

Board Policy

Bullying

BP 5131.2

Students

The Governing Board recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student well-being, student learning, and school attendance and desires to provide a safe school environment that protects students from physical 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.

Examples of Prohibited Conduct

Bullying is an aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived imbalance of power between individuals with the intent to cause emotional or physical harm. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social/relational, involves repetition or potential repetition of a deliberate act, and includes, but is not limited to, any act described in Education Code 48900(r).

Cyberbullying includes the electronic creation or transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account or assuming that person's online identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

Examples of the types of prohibited conduct that may constitute bullying include, but are not limited to:

1. Physical bullying that inflicts harm upon a person's body or possessions, such as hitting, kicking, pinching, spitting, tripping, pushing, taking or breaking someone's possessions, or making cruel or rude hand gestures
2. Verbal bullying that includes saying or writing hurtful things, such as teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, or threats to cause harm
3. Social/relational bullying that harms a person's reputation or relationships, such as leaving a person out of an activity on purpose, influencing others not to be friends with someone, spreading rumors, or embarrassing someone in public
4. Sending demeaning or hateful text messages or emails, sending rumors by email or by posting on social networking sites, or posting embarrassing photos, videos, web site, or fake profiles

The Governing Board incorporates any strategies developed by the Principal implementing this policy, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. Ensuring that the Charter School establishes clear rules for student conduct and implements strategies to promote a positive, collaborative school climate
2. Providing to students, through student handbooks and other age-appropriate means, information about Charter School rules related to bullying, mechanisms available for reporting incidents or threats, and the consequences for engaging in bullying
3. Encouraging students to notify school staff when they are being bullied or when they suspect that another student is being bullied, and providing means by which students may report threats or incidents confidentially and anonymously
4. Conducting an assessment of bullying incidents and, if necessary, increasing supervision and security in areas where bullying most often occurs.
5. Annually notifying Charter School employees that, pursuant to Education Code 234.1, any school staff who witnesses an act of bullying against a student has a responsibility to immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so
6. Providing professional development to all school staff who have regular interaction with students, including information regarding staff's obligation to prevent discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students and annually making available the California Department of Education's online training module on the dynamics of bullying and cyberbullying pursuant to Education Code 32283.5
7. Providing students with instruction, as appropriate, that promotes social-emotional learning, effective communication skills, conflict resolution skills, and appropriate online behavior and teaches students about the negative impact of bullying, discrimination, intimidation, and harassment based on actual or perceived immigration status, religious beliefs and customs, or any other individual bias or prejudice

Preventive strategies may be incorporated into the Charter School's comprehensive safety plan and, to the extent possible, into the local control and accountability plan and other applicable Charter School plans.

Any complaint of bullying shall be submitted to and investigated by the individual(s), position(s), or unit(s) designated by the Principal and, if determined to be discriminatory, shall be resolved in accordance with law and BP 6463 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. 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.

Discipline/Corrective Actions

A victim of bullying, witness, perpetrator, or other student affected by an act of bullying may be referred to a school counselor, school psychologist, social worker, child welfare attendance personnel, school nurse, or other school support service personnel for case management, counseling, and/or participation in a restorative justice program as appropriate. (Education Code 48900.9)

In addition, corrective actions for a student who commits an act of bullying may include notification of the student's parent/guardian, behavioral intervention and education and, if the behavior is severe or pervasive, may include additional discipline including suspension or expulsion, and/or referral to law enforcement in accordance with the law and Charter School policies and regulations.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination 32282 Comprehensive safety plan 32283.5 Bullying; online training 48900-48925 Suspension or expulsion 48985 Translation of notices 52066-52069 Local control and accountability plan PENAL CODE

422.55 Definition of hate crime

647 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor

647.7 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; punishment

653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47

254 Universal service discounts (e-rate)

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.107 Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504

106.8 Designation of responsible employee for Title IX

110.25 Notification of nondiscrimination on the basis of age COURT DECISIONS

Wynar v. Douglas County School District, (2013) 728 F.3d 1062

J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094 Lavine v. Blaine School District, (2002) 279 F.3d 719

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Final Guidance: AB 1266, Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students, Privacy, Programs, Activities & Facilities, Legal Guidance, March 2014

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014

Addressing the Conditions of Children: Focus on Bullying, Governance Brief, December 2012

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011 Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, rev. July 2010
Building Healthy Communities: A School Leaders Guide to Collaboration and Community Engagement, 2009

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Bullying Module

California's Social and Emotional Learning: Guiding Principles, 2018 Social and Emotional Learning in California: A Guide to Resources, 2018

Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008

Bullying at School, 2003

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS Dear Colleague Letter: Responding to Bullying of Students with Disabilities, October 2014 Guidance to America's Schools: Bullying of Students with Disabilities, October 2014

Dear Colleague Letter: Guidance on Schools' Obligations to Protect Students from Student-on-Student Harassment on the Basis of Sex; Race, Color and National Origin; and Disability, October 26, 2010

Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Safe Schools Office: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss> California Office of the Attorney General: <http://oag.ca.gov>

Center on Great Teachers and Leaders: <http://gtlcenter.org>

Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning: <http://casel.org> Common Sense Media: <http://www.common Sense Media.org>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us> Partnership for Children and Youth: <http://www.partnerforchildren.org>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

ADOPTED: 10/20

Amended: 11/22