



PAUSD Bullying Policy Review Process:

Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) places great importance on creating safe, healthy, and nurturing learning environments for every student. Building this environment necessitates a comprehensive approach encompassing education and training for students and staff, partnering with parents and community organizations for site and district programming, collecting and learning from data on student wellness, counseling and crisis prevention services, and Board policies and protocols. Through the dedicated work of parents, staff, and students, progress is being made in each of these areas in PAUSD.

PAUSD staff has received considerable input on the content and intent of a bullying prevention policy. At the Board Policy Review Committee (BPRC) meeting on January 10, 2013, staff received additional input from the two board members on the committee as well as community members. Values identified during this discussion included simplicity; clear direction and processes for administrators, staff, students, and parents who would interface with this policy; a flowchart/timeline for responsiveness; protection for those accused of bullying; and consistency in practices between and among schools.

Staff believes the clarity gained from this work has yielded a draft policy that captures the values identified in the BPRC discussions, meets legal requirements, and incorporates best practices for procedures that are developmentally appropriate to students.

Having a wide variety of stakeholders review the policy and provide feedback will be beneficial toward achieving a supportable document. In this effort, the draft bullying prevention policy will be shared with the following groups over the next five weeks and then progress to Board meetings for additional public and Board member input.

Stakeholder Groups

Board Policy Review Committee: The BPRC consists of two Board members, the superintendent, and PAUSD staff and utilizes external professionals with the expertise to handle questions regarding the policies being reviewed. These are open meetings where community members are welcome to comment and ask questions regarding the policies under review. They provide the time to have deep discussions on the policies, to ask clarifying questions of the experts, and to identify areas where more information is needed.

District Climate Committee (DCC): The DCC was a recommendation of the Safe and Welcoming Schools Task Force and is comprised of parents, community partners, and PAUSD staff. The tasks for this year are improving parent and student engagement in safe and welcoming schools efforts; coordinating activities and initiatives relative to safe schools work; and assisting the district in creating clear channels of communication with parents and the broader community.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Committee (LGBTQQ): The LGBTQQ Committee represents this population within PAUSD and advocates for their recognition, rights, health, and well-being.

Palo Alto Educator's Association (PAEA): is the name of the local chapter of California Teachers Association which represents certificated teachers in PAUSD.

Palo Alto Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Council: The PTA Council works with PAUSD staff, the Board of Education, community partners, and the PTA representatives at the 17 schools to support the students and families of the PAUSD and to improve the education, health, and welfare of all children and youth.

Special Education Advisory Committee: The Special Education Advisory Committee (formerly known as the CAC) is a volunteer group of parents that provides advice to the PAUSD's Special Education administrators and the Board of Education on matters pertaining to special education and inclusion.

Estimated Review Schedule:

Week of February 3:

2/5/14 - District Climate Committee Review

Week of February 10:

Discussion with PTA Council and Council President Sigrid Pinsky

2/11/14 – PAUSD K-12 Principals' Meeting

Distribution by and discussion of newly revised policy with Student Services Coordinator.

Principals will review and discuss the draft policy and bring feedback to their appropriate work group meeting below:

2/18/14 – Secondary Principal's Meeting

2/20/14 – Elementary Principal's Meeting

2/27/14 – Assistant Principal's Meeting

Week of February 17:

Discussion with SPEAC President Christina Schmidt

Discussion with Dora Dome (legal review)

2/18/14 – LGBTQQ Committee Review

2/18/14 – Secondary Principal's Meeting

2/20/14 – Elementary Principal's Meeting

2/21/14 – School Resource Officer

2/21/14 – Parents Advocating for Student Success (PASS)

Week of February 24 or March 3:

2/25/14 – Continuity of Care Meeting

2/27/14 – Assistant Principal's Meeting

Week of March 10:

District Climate Committee via email

3/11/14 – K-12 Principals' Meeting for final review

Week of March 24:

3/25/14 – PAUSD Board of Education meeting. Item will be on agenda for discussion.

Week of April 21*:

4/22/14 - PAUSD Board of Education meeting. Item will be on agenda for action. *There is only one Board of Education meeting in April due to the spring break holiday.

We encourage all community members to provide feedback on this policy and related regulations by attending the BPRC, which will be scheduled in the near future. Attending the BPRC meeting not only allows community members to give specific feedback, but also to hear the viewpoints of fellow community members and discussion by the committee and other PAUSD staff members in attendance. For those unable to attend the BPRC meeting, please go to PAUSD Bullying Prevention website and click on the feedback button. In order to gather input in an efficient manner, please fill out the brief form as concisely and specifically as possible. All feedback will be reviewed by PAUSD staff and considered for future revisions, as appropriate.