



## **Cyberbullying**

Bullying may also take place through the Internet or through other forms of technology or electronic acts. “Cyberbullying” includes the transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person’s electronic account and assuming that person’s identity in order to damage that person’s reputation.

For purposes of pupil suspension or recommendation for expulsion from a school, Education Code section 48900(r) defines “electronic act” as the creation and transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of electronic device, of an electronic communication.

(cf. 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

## **Student Discipline for Bullying**

For purposes of student discipline, the definition of bullying is governed by Education Code 48900(r) and District Administrative Regulation 5144.1, and is as follows: bullying means severe or pervasive physical or verbal act(s) or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, as defined in Education Code 48900(r)(2), and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students, directed towards one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- placing a reasonable student(s) in fear of harm to that student’s or a group of student’s person or property;
- causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health;
- causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance; or
- causing a reasonable student to experience a substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or privileges provided in school.

A reasonable student shall have the same meaning as a “reasonable pupil” as defined in Education Code 48900(r)(3).

## **Bullying Prevention Plan**

Each school site will create a bullying prevention plan that will be attached to the Comprehensive Safety Plan, approved by the School Site Council and distributed to the school community. Each school site’s bullying prevention plan will include:

1. A definition of bullying behavior, in relation to both Board Policies and Administrative Regulations 5145.3 and 5145.4, and Education Code 48900(r).

2.

be completed by the staff person observing or receiving the report of bullying and should be submitted to the school site principal or designee immediately.

### **Anonymous Reporting**

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interventions are appropriate to address the needs of the alleged victim(s) and the conduct of the alleged perpetrator(s).

### **Appeals Process**

If a student or parent/guardian is not satisfied with resolution of a complaint of bullying at the school site level under Board Policy 5145.4 and this Administrative Regulation, complainants may appeal to the district ombudsperson that serves the school site involved in the alleged incident. However, where there is a complaint of alleged harassment, intimidation or bullying, as set forth in Penal Code section 422.55 and Education Code sections 220 and 234.1, and the student or parent/guardian is unsatisfied with the school's decision or response to a bullying complaint, then the student or parent/guardian may appeal through the District's Uniform Complaint Process under Board Policies 5145.3 (Nondiscrimination/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying) and 1312.3 (Uniform Complaint Process). Such appeals/complaints should be submitted to the appropriate District administrators as designated in Board Policies 5145.3 and 1312.3.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

### **Training**

All administrators, including principals, assistant principals and district administrators, will attend a two (2)

This regulation shall not be construed to limit student rights to free speech as protected by the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, or other applicable laws governing student free speech rights.

**Publicize/Notice of Bullying Policy**

Each school site shall publicize Board Policy 5145.4 and this Administrative Regulation, as well as the district's policies governing and describing how to submit a complaint regarding bullying, and to ensure that notice of this policy is posted in school offices, schools, staff lounges and student government meeting rooms. This notice should include the prohibition on harassment, intimidation, or bullying based on a student's actual or perceived characteristics as set forth in