

STUDENTS

Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

The District is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, parents/legal guardians, volunteers and community members that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to, one shown to be motivated by any characteristic in RCW 28A.640.010 and 28A.542.010 (race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by the person with the disability) or other distinguishing characteristics, when the act:

1. Physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or
2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or
3. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
4. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Nothing in this section requires the affected student to actually possess a characteristic that is a basis for the harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

"Other distinguishing characteristics" can include but are not limited to physical appearance, clothing or other apparel, socioeconomic status and weight.

"Intentional acts" refers to the individual's choice to engage in the act rather than the ultimate impact of the action(s).

Behaviors/Expressions

Harassment, intimidation or bullying can take many forms including, but not limited to, slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawings, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or other written, oral, physical or electronically transmitted messages or images.

This policy is not intended to prohibit expression of religious, philosophical, or political views, provided that the expression does not substantially disrupt the educational environment. Many behaviors that do not rise to the level of harassment, intimidation or bullying may still be prohibited by other district policies or building, classroom, or program rules.

Training

This policy is a component of the district's responsibility to create and maintain a safe, civil, respectful and inclusive learning community and will be implemented in conjunction with comprehensive training of staff and volunteers.

Any school employee, student, or volunteer who has witnessed, or has reliable information that a student has been subjected to, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, whether electronically, written, verbal or physical, should report such incident to an appropriate school official.

Prevention

The district will provide students with strategies aimed at preventing harassment, intimidation and bullying. In its efforts to train students, the district will seek partnerships with families, law enforcement and other community agencies.

Interventions

Interventions are designed to remediate the impact on the targeted student(s) and others impacted by the violation, to change the behavior of the perpetrator, and to restore a positive school climate. The district will consider the frequency of incidents, developmental age of the student, and severity of the conduct in determining intervention strategies. Interventions will range from counseling, correcting behavior and discipline, to law enforcement referrals.

Students with Individualized Education Plans or Section 504 Plans

If a student with an Individual Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan has been the target of harassment, intimidation or bullying, the school will convene the student's IEP or Section 504 team to determine whether the incident had an impact on the student's ability to receive a Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). The meeting should occur regardless of whether the harassment, intimidation or bullying incident was based on the student's disability. During the meeting, the team will evaluate issues such as the student's academic performance, behavioral issues, attendance, and participation in extracurricular activities. If a determination is made that the student is not receiving a FAPE as a result of the harassment, intimidation or bullying incident, the district will provide additional services and supports as deemed necessary, such as counseling, monitoring and/or reevaluation or revision of the student's IEP or Section 504 plan, to ensure the student receives a FAPE.

Retaliation/False Allegations

Retaliation is prohibited and will result in appropriate discipline. It is a violation of this policy to threaten or harm someone for reporting harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

It is also a violation of district policy to knowingly report false allegations of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Students or employees will not be disciplined for making a report in good faith. However, persons found to knowingly report or corroborate false allegations will be subject to appropriate discipline.

Compliance Officer

The Superintendent will appoint a compliance officer as the primary district contact to receive copies of all formal and informal complaints and ensure policy implementation. The name and contact information for the compliance officer will be communicated throughout the district.

The Superintendent is authorized to direct the implementation of procedures addressing the elements of this policy.

Cross References: Policy 2161	Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
Policy 3201	Rights, Responsibilities & Authority of Teachers and Principal
Policy 3205	Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited
Policy 3210	Nondiscrimination
Policy 3211	Transgender Students
Policy 3240	Rights and Responsibilities of Students
Policy 3241	Student Discipline

Legal References:

Chapter 194, RCW 28A.600 RCW 28A.600.480	Laws of 2019 Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Reporting of harassment, intimidation, or bullying – Retaliation prohibited – Immunity
RCW 28A.640	Sexual Equality
RCW 28A.642	Discrimination Prohibition
RCW 49.60	Discrimination – Human Rights Commission
WAC 392-190	Equal Educational Opportunity- Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited
WAC 392-190-059	Harassment, intimidation and bullying prevention policy and procedure – School districts

Classification: Essential

Adoption Date: June 25, 2003
Revision Dates: October 13, 2010
August 10, 2011
August 28, 2019