Policy 5131.2: Bullying

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/01/2015 | **Last Revised Date:** 12/01/2023 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 12/01/2023

This policy shall apply to all acts constituting bullying related to school activity or to school attendance occurring within a district school, to acts which occur off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored activities but which may have an impact or create a hostile environment at school, and to all acts of the Governing Board and the Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the district.

The Board recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student well-being, student learning, and school attendance and desires to provide a welcoming, safe, and supportive school environment that protects students from physical, mental, and emotional harm. No individual or group shall, through physical, written, verbal, visual, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies for addressing bullying in district schools with the involvement of students, parents/guardians, and staff. 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 effective strategies to promote safety in schools and the community.

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.

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 Administrative Regulation 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.

If the Superintendent or designee believes it is in the best interest of a student who has been the victim of an act of bullying, as defined in Education Code 48900, the Superintendent or designee shall advise the student's parents/guardians that the student may transfer to another school. If the parents/guardians of a student who has been the victim of an act of bullying requests a transfer for the student pursuant to Education Code 46600, the Superintendent or designee shall allow the transfer in accordance with law and district policy on intradistrict or interdistrict transfer, as applicable.

District families are encouraged to model respectful behavior, contribute to a safe and supportive learning environment, and monitor potential causes of bullying.

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

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	**Description**
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
Bus. and Prof. Code 22589-22589.4	Cyberbullying Protection Act
Ed. Code 200-262.4	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 32280-32289.5	School safety plans
Ed. Code 35181	Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of students
Ed. Code 35291-35291.5	Rules
Ed. Code 46600	Student transfers
Ed. Code 48900-48925	Suspension and expulsion
Ed. Code 48985	Notices to parents in language other than English
Ed. Code 52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan
Pen. Code 422.55	Definition of hate crime
Pen. Code 647	Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor
Pen. Code 647.7	Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; punishment
Pen. Code 653.2	Electronic communication devices; threats to safety
Federal	**Description**
28 CFR 35.107	Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints
34 CFR 104.7	Section 504; Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievances procedures
34 CFR 106.8	Designation of coordinator; dissemination of policy, and adoption of grievance procedures
34 CFR 110.25	Notification of nondiscrimination on the basis of age
47 USC 254	Universal service discounts (E-rate)
Management Resources	**Description**
CA Office of the Attorney General 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, April 2018
California Department of Education Publication	Social and Emotional Learning in California: A Guide to Resources, October 2018
California Department of Education Publication	Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008
California Department of Education Publication	Bullying at School, 2003
California Department of Education Publication	Online Bullying Training Module and Bullying Module
California Department of Education Publication	California's Social and Emotional Learning: Guiding Principles, 2018
Court Decision	J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094
Court Decision	Lavine v. Blaine School District (2002) 279 F.3d 719
Court Decision	Wynar v. Douglas County School District (2013) 728 F.3d 1062

CSBA Publication	Building Healthy Communities: A School Leaders Guide to Collaboration and Community Engagement, 2009
CSBA Publication	School Safety: Bullying and Cyberbullying, Policy Brief, October 2023
CSBA Publication	Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014
CSBA Publication	Addressing the Conditions of Children: Focus on Bullying, Governance Brief, December 2012
CSBA Publication	Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, rev. July 2010
CSBA Publication	Final Guidance: AB 1266, Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students, Privacy, Programs, Activities & Facilities, Legal Guidance, March 2014
CSBA Publication	Legal Guidance on Rights of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students in Schools, October 2022
U.S. DOE Office for Civil Rights Publication	Dear Colleague Letter: Responding to Bullying of Students with Disabilities, October 2014
U.S. DOE Publication	Creating Inclusive and Nondiscriminatory School Environments for LGBTQI+ Students, June 2023
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Dear Colleague Letter: Addressing Discrimination Against Jewish Students, May 2023
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Dear Colleague Letter: Discrimination, Including Harassment, Based on Shared Ancestry or Ethnic Characteristics, November 2023
U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication	Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010
US Department of Health and Human Services	Social Media and Youth Mental Health: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory, 2023
US Dept of Health and Human Services Publication	Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Health Effects of Social Connection and the Community, 2023
Website	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Stop Bullying
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	National School Safety Center
Website	Partnership for Children and Youth
Website	Center on Great Teachers and Leaders
Website	Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning
Website	Common Sense Media
Website	California Department of Education, Safe Schools
Website	California Office of the Attorney General
Website	CSBA
Website	U.S. Department of Education

Cross References

Code	**Description**
0100	Philosophy
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0440	District Technology Plan
0440	District Technology Plan

0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
1113	District And School Websites
1113	District And School Websites
1113-E(1)	District And School Websites
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(2)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1313	Civility
3515	Campus Security
3515	Campus Security
4131	Staff Development
4219.21	Professional Standards
4219.21-E(1)	Professional Standards
4231	Staff Development
4319.21	Professional Standards
4319.21-E(1)	Professional Standards
5030	Student Wellness
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5116.1	Intradistrict Open Enrollment
5116.1	Intradistrict Open Enrollment
5116.2	Involuntary Student Transfers
5117	Interdistrict Attendance
5117	Interdistrict Attendance
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records
5131	Conduct
5131.8	Mobile Communication Devices
5136	Gangs
5136	Gangs
5137	Positive School Climate
5138	Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation
5141.27	Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs
5141.27	Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs
5141.5	Mental Health
5141.52	Suicide Prevention
5141.52	Suicide Prevention
5144	Discipline
5144	Discipline
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5144.2	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities)
5144.4	Required Parental Attendance
5144.4	Required Parental Attendance
5145.12	Search And Seizure
5145.12	Search And Seizure
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression

5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.7	Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment
5145.7	Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment
5145.9	Hate-Motivated Behavior
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6144	Controversial Issues
6163.4	Student Use Of Technology
6163.4-E(1)	Student Use Of Technology
6164.2	Guidance/Counseling Services
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education