

WALNUT VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN

POLICY FOR BULLYING PREVENTION

The Walnut Valley Unified School District believes that all students have the right to a safe and healthy school environment. The district, schools, and community have the obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance.

The Walnut Valley Unified School District will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student. Bullying is defined as aggressive behavior that is negative and intentional, carried out repeatedly over an extended period of time, and where the behavior occurs in a relationship where there is an imbalance of power between the parties involved. A student shall not bully another student through words, actions, or use of technology.

The Walnut Valley Unified School District expects students and/or staff to immediately report incidents of bullying to the principal or designee. Staff is expected to immediately intervene when they see a bullying incident occur. Each complaint of bullying should be promptly investigated. This policy applies to students on school grounds, while traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, during the lunch period, whether on or off campus, and during a school-sponsored activity.

To ensure bullying does not occur on school campuses, the Walnut Valley Unified School District will provide staff development training in bullying prevention and cultivate acceptance and understanding in all students and staff to build each school's capacity to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment.

Schools will discuss this policy with their students in age-appropriate ways and should assure them that they need not endure any form of bullying. Students who bully are in violation of this policy and are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Each school will adopt a Student Code of Conduct to be followed by every student while on school grounds, or when traveling to and from school or school-sponsored activity, during the lunch period, whether on or off campus, and during a school-sponsored activity.

The Student Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Any student who engages in bullying may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
- Students are expected to immediately report incidents of bullying to the principal or designee.
- Students can rely on staff to promptly investigate each complaining of bullying in a thorough and confidential manner.
- If the complainant student or the parent/guardian of the student feels that appropriate resolution of the investigation or complaint has not been reached, the student or the parent/guardian should contact the principal or the Director of Pupil Personnel Services. The school system prohibits retaliatory behavior against any complainant or any participant in the complaint process.

The procedures for intervening in bullying behavior include, but are not limited to the following:

- All staff, students and their parents/guardians will receive a summary of this policy.
- The school will make reasonable efforts to keep a report of bullying. The results of the investigation will remain confidential.
- Staff is expected to immediately intervene when they see a bullying incident occur.
- People witnessing or experiencing bullying are encouraged to report the incident; such reporting will not reflect on the victim or witnesses in any way.