

Alameda Unified School District Anti-Bullying Statement

Alameda Unified School District believes all students have a right to an inclusive, safe, and secure learning environment. Alameda Unified School District recognizes schools must be physically and emotionally safe for all students in order to promote and support academic achievement, citizenship, student attendance and engagement. For these reasons, AUSD has developed a comprehensive anti-bullying program to promote these goals.

Alameda Unified School District will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety and emotional well-being of any student or adult. Our schools and district will not tolerate acts of bullying, intimidation, or harassment of any student through words and actions.

“Bullying” is legally defined by California Education Code 48900(r) as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act. These acts can be reasonably perceived as being dehumanizing, intimidating, hostile, humiliating, threatening, or otherwise likely to evoke fear of physical harm or emotional distress. Bullying may be motivated either by bias or prejudice based upon any actual or perceived characteristic (such as race, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression); a mental, physical or sensory disability or impairment; or by any other distinguishing characteristic. An “electronic act” means the transmission of a communication (including but not limited to a message, text, sound, or image, or a post on a social network internet website) by means of an electronic device (including but not limited to a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer or pager). A “reasonable pupil” means a pupil (including but not limited to an exceptional needs pupil) who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age or for a person of his or her age with his or her exceptional needs.

There is an expectation all students, staff, parents, and volunteers demonstrate behavior that is respectful and civil. AUSD will not tolerate bullying. It is essential that Alameda Unified School District adults also model appropriate behaviors as positive examples for student behavior.

The Alameda Unified School District expects students, staff, and parents to immediately report any incident of bullying to the principal or designee. Students, parents, and staff members who observe or experience any incident of bullying are also encouraged to complete and submit the “Student Bullying Report Form” available on the school’s and AUSD Student Services webpage. Staff members are expected to immediately intervene when they observe bullying in a thorough and confidential manner.

The Alameda Unified School District expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that

demonstrates the proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, staff, parents, and community members. All teachers will discuss this policy with their students in an age-appropriate manner and should assure students that they need not endure any form of bullying.

Students who bully are in violation of these guidelines and are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion (Education Code 48900(r)).

District procedures for preventing and intervening in bullying behavior include but are not limited to the following:

- All staff, students, and parents will receive a copy of these guidelines prohibiting bullying at the beginning of the school year
- The school's principal or designee will keep a report of bullying and the results of confidential investigation
- All staff will immediately intervene to an appropriate degree whenever they observe or become aware of a bullying
- Non-staff members who observe or become aware of bullying are strongly encouraged to report the incident in order to support the school's efforts to promote a safe learning environment

This statement applies to every form of bullying, harassment, and/or cyber-bullying/harassment, whether in the classroom, on school premises, when a student is traveling to or from school, or at a school-sponsored event. Bullying or harassment, including cyber-bullying/harassment, that is not initiated at a location defined above is covered by this policy if the incident results in a potentially material or substantial disruption of the school learning environment for one or more students and/or the orderly day-to-day operations of any school or school program.