

BULLYING PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

The Board of Education believes that all students are entitled to a safe school environment and that all types of bullying are unacceptable.

Bullying is defined as a pattern of written or verbal expression, physical act or gesture, or use of electronics and electronic media (cyberbullying) that is intended to cause distress to one or more students in the school environment. For purposes of this policy, the school environment includes school buildings, grounds, vehicles, bus stops and all school-sponsored activities and events.

A student who engages in any act of bullying will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. The severity and pattern, if any, of the bullying behavior shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made.

The District shall develop a comprehensive program to address bullying at all school levels. The program shall be aimed toward accomplishing the following goals:

1. To send a clear message to students, staff, parents and community members that bullying will not be tolerated.
2. To train staff and students in taking proactive steps to prevent bullying from occurring. This includes educating students on acceptable behavior through classroom presentations, counseling and positive support.
3. To expect immediate intervention, investigation and confrontation of students engaged in bullying behavior.
4. To make reasonable efforts to change the behavior of students engaged in bullying behaviors and follow through with disciplinary actions if the bullying behavior persists.
5. To provide support to victims of bullying through individual and/or peer intervention as well as education in prevention methods.

Adopted December 5, 2001

Revised April 22, 2009

Legal ref: CRS 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(X) (policy required as part of safe schools plan)

Cross ref: JICDA, Code of Conduct
JK, Student Discipline, and sub codes