

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying

The board of education expects pupils to treat each other with civility and respect, and will not tolerate acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Like other disruptive or violent behaviors, this conduct interferes with a pupil's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its pupils in a safe environment.

The board prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying against any student in accordance with board policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying and the law.

"Harassment, intimidation or bullying" is defined as any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, a mental, physical or sensory disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, national origin, or ancestry, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function or on a school bus, or off school grounds in accordance with law, and that:

- A. Substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students;
- B. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that such acts will have the effect of harming a pupil or damaging the pupil's property, or placing a pupil in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or
- C. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any pupil or group of pupils; or
- D. Creates a hostile educational environment by interfering with the student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

Electronic communication means a communication that is transmitted by means of an electronic device, including but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager that takes place on school grounds, at any school-sponsored function or on a school bus.

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