Information Sheet – 11/12/19 - Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 8.4

FR: Celli Coeville

DATE: November 6, 2019

RE: Board Policy Revision and New and Administrative Regulation, BP/AR 5131.2, Bullying

The Board Policy, BP/AR 5131.2, Bullying has been updated and the Administrative Regulation has been added to reflect NEW LAW (AB 2291, 2018) which mandates districts to adopt, on or before December 31, 2019, procedures for preventing acts of bullying, including cyberbullying. The Administrative Regulation includes material formerly in the Board Policy regarding: bullying prevention measures, staff development, student instruction, reporting, and corrective actions. The Administrative Regulation also adds a definition of bullying and examples of behaviors that may constitute bullying and cyberbullying, and reflects the CDE's online training module on bullying developed pursuant to AB 2291.

The changes to the Board Policy are highlighted and indicated with red font. I've attached the CSBA sample Administrative Regulation for consideration by the Board.

Recommended Action: Approve the revised BP and new AR 5131.2, Bullying

CSBA Sample
Board Policy
Bullying

BP 5131.2
Students

Note: Education Code 234.4, as added by AB 2291 (Ch. 491, Statutes of 2018), mandates districts to adopt, on or before December 31, 2019, procedures for preventing acts of bullying, including cyberbullying. The following policy and accompanying administrative regulation contain sample procedures that fulfill this mandate and may be revised to reflect district practice.

Note: In addition, Education Code 234.1 and federal law mandate that the Governing Board adopt policy prohibiting discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on specified characteristics and ensuring the protection of complainants from retaliation. Also see BP 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment for language fulfilling this mandate.

Note: In its October 2010 Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) clarified that misconduct that falls under a district's general anti-bullying policy may also trigger responsibilities under one or more federal or state antidiscrimination laws if the bullying is on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, and/or another legally protected category. Federal law requires the district to take immediate and appropriate action to investigate or otherwise determine what occurred and, if it finds that unlawful discrimination did occur, take prompt and effective steps reasonably calculated to end the harassment, eliminate any hostile environment and its effects, and prevent the harassment from recurring.

Note: OCR's October 2014 Dear Colleague Letter: Responding to Bullying of Students with Disabilities points out that any bullying of a student with a disability that results in the student not receiving meaningful educational benefit constitutes a denial of a free appropriate public education and must be remedied under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As necessary, the school may need to convene the student's individualized education program (IEP) team to determine whether the student's needs have changed as a result of the bullying and, if so, revise the IEP to ensure that the student continues to receive appropriate special education and related services.

Note: Thus, while this policy is intended to prevent and address all types of bullying incidents among students, when "discriminatory bullying" is committed and the bullying is sufficiently serious to create a hostile educational environment for the alleged victim or to otherwise deny or limit the student's educational benefits and services, including denial of a free appropriate public education, the alleged victim must be afforded the protections specified under relevant state and/or federal law.

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, ~~retaliate,~~ 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.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5136 - Gangs)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)

~~Cyberbullying includes the electronic creation or transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images as defined in Education Code 48900. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.~~

~~*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*~~
~~*(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)*~~

Note: Because bullying and its effects extend beyond the school environment, collaboration among a variety of community agencies and organizations that serve youth may be helpful in preventing and responding to bullying. For further information about building a collaborative, see CSBA's publications Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success and Building Healthy Communities: A School Leader's Guide to Collaboration and Community Engagement.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies for addressing bullying in district schools ~~shall be developed~~ with the involvement of ~~key stakeholders, including~~ students, parents/guardians, and staff, ~~and may be incorporated into the comprehensive safety plan, 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 ~~joint~~ effective strategies to promote safety in schools and the community ~~and to provide services for alleged victims and perpetrators of bullying~~.

~~(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)~~
~~(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)~~
~~(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)~~
(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Note: Education Code 32282 encourages districts to include bullying prevention policies and procedures in their comprehensive safety plan; see BP 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan. In addition, Education Code 52060-52077 require the Board to adopt and annually update a local control and accountability plan which includes, among other specified state priorities, goals for addressing school climate; see BP/AR 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan. Pursuant to Education Code 52060, school climate should be measured by student suspension and expulsion rates and other local measures, including surveys of students, parents/guardians, and teachers on the sense of safety and school connectedness, as applicable.

Such strategies shall be incorporated into the comprehensive safety plan and, to the extent possible, into the local control and accountability plan and other applicable district and school plans.

