution or under Section 3 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.

October 2017

7:180

Page 3 of 5

3.Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the District named officials or any staff member. The District named officials and all staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anonymous reports are also accepted.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

Complaint Managers:

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

4. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the Superintendent or designee shall promptly inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) of every student involved in an alleged incident of bullying and discuss, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures.

October 2017

7:180

Page 4 of 5

5. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly investigate and address reports of bullying, by, among other things: a. Making all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report of a bullying incident was received and taking into consideration additional relevant information received during the course of the investigation about the reported bullying incident.

b. Involving appropriate school support personnel and other staff persons with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate, in the investigation process.

c. Notifying the Building Principal or school administrator or designee of the reported incident of bullying as soon as possible after the report is received.

d. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, providing parents/guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation information about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the Building 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall investigate whether a reported incident of bullying is within the permissible scope of the District's jurisdiction and shall require that the District provide the victim with information regarding services that are available within the District and community, such as counseling, support services, and other programs. 10

6. The Superintendent or designee shall use interventions to address bullying, that may include, but are not limited to, school social work services, restorative measures, social-emotional skill building, counseling, school psychological services, and community-based services.

7. A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

8. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the District's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

9. The District's bullying prevention and response plan must be based on the engagement of a range of school stakeholders, including students and parents/guardians.

10. The Superintendent or designee shall post this policy on the District's website, if any, and include it in the student handbook, and, where applicable, post it where other policies, rules, and standards of conduct are currently posted. The policy must be distributed annually to

parents/guardians, students, and school personnel (including new employees when hired), and must also be provided periodically throughout the school year to students and faculty.

11. The Superintendent or designee shall assist the Board with its evaluation and assessment of this policy's outcomes and effectiveness. This process shall include, without limitation:

- a. The frequency of victimization;
- b. Student, staff, and family observations of safety at a school;
- c. Identification of areas of a school where bullying occurs;
- d. The types of bullying utilized; and
- e. Bystander intervention or participation.

The evaluation process may use relevant data and information that the District already collects for other purposes. The Superintendent or designee must post the information developed as a result of the policy evaluation on the District's website, or if a website is not available, the information must be provided to school administrators, Board members, school personnel, parents/guardians, and students.

12. The Superintendent or designee shall fully implement the Board policies, including without limitation, the following:

a.2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure. A student may use this policy to complain about bullying.

b.6:60, Curriculum Content. Bullying prevention and character instruction is provided in all grades in accordance with State law.

c.6:65, Student Social and Emotional Development. Student social and emotional development is incorporated into the District's educational program as required by State law.

d.6:235, Access to Electronic Networks. This policy states that the use of the District's electronic networks is limited to: (1) support of education and/or research, or (2) a legitimate business use.

e.7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited. This policy prohibits any person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on an identified actual or perceived characteristic (the list of characteristics in 7:20 is the same as the list in this policy).

f.7:185, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited. This policy prohibits teen dating violence on school property, at school sponsored activities, and in vehicles used for school-provided transportation.

g.7:190, Student Behavior. This policy prohibits, and provides consequences for, hazing, bullying, or other aggressive behaviors, or urging other students to engage in such conduct.

h.7:310, Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools. This policy prohibits students from and provides consequences for: (1) accessing and/or distributing at school any written, printed, or electronic material, including material from the Internet, that will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, and (2) creating and/or distributing written, printed, or electronic material, including photographic material and blogs, that causes substantial disruption to school operations or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

The strategic components for integrating an anti-bullying program into the District's existing policies and procedures are listed below. Each component lists specific implementation steps along with resources and accompanying exhibits. The Superintendent or designee, at the District-level, or the Building Principal or designee, at the Building-level, is responsible for the integration of these components. Use the local conditions of the community and other available resources to determine the best implementation methods. At times, support from the School Violence Prevention Team (see [4:170-AP7](#), *Targeted School Violence Prevention Program*) may be appropriate as bullying and threats of school violence often arise from the same behavior pattern(s), i.e., interpersonal aggression.

