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**Note:** This policy addresses bullying of District students. For provisions regarding discrimination and harassment involving District students, see FFH. Note that FFI shall be used in conjunction with FFH for certain prohibited conduct. For reporting requirements related to child abuse and neglect, see FFG.

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STAFF DUTIES AND  
AUTHORITY

All employees shall have the authority and be expected to assist with maintaining appropriate behavior at any time the safety and welfare of students requires their assistance. Such assistance includes, but shall not be limited to, correcting inappropriate behavior in any school setting, seeking support of other staff members if needed, and reporting intolerable student behavior to the administrator in charge.

SCHOOL  
RESPONSIBILITY

All District schools shall:

1. Provide a school climate where bullying and intimidation are not acceptable by incorporating prevention into the school-wide and classroom discipline plans;
2. Provide an awareness program to all parents and community members about the school's and District's position regarding bullying and intimidation;
3. Promote the need for and responsibility of students, staff, and parents, whether as victims or witnesses, to report to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or department supervisor all school-related incidents of bullying or intimidation;
4. Encourage students to report incidents of bullying or intimidation;
5. Provide systems for students to report incidents confidentially, whether as victims or observers; and
6. Provide learning opportunities for students in support of this policy.

BULLYING  
PROHIBITED

The Board affirms the considerable merit of educating all students in a safe, nonthreatening environment that is conducive to effective teaching and learning. Respect, safety, and protection from harm for all students are critical; therefore, all students are expected to be free from all forms of bullying and intimidation.

The District prohibits bullying as defined by this policy. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy and is prohibited.

STUDENT WELFARE  
FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

FFI  
(LOCAL)

DEFINITION	<p>Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the District and that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; or</li><li>2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.</li></ol> <p>This conduct is considered bullying if it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; and</li><li>2. Interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.</li></ol>
EXAMPLES	<p>Bullying of a student may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.</p>
RETALIATION	<p>The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.</p>
EXAMPLES	<p>Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.</p>
FALSE CLAIM	<p>A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.</p>
TIMELY REPORTING	<p>Reports of bullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.</p>
REPORTING PROCEDURES	<p>Any person who knows or believes that a student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to the teacher, school counselor, principal, or other District employee.</p>

STUDENT WELFARE  
FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

FFI  
(LOCAL)

STUDENT REPORT	To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other District employee.
EMPLOYEE REPORT	Any District employee who suspects or observes or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.
REPORT FORMAT	A report may be made orally or in writing. The principal or designee shall reduce any oral reports to written form.
PROHIBITED CONDUCT	The principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, including dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited conduct and bullying, the investigation under FFH shall include a determination on each type of conduct.
INVESTIGATION OF REPORT	The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report. The principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.
CONCLUDING THE INVESTIGATION	<p>Absent extenuating circumstances, the investigation should be completed within ten District business days from the date of the initial report alleging bullying; however, the principal or designee shall take additional time if necessary to complete a thorough investigation.</p> <p>The principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A copy of the report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee.</p>
NOTICE TO PARENTS	If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.
DISTRICT ACTION BULLYING	If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct and may take corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct.

STUDENT WELFARE  
FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

FFI  
(LOCAL)

DISCIPLINE	<p>A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action.</p> <p>The discipline of a student with a disability is subject to applicable state and federal law in addition to the Student Code of Conduct.</p>
CORRECTIVE ACTION	<p>Examples of corrective action may include a training program for the individuals involved in the complaint, a comprehensive education program for the school community, follow-up inquiries to determine if any new incidents or any instances of retaliation have occurred, involving parents and students in efforts to identify problems and improve the school climate, increasing staff monitoring of areas where bullying has occurred, and reaffirming the District's policy against bullying.</p>
TRANSFERS	<p>The principal or designee shall refer to FDB for transfer provisions.</p>
COUNSELING	<p>The principal or designee shall notify the victim, the student who engaged in bullying, and any students who witnessed the bullying of available counseling options.</p>
IMPROPER CONDUCT	<p>If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or any other appropriate corrective action.</p>
CONFIDENTIALITY	<p>To the greatest extent possible, the District shall respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.</p>
APPEAL	<p>A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.</p>
RECORDS RETENTION	<p>Retention of records shall be in accordance with CPC(LOCAL).</p>
ACCESS TO POLICY AND PROCEDURES	<p>This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks. Copies of the policy and procedures shall be posted on the District's website, to the extent practicable, and shall be readily available at each campus and the District's administrative offices.</p>