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)
(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 234.1, districts are required to adopt a process for receiving and investigating complaints involving unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying) based on specified characteristics. Pursuant to 5 CCR 4600-4633, the uniform complaint procedures (UCP) must be used for this purpose. In addition, federal regulations require districts to adopt procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying) on the basis of sex (34 CFR 106.8), disability (34 CFR 104.7 and 28 CFR 35.107), and age (34 CFR 110.25).

Note: Although some bullying incidents may not fall within the provisions of Education Code 234.1 or federal civil rights regulations, CSBA strongly recommends that districts use the UCP to investigate all bullying incidents (whether discriminatory or nondiscriminatory) to ensure consistent implementation by district staff. It is not always easy or possible for staff to know prior to an investigation whether a student was bullied because of an actual or perceived membership in a legally protected class. Those bullying incidents found to involve discrimination based on the results of the investigation would then be resolved using the UCP. When a bullying incident is determined to be nondiscriminatory, it should be resolved through the appropriate disciplinary process. Districts that are concerned about the capacity of a single district compliance officer to handle a possible increase in the number of UCP complaints, or that prefer to handle certain incidents at the school site level whenever possible, may designate multiple compliance officers in accordance with AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

~~**Bullying Prevention**~~

~~To the extent possible, district schools shall focus on the 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.~~

~~*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*~~

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

~~*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*~~
~~*(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)*~~

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

~~The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to teachers and other school staff to raise their 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:~~

~~1. Discuss the diversity of the student body and school community, including their varying immigration experiences~~

~~2. Discuss bullying prevention strategies with students, and teach students to recognize the behavior and characteristics of bullying perpetrators and victims~~

~~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~~

~~*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*~~
~~*(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)*~~
~~*(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)*~~

~~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 victims and perpetrators and may contact law enforcement.~~

~~The Superintendent, principal, or principal's designee may refer a victim, witness, perpetrator, 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 support service personnel for case management, counseling, and/or participation in a restorative justice program as appropriate. (Education Code 48900.9)~~

~~*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)*~~

~~**Reporting and Filing of Complaints**~~

~~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, a 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 a district compliance officer, whether or not the alleged victim files a complaint.~~

~~Within two business days of receiving a report of bullying, the principal shall notify the district compliance officer identified in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.~~

~~*(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*~~

~~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 may file a request with the networking site or service to suspend the privileges of the student and to have the material removed.~~

~~When a report of bullying is submitted, the principal or a district compliance officer shall inform the student or parent/guardian of the right to file a formal written complaint in accordance with AR 1312.3. The student who is the alleged victim of the bullying 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 district's uniform complaint procedures specified in 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.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

~~**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.~~

~~*(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)*~~
~~*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*~~
~~*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*~~
~~*(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))*~~
~~*(cf. 6159.4 - Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students)*~~

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

(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4119.21/4219.21/4319.21 - Professional Standards)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination
32282 Comprehensive safety plan
32283.5 Bullying; online training
35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students
35291-35291.5 Rules
48900-48925 Suspension or expulsion
48985 Translation of notices
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan
PENAL CODE
422.55 Definition of hate crime
647 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor
647.7 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; punishment
653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
4600-4670 ~~4687~~ Uniform complaint procedures
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47
254 Universal service discounts (e-rate)
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28
35.107 Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504
106.8 Designation of responsible employee for Title IX
110.25 Notification of nondiscrimination on the basis of age
COURT DECISIONS
Wynar v. Douglas County School District, (2013) 728 F.3d 1062
J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094
Lavine v. Blaine School District, (2002) 279 F.3d 719

Management Resources:
CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Final Guidance: AB 1266, Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students, Privacy, Programs, Activities & Facilities, Legal Guidance, March 2014
Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014
Addressing the Conditions of Children: Focus on Bullying, Governance Brief, December 2012
Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011
Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, rev. July 2010 ~~2007~~
Building Healthy Communities: A School Leaders Guide to Collaboration and Community Engagement, 2009
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Bullying Module
California's Social and Emotional Learning: Guiding Principles, 2018
Social and Emotional Learning in California: A Guide to Resources, 2018
Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008
Bullying at School, 2003
CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS
Promoting a Safe and Secure Learning Environment for All: Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California K-12 Schools in Responding to Immigration Issues, April 2018
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS
Dear Colleague Letter: Responding to Bullying of Students with Disabilities, October 2014
Guidance to America's Schools: Bullying of Students with Disabilities, October 2014
Dear Colleague Letter: Guidance on Schools' Obligations to Protect Students from Student-on-Student Harassment on the Basis of Sex; Race, Color and National Origin; and Disability, October 26, 2010
Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Department of Education, Safe Schools Office: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss
California Office of the Attorney General: http://oag.ca.gov
Center on Great Teachers and Leaders: http://gtlcenter.org
Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning: http://casel.org
Common Sense Media: http://www.commonsensemedia.org
National School Safety Center: http://www.schoolsafety.us
Partnership for Children and Youth: http://www.partnerforchildren.org