Preventing Bullying

1. Review [7:180-AP1, E1](#), *Resource Guide for Bullying Prevention*.
2. Assess the District's Conditions for Development and Learning. Below are resources that discuss and provide information about how to implement school climate measurement instruments:

School Bullying Prevention Task Force Report, *Selection of School Climate Measures*, p. 19 at:

www.isbe.net/Documents/sbptf_report_030111.pdf.

Safe Supportive Learning's School Climate Measurement compendium at:

safesupportiveschools.ed.gov/index.php?id=133.

Identifying Bullying

1. Post [7:180-AP1, E2](#), *Be a Hero by Reporting Bullying*, in school buildings, student handbooks, online, etc.
2. Train staff to recognize and accept reports of bullying, [7:180-AP1, E3](#), *Memo to Staff Regarding Bullying*.
3. Inform parents about the District's anti-bullying program, [7:180-AP1, E4](#), *Memo to Parents/Guardians Regarding Bullying*.
4. Inform students how to make a report, including an anonymous report, i.e., complete and submit [7:180-AP1, E5](#), *Report Form for Bullying*.

Investigating Reports of Bullying

1. Conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation upon receiving a report.
2. Review the report, i.e., [7:180-AP1, E5](#), *Report Form for Bullying*.
3. Interview the listed aggressor(s), target(s) and witnesses using [7:180-AP1, E6](#), *Interview Form for Bullying Investigation*.

Responding to Bullying2

1. Complete [7:180-AP1, E7](#), *Response to Bullying*.
2. Notify the District's Non-Discrimination Coordinator if the findings indicate that the behavior was based upon the protected statuses listed in [7:20](#), *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.
3. Communicate and partner with the parents/guardians of the students involved. Ask parents/guardians, "How can we help you and your child?"
4. Stop the behavior(s).
5. Eliminate any hostile environment(s) and its effects (see **Preventing Bullying #2**, above). 3
6. Prevent the bullying from happening again.
7. Implement appropriate interventions for the target, aggressor, and District.
8. Address any findings of repeated inaccurate accusations against an alleged-aggressor that are beginning to impede his or her education, e.g., reverse bullying.
9. Follow-up with target, aggressor and their parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure subsequent bullying has not occurred and no new concerns have arisen

The strategic components for integrating an anti-bullying program into the District's existing policies and procedures are listed below. Each component lists specific implementation steps along with resources and accompanying exhibits. The Superintendent or designee, at the District-level, or the Building Principal or

designee, at the Building-level, is responsible for the integration of these components. Use the local conditions of the community and other available resources to determine the best implementation methods. At times, support from the School Violence Prevention Team (see [4:170-AP7](#), *Targeted School Violence Prevention Program*) may be appropriate as bullying and threats of school violence often arise from the same behavior pattern(s), i.e., interpersonal aggression.

Preventing Bullying

1. Review [7:180-AP1, E1](#), *Resource Guide for Bullying Prevention*.
2. Assess the District's Conditions for Development and Learning. Below are resources that discuss and provide information about how to implement school climate measurement instruments:

School Bullying Prevention Task Force Report, *Selection of School Climate Measures*, p. 19 at:

www.isbe.net/Documents/sbptf_report_030111.pdf.

Safe Supportive Learning's School Climate Measurement compendium at:

safesupportiveschools.ed.gov/index.php?id=133.

Identifying Bullying

1. Post [7:180-AP1, E2](#), *Be a Hero by Reporting Bullying*, in school buildings, student handbooks, online, etc.
2. Train staff to recognize and accept reports of bullying, [7:180-AP1, E3](#), *Memo to Staff Regarding Bullying*.
3. Inform parents about the District's anti-bullying program, [7:180-AP1, E4](#), *Memo to Parents/Guardians Regarding Bullying*.
4. Inform students how to make a report, including an anonymous report, i.e., complete and submit [7:180-AP1, E5](#), *Report Form for Bullying*.

