

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES

The Board of Trustees has a significant interest in providing a safe, orderly, and respectful work environment.

It shall be against District policy for any District employee to engage in bullying or harassing behavior. Such behavior will not be condoned by the District. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, that takes place on District property, at any District-sponsored function, or on a school bus that:

- (1) Places a student or District employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or
- (2) Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits or an employee's work performance, opportunities, or benefits. A hostile environment means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

Bullying or harassing behavior that takes place off District property will not be condoned or tolerated by the District when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence at work a disruption to the educational and/or work environment, or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of students and employees.

Some examples of bullying include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling, taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student and/or employee movement, or unwelcome physical contact.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats, or telephone calls.
- C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation.
- D. Cyberbullying – the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone text messages, instant messaging, defamatory personal websites, and defamatory online personal polling websites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others.

The District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no District employee is subjected to bullying or harassment by other students or District employees.

Retaliation:

It shall be against District policy for District employee to engage in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. As such, the District shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that no District employee engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior.

Reporting:

The District requires all of its employees who have witnessed or have reliable information that a student or District employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official.

The District has enacted procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. Policy GAEE will follow the same procedures and steps listed in Policy GAE.

Education and Training:

In support of this policy, the Board of Trustees promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of bullying and harassing behavior. This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be printed in the code of conduct handbook, each school's employee handbook, and in the policy manual. The superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate training to all District employees related to the implementation of this policy and procedures.

Disciplinary Actions:

District employees who engage in bullying or harassing behaviors or retaliation are subject to disciplinary actions up to and including termination.

SOURCE: National School Boards Association
Mississippi School Boards Association

LEGAL REF.: Senate Bill 2015

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