



Book	BHASD Policies
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying/Cyberbullying
Code	238
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Purpose

The Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate in the schools. The district, its schools, and the school community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance, and will not tolerate any behaviors that infringe on the safety of any student. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the School District to maintain an educational environment in which bullying and cyber bullying in any form are not tolerated. Toward that end, bullying and cyber bullying are prohibited on school grounds, at school-sponsored events and activities, on school busses and other school-sponsored transportation and at school bus stops.

Authority

All forms of bullying and cyber bullying by school district students are hereby prohibited. Anyone who engages in bullying or cyber bullying in violation of this Policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

Students who have been bullied or cyber bullied shall promptly report such incidents to designated building administrators and/or staff.

Complaints of bullying or cyber bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when a complaint is verified. Neither reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of the submission of a complaint.

The School District shall annually inform students that bullying or cyber bullying of students will not be tolerated.

Definition

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student, teacher or employee of the School District by sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blogs). All forms of cyber bullying are unacceptable and, to the extent that such actions are disruptive of the educational process of the School District, offenders shall be the subject of appropriate discipline.

Bullying should mean any intentional and repeated occurrences of unwelcomed and hurtful words, acts, or other behaviors, such as name-calling, threatening, and shunning, committed by one or more individuals against another.

Bullying can take many forms and occur in virtually any setting. Examples of bullying include, but are exclusive to:

Physically, emotionally or mentally harming a student;

Damaging, extorting or taking a student's personal property;

- Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical, emotional or mental harm;
- Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property; or
- Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities.

The term "bullying" or "cyber bullying" shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.

Delegation of Responsibility

Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free of bullying and cyber bullying to lessen it as much as possible and hold the students accountable.

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of his/her fellow students and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of bullying and cyber bullying.

Students shall be encouraged to report bullying or cyber bullying complaints to School District employees.

Appropriate building administrators shall investigate to determine if bullying or cyber bullying has occurred. If the behavior is found to meet the definition of bullying or cyber bullying, written documentation must be submitted to the building principal.

The building principal or his/her designee will inform the parents of the victim and the person accused.

Guidelines

Complaint Procedure:

1. A student shall report a complaint of bullying or cyber bullying orally or in writing to a School District employee.
2. A building administrator will investigate the alleged conduct that occurred.
3. The building administrator may ask assistance from other School District employees in the investigation process.
4. After the investigation, the building principal shall be notified in writing of the complaint and the results of the investigation and shall take corrective action to ensure the conduct ceases.
5. Discipline: A violation of this Policy shall subject the offending student to appropriate disciplinary action, consistent with the student discipline code, which may include suspension or expulsion.