Investigating Reports of Bullying

1. Conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation upon receiving a report.
2. Review the report, i.e., [7:180-AP1, E5](#), *Report Form for Bullying*.
3. Interview the listed aggressor(s), target(s) and witnesses using [7:180-AP1, E6](#), *Interview Form for Bullying Investigation*.

Responding to Bullying

1. Complete [7:180-AP1, E7](#), *Response to Bullying*.
2. Notify the District's Non-Discrimination Coordinator if the findings indicate that the behavior was based upon the protected statuses listed in [7:20](#), *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.
3. Communicate and partner with the parents/guardians of the students involved. Ask parents/guardians, "How can we help you and your child?"
4. Stop the behavior(s).
5. Eliminate any hostile environment(s) and its effects (see **Preventing Bullying** #2, above).
6. Prevent the bullying from happening again.
7. Implement appropriate interventions for the target, aggressor, and District.
8. Address any findings of repeated inaccurate accusations against an alleged-aggressor that are beginning to impede his or her education, e.g., reverse bullying.
9. Follow-up with target, aggressor and their parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure subsequent bullying has not occurred and no new concerns have arisen

Who reports?

YOU, if you have information about bullying, harassment, and/or a threat of one of these actions. It doesn't matter whether you are the target of bullying or think someone is being bullied, please report it!

What do I report?

Any activity that targets someone to be hurt. Bullying, harassment, and threats take many forms. One thing they have in common – someone is targeted to be hurt. Examples of these hurtful behaviors include unwanted teasing, intimidation, physical violence, humiliation, spreading false rumors, social exclusion, or theft or destruction of property.

Bullying, harassment, and threats may occur almost anywhere students go – in school buildings, on school grounds or busses, at bus stops, for example. Bullying or harassing may also occur using social networking sites or cell phones.

When should I report?

As soon as possible!

Where or how do I report?

Tell any school staff member. You may do this in person, by phone, or by email. You may be asked to complete 7:180-AP1, E5, Report Form for Bullying.

You may make an anonymous tip.

Why should I report?

Fear and abuse have no place in our school. Be a hero and report bullying. If you are being bullied, a report will help you and other students who may also be targeted for bullying.

What will happen after I report?

An Administrator will:

1. Acknowledge and review your report.
2. Treat your report with privacy and respect its sensitive nature.
3. Investigate your report. The school will not bring students who bully and those they bully into the same room to confront each other. All interviews will be private.
4. Take appropriate action that may include increased monitoring and supervision, restructuring schedules, additional resources, and disciplinary action for conduct code violations, among others.
5. Provide you with feedback, if appropriate.

(On District Letterhead)

Date

Re: Bullying

All staff members:

Please join me in stopping and preventing student bullying in our school. The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to our three-pronged approach that will help accomplish this goal.

First - If a student reports bullying to you, respond immediately and with compassion. Ask for the basic facts (who-what-when-where). Refer the report to my office. Give the student our form for reporting bullying, [7:180-AP1, E5](#), *Report Form for Bullying*.

Second - Provide me your feedback and concerns. Do you know of any bullying *hot spots* that need additional supervision or monitoring? Are there known bullies or targets of bullying?

Third - Intervene immediately to stop a bullying incident. When teachers or adults ignore bullying, students interpret it as acceptable behavior. Immediately contact administration and building security or law enforcement if the incident involves a weapon or other illegal activity.

Bullying is defined in School Board policy [7:180](#), *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, as follows:

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

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

Bullying, intimidation, and/or harassment may take various forms, including without limitation: threats, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

The Board's entire policy may be found on the District's website. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Phillip Hamil, Superintendent

On District Letterhead

Date

Re: Bullying

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At our school, bullying of any kind, by any person, is unacceptable. All students should be free from worries about being bullied. Students who bully others must be taught other, appropriate ways of interacting with peers. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information concerning the School District's anti-bullying program and to encourage you to help us identify students who are being bullied. The School Board policy on bullying begins with this goals statement:

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors is an important District goal.

