



## STUDENTS

### Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying

The district is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. The district is committed to promoting a positive school climate and respectful learning environment, including civil and respectful speech and conduct. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students, staff members, volunteers, parents, and guardians is prohibited.

It shall be a violation of this policy and the district's student discipline policy for any student of the district to harass, intimidate, or bully another student while on school property (or in reasonable proximity thereto), school transportation, or at school-sponsored activities off school property.

The board is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, parents/legal guardians, volunteers, and community members that is free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying. As defined in legislation, "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by any characteristics in RCW 28A.640.010 and 28A.642.010, or other distinguishing characteristics, when the act:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student's property;
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
- Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Nothing in this policy requires the affected student to actually possess the characteristic that is a basis for the harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

"Other distinguishing characteristics" can include but are not limited to physical appearance, clothing, or other apparel, socioeconomic status and weight.

"Intentional acts" refers to the individual's choice to engage in the act rather than the ultimate impact of the action(s).

### Behaviors/Expressions

This policy recognizes that 'harassment,' 'intimidation,' and 'bullying' are separate but related behaviors. Each must be addressed appropriately." The accompanying procedure differentiates the three behaviors, however, this differentiation should not be considered part of the legal definition of these behaviors.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying can take many forms including, but not limited to, slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawings, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats or other written, oral, physical or electronically transmitted messages or images.

This policy is not intended to prohibit expression of religious, philosophical or political views, provided that the expression does not substantially disrupt the educational environment. Behaviors that do not rise to the level of harassment, intimidation or bullying may still be prohibited by other district policies or building, classroom or program rules.

#### Training

This policy is a component of the district's responsibility to create and maintain a safe, civil, respectful and inclusive learning community and will be implemented in conjunction with comprehensive training of staff and volunteers. Specific training requirements are included in the accompanying procedures.

#### Prevention

The district will provide students with strategies aimed at preventing harassment, intimidation and bullying.

#### Interventions

Interventions will be designed to remediate the impact that harassment, intimidation, and bullying has on the targeted student(s) and others impacted by the violation. Interventions will also be designed to change the behavior of the aggressor, and to restore a positive school climate.

The district will consider the frequency of incidents, developmental age of the student, and severity of the conduct in determining intervention strategies. Interventions may include counseling, correcting behavior, discipline, and law enforcement referrals.

#### Students with Individual Education Plans or Section 504 Plans

If allegations are proven that a student with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan has been the aggressor or target of harassment, intimidation or bullying, the school will convene the student's IEP or Section 504 team to determine whether the incident had an impact on the student's ability to receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE). The meeting should occur regardless of whether the harassment, intimidation or bullying incident was based on the student's disability. During the meeting, the team will evaluate issues such as the student's academic performance, behavioral issues, attendance, and participation in extracurricular activities. If a determination is made that the student is not receiving a FAPE as a result of the harassment, intimidation or bullying incident, the district will provide additional services and supports as deemed necessary, such as counseling, monitoring and/or reevaluation or revision of the student's IEP or Section 504 plan, to ensure the student receives a FAPE.

#### Retaliation/False Allegations

Retaliation is prohibited and will result in appropriate discipline. It is a violation of this policy to threaten or harm someone for reporting harassment, intimidation, or bullying, or participating in an investigation.

It is also a violation of district policy to knowingly report false allegations of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Students or employees will not be disciplined for making a report in good faith. However, persons found to knowingly report or corroborate false allegations will be subject to appropriate discipline.

#### Compliance Officer

The superintendent will appoint a compliance officer as the primary district contact to receive copies of all Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Incident Reporting Forms and to ensure policy implementation. The name and contact information for the compliance officer will be communicated throughout the district. The district compliance officer will participate in at least one mandatory training opportunity offered by OSPI.

The superintendent is authorized to direct the development and implementation of procedures to carry out this policy.

Cross References:	Policy 2161	Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
	Policy 3200	Rights and Responsibilities
	Policy 3210	Nondiscrimination
	Policy 3211	Gender Inclusive Schools
	Policy 3240	Student Conduct
	Policy 3241	Classroom Management, Corrective Action and Punishment
	Policy 6590	Sexual Harassment

Legal References:	RCW 28A.300.285	Harassment, intimidation and bullying prevention policies – Model policy and procedure – Training materials – Posting on web site – Rules – Advisory committee
	RCW 28A.600.480	Reporting of harassment, intimidation, or bullying – Retaliation prohibited -- Immunity
	WAC 392-190-059	Harassment, intimidation and bullying prevention policy and procedure – School districts

Management Resources:	2019 – August Issue
	2019 – July Issue
	2014 – December Issue
	Office for Civil Rights Dear Colleague Letter: Responding to Bullying of Students with Disabilities (OCR 10/21/2014)
	2010 – December Issue
	2008 – April Issue
	2002 – April Issue

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