

## **Bullying Prevention and Education**

The Board of Education supports a secure school climate, conducive to teaching and learning that is free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behavior. The purpose of this policy is to promote consistency of approach and to help create a climate in which all types of bullying are regarded as unacceptable.

Bullying is the use of coercion or intimidation to obtain control over another person or to cause physical, mental or emotional harm to another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal or electronically transmitted expression or by means of a physical act or gesture. Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student on the basis of their academic performance or any basis protected by federal and state law, including disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation (which includes transgender), national origin, religion, ancestry or the need for special education services, whether such characteristic(s) is actual or perceived.

Bullying is prohibited on district property, at district or school-sanctioned activities and events, when students are being transported in any vehicle dispatched by the district or one of its schools, or off school property when such conduct has a nexus to school or any district curricular or non-curricular activity or event.

A student who engages in any act of bullying and/or a student who takes any retaliatory action against a student who reports in good faith an incident of bullying, is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. The severity and pattern, if any, of the bullying behavior will be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made. Bullying behavior that constitutes unlawful discrimination or harassment will be subject to investigation and discipline under related Board policies and procedures. Students targeted by bullying when such bullying behavior may constitute unlawful discrimination or harassment also have additional rights and protections under Board policies and procedures regarding unlawful discrimination and harassment.

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

1. To send a clear message to students, staff, parents and community members that bullying and retaliation against a student who reports bullying will not be tolerated.
2. To train staff and students in taking pro-active steps to prevent bullying from occurring.
3. To implement procedures for immediate intervention, investigation, and confrontation of students engaged in bullying behavior.
4. To initiate efforts to change the behavior of students engaged in bullying behaviors through re-education on acceptable behavior, discussions, counseling, and appropriate negative consequences.

5. To foster a productive partnership with parents and community members in order to help maintain a bully-free environment.
6. To support victims of bullying by means of individual and peer counseling.
7. To help develop peer support networks, social skills and confidence for all students.
8. To recognize and praise positive, supportive behaviors of students toward one another on a regular basis.

The district's comprehensive program to address bullying will incorporate provisions for adequate due processes and safeguards for students accused of bullying behaviors, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

The district will administer surveys of students' impressions of the severity of bullying in their schools. Such surveys will be conducted in accordance with applicable law and Board policy. Students' survey responses will be confidential. Participation in the surveys will not be required and students may voluntarily "opt in" to participate in the survey.

The district school(s) included in the district's bullying prevention and education grant will appoint a team of persons to advise school administration concerning the severity and frequency of bullying incidents. The school team(s) may include, but need not be limited to, counselors, teachers, school administrators, parents, students, law enforcement officials, social workers, prosecutors, health professionals and mental health professionals.

Adopted: 10/15/01

Reviewed by Board of Education: 01/16/14, 08/13/15

Revised: 10/11/07, 08/11/11, 06/11/20, 10/08/20

LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(l)(K) (policy required as part of safe schools plan)

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities  
JBB\*, Sexual Harassment  
JICDA, Code of Conduct  
JICDD\*, Violent and Aggressive Behavior  
JICDE\*-E-1, Bullying Report Form – Exhibit  
JICDE\*-E-2, Bullying Investigation Form – Exhibit  
JICJ, Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Personal Technology Devices  
JK, Student Discipline  
JKD/JKE, Suspension/Expulsion of Students (and Other Disciplinary Interventions)  
JLDAC, Screening/Testing of Students (And Treatment of Mental Disorders)

NOTE: For purposes of this policy, these terms have the following meanings:

- "Race" includes hair texture, hair type, or a protective hairstyle that is commonly or historically associated with race. C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(k).
- "Protective Hairstyle" includes such hairstyles as braids, locs, twists, tight coils or curls, cornrows, bantu knots, afros, and head wraps. Id.
- "Sexual Orientation" means a person's orientation toward heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or transgender status or another person's perception thereof. C.R.S. 2-4-401 (13.5).

NOTE: State law establishes a school bullying prevention and education grant program in the Department of Education. Under the program, a school or group of schools may apply for a grant to fund efforts to reduce the frequency of bullying incidents. C.R.S. 22-93-102.

Pursuant to the State Board of Education's rules for the grant program, districts that apply for the grant must adopt specific policies that include: provisions for adequate due processes and safeguards for students accused of engaging in bullying behavior; provisions for the administration of surveys of students' impressions of the severity of bullying in their schools; and the designation of a team of persons at each district school who advise the school administration concerning the severity and frequency of bullying incidents. 1 CCR 301-99, Rule 3.03.5.

NOTE: For districts applying for a bullying prevention and education grant pursuant to the State Board rules, the following language is required. If the district does not intend to apply for this grant, the Board may adopt all, some or none of the following policy language.

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