U.S. Department of Education: http://www.ed.gov

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CSBA Sample
Administrative Regulation
Bullying

AR 5131.2
Students

Note: Education Code 234.4, as added by AB 2291 (Ch. 491, Statutes of 2018), mandates districts to adopt, on or before December 31, 2019, procedures for preventing acts of bullying, including cyberbullying. The following administrative regulation may be revised to reflect district practice.

Definitions

Note: The following section reflects definitions and examples of bullying and cyberbullying contained in the California Department of Education's (CDE) Bullying Module and may be revised to reflect district practice.

Note: Education Code 48900 defines "bullying," including bullying via an electronic act, for purposes of establishing grounds for suspension or expulsion. See AR 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process. In addition, Penal Code 653.2 makes it a crime to distribute another person's personally identifiable information electronically with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear of the person's own or a family member's safety and for the purpose of imminently causing harassment or injury by a third party.

Bullying is an unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived imbalance of power between individuals with the intent to cause emotional or physical harm. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social/relational and involves repetition or potential repetition of a deliberate act.

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 or assuming that person's online identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)
(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)

Examples of the types of conduct that may constitute bullying and are prohibited by the district include, but are not limited to:

1. Physical bullying that inflicts harm upon a person's body or possessions, such as hitting, kicking, pinching, spitting, tripping, pushing, taking or breaking someone's possessions, or making cruel or rude hand gestures

2. Verbal bullying that includes saying or writing hurtful things, such as teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, or threats to cause harm

3. Social/relational bullying that harms a person's reputation or relationships, such as leaving a person out of an activity on purpose, influencing others not to be friends with someone, spreading rumors, or embarrassing someone in public

4. Cyberbullying, such as sending demeaning or hateful text messages or emails, sending rumors by email or by posting on social networking sites, or posting embarrassing photos, videos, web site, or fake profiles

Measures to Prevent Bullying

The Superintendent or designee shall implement measures to prevent bullying in district schools, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Ensuring that each school establishes clear rules for student conduct and implements strategies to promote a positive, collaborative school climate

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

2. Providing to students, through student handbooks and other age-appropriate means, information about district and school rules related to bullying, mechanisms available for reporting incidents or threats, and the consequences for engaging in bullying

3. Encouraging students to notify school staff when they are being bullied or when they suspect that another student is being bullied, and providing means by which students may report threats or incidents confidentially and anonymously

4. Conducting an assessment of bullying incidents at each school and, if necessary, increasing supervision and security in areas where bullying most often occurs, such as classrooms, playgrounds, hallways, restrooms, and cafeterias

Note: Although Education Code 234.1 requires the district to adopt a policy requiring school personnel who witness acts of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) against students based on the actual or perceived status of the student belonging to a protected class to take immediate steps to intervene when it is safe to do so, it is recommended that districts apply this policy equally to all students; also see AR 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment.

5. Annually notifying district employees that, pursuant to Education Code 234.1, any school staff who witnesses an act of bullying against a student has a responsibility to immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so

Staff Development

Note: Education Code 32283.5, as amended by AB 2291, requires districts to make available annually, to certificated staff and all other employees who have regular interaction with students, the CDE's online Bullying Module described below.

The Superintendent or designee shall make the California Department of Education's online training module on the dynamics of bullying and cyberbullying, which includes the identification of bullying and cyberbullying and the implementation of strategies to address bullying, available annually to all certificated staff and to other employees who have regular interaction with students. (Education Code 32283.5)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 234.7, districts are mandated to adopt policy, equivalent to that developed by the Attorney General, which requires the provision of staff training with the components specified below.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to teachers and other school staff to raise their 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:

1. Discuss the diversity of the student body and school community, including their varying immigration experiences

2. Discuss bullying prevention strategies with students, and teach students to recognize the behavior and characteristics of bullying perpetrators and victims