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

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

Bullying, intimidation, and/or harassment may take various forms, including without limitation: threats, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

I asked our school staff members to respond immediately and with compassion to a student who reports bullying or school violence. After evaluating the situation to determine if an immediate referral to my office is needed, a staff member will give the student our form for reporting bullying, [7:180-AP1, E5, Report Form for Bullying](#). I will inform you whenever your child is involved in a bullying report.

I also asked our staff members for their feedback and concerns specifically regarding locations that may be bullying *hot spots* needing additional supervision or monitoring or if there are any known bullies or targets of bullying in our building. I want to ask you to do the same thing. Please inform me if you know of any bullying *hot spots* in or around our school, or if you are aware of a known bully or target of bullying.

Finally, I requested our staff members to intervene immediately to stop a bullying incident. They will immediately contact building security and or law enforcement if the incident involves a weapon or other illegal activity.

Below are some of the signs that a young person is being bullied:

- Does not want to go to school and refuses to explain the reason
- Talks about not having any friends
- Has unexplained bruises, cuts, scratches, or abrasions
- Has unexplained damage to clothing, possessions, books, etc.
- Frequently loses money or possessions
- Loses interest in school and/or has declining grades
- Becomes withdrawn and/or has stress or depression symptoms

These signs do not necessarily mean your child is being bullied, but if present, ask your child whether he or she is being bullied.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Phillip R. Hamil, Superintendent

Form to Report Bullying

Student Staff Other

Name:

Student Staff Other

Person(s) who witnessed the bullying:

Name:

Student Staff Other

Name:

Student Staff Other

Name:

Student Staff Other

Was the incident based on any of these characteristics? (Circle all that apply.)

Race

Color

Nationality

Sex

Sexual orientation

Gender identity

Pregnancy

Gender-related expression

Ancestry

Age

Religion

Physical disability

Mental disability

Order of protection status

Homeless status

Marital status

Parental status

Associated with person/group with one or more of the above actual or perceived characteristics

Other

I do not know.

Student(s) were targeted for bullying in the following way(s): (Circle all that apply.)

Electronic devices (e.g., internet, social media platforms, text, email, cyberbullying, etc.)

Written communication (e.g., handwritten notes, other written documents, email, etc.)

Physical act or conduct (e.g., pushing, hitting, destruction of property, stalking, etc.)

Verbal act or conduct (e.g., rumors, lies, name-calling, using derogatory slurs, etc.)

Social (e.g., purposeful exclusion, causing psychological harm, etc.)

Items depicting implied hatred or prejudice were worn, possessed or displayed

Other (please explain):

Student(s) were targeted for bullying in the following place(s): (Circle all that apply.)

Classroom

Locker room

Hallway

Extracurricular activity

Cafeteria

Bus

Restroom

Bus stop

Gym

School or related activity or event

Other

Please tell us about the incident in your own words. Use as much detail as possible - what time did the incident(s) take place, who witnessed it, what was said, what types of interactions occurred (physical, written, social, electronic, etc.)

The above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge

Signature:

Date:

June 2018

7:180-AP1,E6

Interview Form for Bullying:

To be completed by the Building Principal or designee to obtain information about a bullying report. Use this form as a coversheet for each person interviewed during the investigation.

Name of person interviewed: _____

Name of interviewer: _____

Instructions for Interviewer

1. Protect the identity of the student who reports. Begin a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation by interviewing witnesses separately in a private location with a school colleague present (not the school resource officer). Use the **Questions** section below to guide your notes while you interview the person listed above. Attach to [7:180-AP1, E7, Response to Bullying](#).
2. Make your notes on a separate document and attach them to this form.

