

Compton Unified School District Board Policy

5131.2: Bullying

The Governing Board recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student well-being, student learning, and school attendance and desires to provide a safe school environment that protects students from physical and emotional harm. District employees shall establish student safety as a high priority and shall not tolerate bullying of any student. No individual or group shall, through physical, written, verbal, visual, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any student or school personnel, or retaliate against them for filing a complaint or participating in the complaint resolution process.

Cyberbullying includes the electronic creation or transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's online identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

Strategies for addressing bullying in District schools shall be developed with involvement of key educational partners, including students, parents/guardians, and staff, and may be incorporated into the comprehensive safety plans, the local control and accountability plan, and other applicable District and school plans.

As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee may also collaborate with social services, mental health services, law enforcement, courts, and other agencies and community organizations in the development and implementation of effective strategies to promote safety in schools and the community and to provide services for complainants and respondents of bullying.

Bullying Prevention

To the extent possible, District schools shall focus on prevention of bullying by establishing clear rules for student conduct and implementing strategies to promote a positive, collaborative school climate. Students shall be informed, through student handbooks and other appropriate means, of District and school rules related to bullying, mechanisms available for reporting incidents or threats, and the consequences for engaging in bullying.

As appropriate, the District shall provide students with instruction, in the classroom or other educational settings, that promotes effective communication and conflict resolution skills, social skills, character/values education, respect for cultural and individual differences, self-esteem development, assertiveness skills, and appropriate online behavior.

The District shall also educate students about the negative impact of bullying, discrimination, intimidation, and harassment/bullying based on actual or perceived immigration status, religious beliefs and customs, or any other individual bias or prejudice.

BULLYING (cont.)

The Superintendent or designee shall make available to all certificated staff and to other employees who have regular interaction with students training on the dynamics of bullying and cyberbullying, including the identification of bullying and cyberbullying and the implementation of strategies to address bullying. The training shall also raise awareness about the legal obligation of the District and its employees to prevent discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of district students. Such training shall be designed to provide staff with the skills to: (Education Code 32283.5)

1. Discuss the diversity of the student body and school community, including but not limited to their varying immigration experiences
2. Discuss bullying prevention strategies with students, and teach students to recognize the behavior and characteristics of bullying respondents and complainants
3. Identify the signs of bullying or harassing behavior
4. Take immediate corrective action when bullying is observed
5. Report incidents to the appropriate authorities, including law enforcement in instances of criminal behavior

Based on an assessment of bullying incidents at school, the Superintendent or designee may increase supervision and security in areas where bullying most often occurs, such as classrooms, playgrounds, hallways, restrooms, and cafeterias.

Intervention

Students are encouraged to notify school staff when they are being bullied or suspect that another student is being victimized. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall develop means for students to report threats or incidents confidentially and anonymously.

School staff who witness an act of bullying shall immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so. (Education Code 234.1)

When appropriate based on the severity or pervasiveness of the bullying, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of complainants and respondents and may contact law enforcement.

The Superintendent, principal, or principal's designee may refer a complainant, witness, respondent, or other student affected by an act of bullying to a school counselor, school psychologist, social worker, child welfare attendance personnel, school nurse, or other school

BULLYING (cont.)

support service personnel for case management, counseling, and/or participation in a restorative justice program as appropriate. (Education Code 48900.9)

Report and Filing of Complaints

Any complaint of bullying, whether it is discriminatory or nondiscriminatory, shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with law and the District's Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) specified in Administrative Regulation (AR) 1312.3.

The Board of Education designates the following position as the district compliance officer and designee regarding student-on-student bullying complaints:

Abimbola Williams-Ajala, Ed.D
Executive Director; Pupil Services Department
2300 West Caldwell Street,
Compton, CA 90221
310-604-6527

Any student, parent/guardian, or other individual who believes that a student has been subjected to bullying or who has witnessed bullying may report the incident to a teacher, the principal, district compliance officer, or any other available school employee. Within one business day of receiving such a report, a staff member shall notify the principal of the report, whether or not a uniform complaint is filed. In addition, any school employee who observes an incident of bullying involving a student shall, within one business day, report his/her observation to the principal or district compliance officer, whether or not the complainant files a complaint.

Within two business days of receiving a report of bullying, the principal shall notify the district compliance officer.

When a student is reported to be engaging in bullying off campus, the Superintendent or designee shall investigate and document the activity and shall identify specific facts or circumstances that explain the impact or potential impact on school activity, school attendance, or the targeted student's educational performance.

When the circumstances involve cyberbullying, individuals with information about the activity shall be encouraged to save and print any electronic or digital messages that they feel constitute cyberbullying and to notify a teacher, the principal, or other employee so that the matter may be investigated. When a student uses a social networking site or service to bully or harass another student, the Superintendent or designee also may file a request with the networking site or service to suspend the privileges of the student and to have the material removed.

BULLYING (cont.)

When a report of bullying is submitted, the principal or district compliance officer shall inform the student or parent/guardian of the right to file a formal written complaint in accordance with UCP AR 1312.3. The student who is the complainant shall be given an opportunity to describe the incident, identify witnesses who may have relevant information, and provide other evidence of bullying.

Investigation and Resolution of Complaints

Any complaint of bullying shall be investigated and, if determined to be discriminatory, resolved in accordance with law and the UCP AR 1312.3.

If, during the investigation, it is determined that a complaint is about nondiscriminatory bullying, the principal or designee shall inform the complainant and shall take all necessary actions to resolve the complaint.

Discipline

Corrective actions for a student who commits an act of bullying of any type may include counseling, behavioral intervention and education, and if the behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code 48900, may include suspension or expulsion in accordance with District policies and regulations.

If the Superintendent or designee believes it is in the best interest of a student whose complaint has been substantiated as an act of bullying, as defined in Education Code 48900, the Superintendent or designee shall advise the student's parents/guardians that the student may transfer to another school. If the parents /guardians of a student whose complaint has been substantiated as an act of bullying requests a transfer for the student pursuant to Education Code 46600, the Superintendent or designee shall allow the transfer in accordance with law and district policy on intra-district or inter-district transfer, as applicable.

Any employee who permits or engages in bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Compton Unified School District

Policy adopted: January 23, 2013

Revised: October 13, 2020

Revised and Adopted November 14, 2023

BP 5131.2(e)