

FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BULLYING / CYBERBULLYING

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6455.1 The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students.

6455.2 Definitions

6455.2a Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

6455.2b Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyber-bullying via any form of electronic communication including, but not limited to phone, internet, email, text-messaging, chat rooms, and/or instant messaging.

6455.2c School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.

6455.2d Bullying directed at a student who is a member of a protected class such as race, religion, sex, ethnicity or disability status, may constitute illegal discrimination under federal law. (OCR) Office of Civil Rights "Dear Colleague" letter on Harassment and Bullying (October 26, 2010).

6455.3 Complaints

The Board encourages students who have been bullied or who are aware of bullying to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.

6455.4 Responsibility

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.

6455.5 The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

6455.6 The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.

6455.7 Reporting

District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:

1. Board's Bullying Policy.
2. Report of bullying incidents.
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.

6455.8 Distribution

The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students. The school district shall make this policy available on its internet website and in every classroom.

6455.9 Education

The district may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.

6455.10 Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:

- a. Counseling within the school.
- b. Parental conference.
- c. Loss of school privileges.

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- d. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
- e. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
- f. Detention.
- g. Suspension.
- h. Expulsion.
- i. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
- j. Referral to law enforcement officials

Violations may be considered as Level I, II, III, IV disciplinary infractions depending upon the character, severity, and frequency of the actions.

- 6455.11 The Memorandum of Understanding between the School District and Police Department shall foster a close relationship promoting communication, reporting, and resolution of acts associated with bullying such as, but not limited to intimidation, harassment, and/or stalking.