3. Review and preserve any videos, photos, screenshots or other physical evidence and label it.
4. File this form, notes, and any other evidence provided in a designated investigation and response folder.
5. Use this form to complete [7:180-AP1, E7](#), *Response to Bullying*.
6. Create a *Basic Facts* section, i.e., who, what, where, when, why and how.
7. Record the actions and behavior that were experienced or observed (follow-up with leading questions to complete the description of what happened and its consequences, if necessary).
8. Include open-ended questions. For example, ask “How are you feeling?” “How has what happened affected you?”

Questions

1. Has this happened before?
2. Do you fear for your safety? How? Where (at school, home, or both places)?
3. Do you fear that harm would come to any of your personal property? How?
4. Age appropriately ask whether the target’s health (physical, emotional, and/or mental) has been affected. How (seen by a doctor, missing school)?
5. Has your academic performance been affected? How (increase in tardiness/absences, grades going down, missed assignments)?
6. Have you quit or modified attendance in any extracurricular activities?
7. Have you changed any of your usual routines at school (using different hallway, skipping lunch in lunchroom or using different lunch period, taking different route to school, etc.)?
8. Why do you think this behavior is happening?
9. What will help make you feel safe?

June 2018

7:180-AP1,E7

To be completed by the Building Principal and attached as a coversheet for the school office’s designated bullying report investigation and response folder. Place a copy of the completed coversheet only (not attachments) in each listed student’s temporary school student record. Redact all student names other than the student’s name for which the record pertains.

Investigator: _____ Title: _____

Investigation

File an interview form for each party interviewed in the designated investigation and response folder.

- Check here to indicate that all interview forms have been properly completed and filed.

Target: _____ Date: _____

Aggressor: _____ Date: _____

Witnesses: _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Date: _____

Are there any prior documented incidents by the aggressor identified above? Yes No
(Attach information)

If yes, have incidents involved target or target group previously? Yes No

Findings

Bullying Other: _____

Aggressor motivated by protected characteristics listed in policy [7:20](#), *Harassment of Students Prohibited*.

Bullying Investigation Response

Response and Plan for Target (Check all that apply and include descriptions.)

Contact
parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Circle contact method: Phone Email Letter In-person Other: _____

Safety
plan: _____

Increase staff
supervision: _____

Education: _____

Minimize contact with
aggressor: _____

District resources: (Student Services/IDEA/504) _____

Other: _____

Target follow-up scheduled date: _____ Date and initial completed: _____

Parent/guardian follow-up date: _____ Date and initial completed: _____

Circle contact method: Phone Email Letter In-person Other: _____

Provide parent/guardian with copies of Board policy [2:260](#) and [7:180](#). Date: _____

Response and Plan for Aggressor (Check all that apply and include descriptions.)

Contact parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Circle contact method: Phone Email Letter In-person Other: _____

[7:190-E1](#), *Aggressive Behavior Reporting Letter and Form* sent Date: _____

Provide parent/guardian with copies of Board policy [2:260](#) and [7:180](#) Date: _____

Restorative Responses

Safety plan: _____

Increase staff supervision: _____

Education: _____

Non-District affiliated psychological services: _____

Alternative school assignment: _____

Minimize contact with target: _____

District resources: (Student Services/IDEA/504) _____

Other: _____

Punitive Responses

Loss of privileges: _____

Detention: _____

Suspension: _____

Expulsion: _____

Community agency service: _____

Reciprocal Reporting Act utilized: Yes No _____

Report to School Resource Officer/Law Enforcement: _____

Other: _____

Aggressor follow-up date: _____ Date and initial completed: _____

Circle contact method: Phone Email Letter In-person Other: _____

Parent/guardian follow-up date: _____ Date and initial completed: _____

Circle contact method: Phone Email Letter In-person Other: _____

Contact District complaint manager: _____ Date: _____

Target response implementation: _____

Aggressor response implementation: _____

Systemic culture/climate intervention: _____

Referral to address needs for ideal conditions for developmental learning: _____

Other: _____

Submit reports to: Building Principal (if not the investigator) Date: _____

Superintendent Date: _____

Signature of investigator: _____ Date: _____

—