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

Student Instruction

Note: California content standards related to student education about bullying and violence prevention (e.g., recognizing the characteristics of bullying, examining the effects of bullying on others, demonstrating what to say and do when witnessing bullying) are addressed within the health education content standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

***Note: 47 USC 254 mandates districts that receive e-rate discounts to adopt a policy which

addresses educating students about appropriate online behavior, including the interaction with other individuals on social networking web sites and in chat rooms, as well as providing information about cyberbullying awareness and response. See BP 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology for language implementing this mandate.***

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

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)
(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

Note: Education Code 234.7 requires districts to educate students about the negative impact of bullying based on actual or perceived immigration status or religious beliefs and customs. The following paragraph reflects the California Attorney General's model policy developed pursuant to Education Code 234.7, contained in the Office of the Attorney General's publication Promoting a Safe and Secure Learning Environment for All: Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's K-12 Schools in Responding to Immigration Issues, and has been expanded to include education about the impact of bullying based on any other individual characteristic.

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

Note: The remainder of this section reflects recommendations in CDE's Bullying Module and may be revised to reflect district practice.

Students should be taught the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors, how to advocate for themselves, how to help another student who is being bullied, and when to seek assistance from a trusted adult. As role models for students, staff shall be expected to demonstrate effective problem-solving and anger management skills.

To discourage cyberbullying, teachers may advise students to be cautious about sharing passwords, personal data, or private photos online and to consider the consequences of making negative comments about others online.

Reporting and Filing of Complaints

Note: The following reporting process may be revised to reflect district practice.

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, a compliance officer, or any other available school employee.

When a report of bullying is submitted, the principal or a district compliance officer shall inform

the student or parent/guardian of the right to file a formal written complaint in accordance with AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. The student who is the alleged victim of the bullying shall be given an opportunity to describe the incident, identify witnesses who may have relevant information, and provide other evidence of bullying.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

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 such observation to the principal or a district compliance officer, whether or not the alleged victim files a complaint.

Within two business days of receiving a report of bullying, the principal shall notify the district compliance officer identified in AR 1312.3.

Note: Districts have the authority to monitor student use of the district's Internet system and to conduct individual searches of student accounts if there is reasonable suspicion that a user has violated district policy or the law; see BP/AR 5145.12 - Search and Seizure and BP/E 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology.

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 may file a request with the networking site or service to suspend the privileges of the student and to have the material removed.

Discipline/Corrective Actions

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48900-48900.4, "bullying" is a ground for suspension or expulsion; see AR 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.

Note: The courts have generally upheld discipline for off-campus student conduct that poses an identifiable threat to the safety of other students, staff, or school property or presents a risk of substantial disruption of school activities, provided that the district is able to document the impact or disruption that the conduct has, or could be expected to have, on school activities (e.g., Wynar v. Douglas County School District, Lavine v. Blaine School District). The court in J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District found that the district would be able to discipline a student for a video recorded off campus and posted on YouTube, but that the discipline imposed on this particular student was not justified since the district did not present evidence of specific facts that led school officials to predict that the video would cause substantial disruption (e.g., the video was not violent or threatening nor did it lead to any confrontations between the students).

***Note: Consistent with these interpretations, Education Code 48900 defines bullying by means of an electronic act to include creation or transmission originating on or off the school

site. Thus, for purposes of determining whether the conduct may be subject to suspension or expulsion, the act does not necessarily need to have been committed while at school, while coming to or from school, or during a school-sponsored activity.***

Note: Nevertheless, the act needs to satisfy the criteria specified in the definition of "bullying" in Education Code 48900 (i.e., a severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of placing a reasonable student in fear of harm to the student's person or property, causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health, causing substantial interference with the student's academic performance, or causing substantial interference with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or privileges).

Note: When the conduct does not rise to the level specified in Education Code 48900, the district may implement interventions other than suspension or expulsion to address the bullying. For further information, see CSBA's policy brief Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards. Also see BP 5131 - Conduct and BP 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression.

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.

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))
(cf. 6159.4 - Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students)

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

The Superintendent, principal, or principal's designee may refer a victim, witness, perpetrator, 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 support service personnel for case management, counseling, and/or participation in a restorative justice program as appropriate. (Education Code 48900.9)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

If any student involved in bullying exhibits warning signs of suicidal thought or intention or of intent to harm another person, the Superintendent or designee shall, as appropriate, implement district intervention protocols which may include, but are not limited to, referral to district or community mental health services, other health professionals, and/or law enforcement.

(cf. 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention)