

## STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Code **JCAD** Issued **3/13**

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Purpose: To establish the basic structure for maintaining a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying.

The School District Four Board of Trustees recognizes that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, disrupt both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. Therefore, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are prohibited on all school premises, on school buses, and at all school-sponsored events.

For the purposes of this policy, harassment, intimidation, or bullying is defined as a gesture, an electronic communication, or a written, verbal, physical, or sexual act that is reasonably perceived to have the effect of:

1. harming a student physically or emotionally, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in a reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage; or
2. insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in or substantial interference with the orderly operation of the school.

Consequences for students who engage in harassment, intimidation, or bullying may include, but not be limited to, mandated counseling, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and expulsion from school, based on the severity of the incident.

A school employee, student, or volunteer who witnesses or has reliable information that a student has been subject to harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall report the incident to the building principal. All reports, including anonymous reports, or complaints must be investigated promptly and thoroughly by the principal or other appropriate school official. Reprisals or retaliation against a person who reports an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying is prohibited. However, persons found to have falsely accused another person of harassment, intimidation, or bullying will be subjected to the consequences specified in the student code of conduct or employee handbook.

Information regarding this policy must be included in each student's handbook and incorporated in the district's employee training program.

Adopted 12/4/06; Issued 3/4/13

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### Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
  1. Section 59-63 – Safe School Climate Act