North Valley Academy

Bullying Policy

Bullying is prohibited at North Valley Academy. In addition, retaliation against a person for reporting bullying or who has cooperated in an investigation of a complaint under this policy is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Bullying is prohibited on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at school-sponsored or school-related activities, functions or programs whether on or off school grounds, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by North Valley Academy.

Bullying is also prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school related if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringes on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying is also prohibited through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by NVA, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringes on the rights of the victim at school, or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, who provides information during an investigation of bullying, or who is a witness to or has reliable information about bullying is prohibited. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment in connection with filing a complaint or assisting with an investigation under this policy.

Definition of Bullying

A person is bullying someone when he or she is intentionally ridiculing, humiliating, intimidating and /or physically harming an individual or his/her property or any group of students. This could include social/relational (i.e., social alienation), Cyber-bullying (communications via email, text message and social media), verbal and/or written aggression, including but not limited to, any act motivated by race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, mental, physical or sensory handicap, or other distinguishing characteristics. Although some discourse between and among children is to be expected as part of the maturing process, bullying involves an *abuse of power* by the bully, which can be physical, psychological or intellectual. Although bullying is usually a repeated form of harassment, a single offense should be investigated and disciplined according to the student Code of Conduct policy.

Consequences of Bullying

Bullying has long-term negative effects on the victims, the bullies and the bystanders. Bullying is often tied to violence, delinquency, later crime and school violence. Bullying creates a culture of violence and retaliation. Bullying creates a poor learning environment and leads to increased drop-out rates and poor performance.

NORTH VALLEY ACADEMY ADHERES TO ALL STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS WITH REGARD TO BULLYING, LGBT STUDENTS, SPECIAL EDUCATION MATTERS, ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY.