

8053 Prohibition of Bullying Behavior

The District shall provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. All Students shall be protected from bullying behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation and all bullying is strictly prohibited. This includes written, verbal, physical, and emotional/psychological abuse, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or substantial emotional distress. This shall apply to all District related or sponsored events or activities.

“Bullying” is defined as any written or physical act (including any form of electronic communication) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- A. substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
- B. adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the District’s educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- C. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student’s physical or mental health; and/or
- D. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Notice of this policy will be annually distributed to students and parents; posted in conspicuous locations in the District and on the District’s website, as well as incorporated into applicable student handbooks. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

Parents/Guardians of the alleged victim(s), and of the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint or investigation as well as the results of the investigation to the extent consistent with student confidentiality requirements.

To the extent appropriate and/or legally required, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, the investigation may, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations, as well as involvement from the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

The Superintendent shall develop and implement the proper procedures to enforce this Policy, as well as providing proper notification to all students, staff and parents.

Reference:

M.C.L. 380.1310b (Matt’s Safe School Law, PA 241 of 2011)

Adopted: May 14, 2012; Reapproved August 27, 2018