

Bullying

Bullying and harassment are major distractions from learning. The grades of the victims can suffer. Fear can lead to chronic absenteeism, truancy, or even dropping out of school. Bystanders feel both guilty and helpless for not standing up to the bully.

As a rule, bullying behavior starts in elementary school and peaks in the middle school years. However, it attracts more attention from adults when it appears in high school. These students are older and physically larger and the behavior is recognized as being less tolerable and more inappropriate. Also, sexual harassment is, in fact, often a form of bullying.

Most bullying by students starts out verbally – teasing and put-downs – may become progressively worse and assume physical dimensions.

Bullying of any type has no place in a school setting. M.S.A.D. #3 will endeavor to maintain a learning and working environment free of bullying.

Bullying is defined as the act of one or more individuals intimidating one or more persons through verbal, mental, physical, or written interactions. Bullying can take many forms and occur in virtually any setting. It can create unnecessary and unwarranted anxiety that will affect attending school, walking in corridors, eating in cafeterias, playing in the school yard or recreation areas, participating in or attending special extra-curricular activities, or riding on the bus to and from school each day.

Examples of bullying include but are not exclusive to:

1. Intimidation, either physical or psychological.
2. Threats of any kind stated or implied.
3. Assaults on students, including those that are verbal, physical, psychological and emotional.
4. Attacks on student property.

The Board of Directors expects administrators and supervisors to make clear to students and staff that bullying in the school buildings, on school grounds, on the bus or school sanctioned transportation, or at school-sponsored functions will not be tolerated and will be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including suspension and expulsion for students, and termination for employees.

The principal of each building will be responsible for the prompt investigation of all complaints alleging bullying, including harassment.

The superintendent will develop administrative guidelines and procedures for the implementation of this policy.

Cross References: ACA Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
ACAA Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
ACAA Regulation Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint
Procedure
ACAD Hazing
IJNDB Student Computer and Internet Use
IJNDB Regulation Student Computer and Internet Use Rules
JIC System-wide Student Code of Conduct
JICC Student Conduct on Buses
JICIA Weapons, Violence and School Safety
JK Student Discipline
JKF Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities
JKF Regulation Administrative Procedures for Removal of Students with
Disabilities
JJI Co-Curricular Code of Conduct
JJI Regulation Co-Curricular Code of Conduct
KLG Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities
KLG Regulation Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities
Administrative Procedure

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