

5.47—BULLYING

Bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, robs a person of his/her dignity, detracts from the safe environment necessary to promote student learning, and will not be tolerated by the Board of Directors.

Definition:

“Bullying” means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that may address an *attribute of the other student, public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public school employee is associated that causes or creates actual or reasonably foreseeable;

- Physical harm to a school employee or student or damage to the school employee’s or student’s property.
- Substantial interference with a student’s education or with a school employee’s role in education.
- A hostile educational environment for one (1) or more students or school employees due to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the act.
- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment.

Students who bully another person shall be held accountable for their actions. Bullying is prohibited:

- on the school grounds,
- with school equipment,
- off school grounds at a school sponsored or approved function, activity, or event;
- going to or from school or a school activity;
- while being transported in school vehicles , on a school bus, or at a school bus stop,
- by an electronic act which results in the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment. This section shall apply to an electronic act whether or not the electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic act is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school, and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

Students are encouraged to report behavior they consider to be bullying to their teacher, building principal or designee, including a single action that if allowed to continue would constitute bullying. The report may be made anonymously. Teachers and other school employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed that, a student has been a victim of behavior they consider to be bullying shall report the incident(s) to the principal or designee, including a single action that if allowed to continue would constitute bullying.

Any person or persons who file a complaint will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

Parents or legal guardians may submit written reports of incidents they feel constitute bullying to the principal or designee, or if allowed to continue would constitute bullying. The principal or designee shall be responsible for investigating the incident(s) to determine if disciplinary action is warranted.

Bullying is a category III (Student Discipline Policy) infraction. Consequences include but are not limited to a) school requested parent/guardian conference, and b) 0-10 days suspension; and c) referral to pre-expulsion hearing committee with the possibility of expulsion for up to one calendar year.

Copies of this policy shall be available upon request.

*Attribute means an actual or perceived personal characteristic including without limitation race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, socioeconomic status, academic status, disability, gender, gender identity, physical appearance, health condition, or sexual orientation.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-514

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