

# Student Violence, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying



## STUDENT VIOLENCE/ HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/ BULLYING

The Governing Board believes it is the right of every student to be educated in a positive, safe, caring, and respectful learning environment. The board further believes a school environment inclusive of these traits maximizes student achievement, foster student personal growth, and helps students build a sense of community that promotes positive participation as members of society. MUSD Policy 1-201, 1-203, 5-408, and 5-409.

MUSD in partnership with parents, guardians, students, and staff shall establish and maintain a school environment based on these beliefs. MUSD shall identify and implement age-appropriate programs designed to instill in students the values of positive interpersonal relationships, mutual respect, and appropriate conflict resolution. To assist in achieving a school environment based on the beliefs of the Governing Board; bullying, harassment or intimidation as defined by this policy will not be tolerated.

## BULLYING

Bullying may occur when a student or group of students engages in any form of behavior that includes acts such as intimidation and/or harassment that:

- Has the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm or damage to property
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that the action, behavior, or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment in the form of physical or emotional harm
- Occurs when there is a real or perceived imbalance of power or strength, or may constitute a violation of law
- Bullying of a student or group of students can be manifested through written, verbal, physical, or emotional means and may occur in a variety of forms including, but not limited to, verbal, written/printed or graphic exposure to derogatory comments, extortion, exploitation, name calling or rumor spreading either directly through another person or group or through cyberbullying, exposure to social exclusion or ostracism, physical contact including, but not limited to, pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving or spitting, and damage to theft of personal property.