

Policy JICFAA Harassment, Intimidation Or Bullying- Exhibit D

Issued 3/11

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 district prohibits any acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying of a student by students, staff and third parties which interfere with or disrupt a student's ability to learn and the school's responsibility to educate its students in a safe and orderly environment, whether such acts occur in a classroom, on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises, or at another program or function where the school is responsible for the student.

For purposes of this policy, harassment, intimidation or bullying is defined by the district as a gesture, a written, verbal, physical or sexual act, or electronic communication, to include cyber bullying (which is the use of cell phones, instant messaging, email, chat rooms or social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter) that is reasonably perceived to have the effect of either of the following.

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

Any student who believes that he/she has been subjected to harassment, intimidation or bullying in violation of this policy is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with procedures established by the district. Complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly and confidentially. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal or his/her designee. Reports by students or employees may be made anonymously, although disciplinary action will not be taken against any person solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The district prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or employee who has filed a complaint or report of harassment, intimidation or bullying. The district also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another of misconduct as a means of harassment, intimidation or bullying.

The board expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified and respectful manner. Students and employees have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules and regulations of the school and district. Any student who is found to have engaged in the prohibited actions as outlined in this policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the district's student behavior code. Any employee who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. The district also may refer any individual who has violated this policy to law enforcement officials. The district will take any other appropriate steps to correct or rectify the situation.

The superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for ensuring notice of this policy is provided to students, staff, parents/legal guardians, volunteers and members of the community, including its applicability to all areas of the school environment as outlined in this policy. The superintendent or his/her designee will also ensure that a process is established for discussing the contents of this policy with students.

Adopted 2/12/07; Revised 3/14/11

Legal references:

JICFAA

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

[Section 16-3-510](#) - Organizations and entities revised (hazing unlawful; definitions).

[Section 59-19-90](#) - General powers and duties of school trustees.

[Sections 59-63-210](#) through 270 - Grounds for which trustees may expel, suspend or transfer pupils; petition for readmission; notices and parent conferences; expulsion for remainder of year and hearings; transfer of pupils; corporal punishment; regulation or prohibition of clubs or like activities.

[Section 59-63-275](#) - Student hazing prohibited.

[Section 59-67-240](#) - Other duties of bus driver; discipline of students for misconduct.

[Section 59-63-110](#), *et. seq.* - Safe School Climate Act.

State Board of Education Regulations:

[R-43-279](#) - Minimum standards of student conduct and disciplinary enforcement procedures to be implemented by local school districts.

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties
