

BULLYING POLICY

The Tamaroa Grade School District #5 recognizes that bullying and intimidation have a negative effect on school climate. Students who are intimidated and fearful cannot give their education the single-minded attention they need for success. Bullying can also lead to more serious violence. Every student has the right to an education and to be safe in and around the school.

1. Definition of bullying. Bullying is a pattern of abuse over time and involves a student being “picked on.” Bullying includes physical intimidation or assault; extortion; oral or written threats; teasing; putdowns; name-calling; threatening looks, gestures, or actions; cruel rumors; false accusations; and social isolation.

2. Bullying is prohibited. The Tamaroa Grade School District #5 and staff shall not tolerate any bullying on district grounds or at any school activity on or off-campus.

3. Staff intervention. The district expects staff members who observe or become aware of an act of bullying to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene – unless intervention would be a threat to staff members’ safety. If a staff member believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying persists, he/she shall report the bullying to the school principal for further investigation.

4. Students and parents shall report bullying. The district expects students and parents who become aware of an act of bullying to report it to the school principal for further investigation. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting bullying may be subject to the consequences listed below in paragraph 6.

5. Investigation procedure. If the incident is sent to the principal, she or a designee shall contact the families of both the aggressor and the victim, interview both students, and thoroughly investigate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents, and school staff; review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues.

6. Consequences/intervention. Consequences for students who bully others shall depend on the results of the investigation and may include counseling; a parent conference; alternative classroom placement; suspension and/or expulsion. Depending on the severity of the incident, the principal may also take appropriate steps to ensure student safety. These may include implementing a safety plan; separating and supervising the students involved; providing staff support for students as necessary; reporting incidents to law enforcement if appropriate; and developing a supervision plan with the parents.

BULLYING REPORTING PROCESS AND CONSEQUENCES

Students and families shall report bullying. The district expects students and families who become aware of an act of bullying to report it to the school principal for further investigation. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting bullying may be subject to the consequences listed below. If the incident is sent to the principal, he or a designee shall contact the parents/guardians of both the aggressor and the victim, interview both students, and thoroughly investigate. This investigation may include interviews with students, families, and school staff; review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues. For more detailed reporting, ask for Board Policy 7:180.