

Policy No.: 404.05 R1
Adopted: 6-11-2002
Revised: 3-9-2015

BULLYING/HARASSMENT INVESTIGATING AND REPORTING

Bullying/Harassment of employees and students will not be tolerated in the school district. Bullying/Harassment is a violation of school district policies, rules and regulations and, in some cases, may also be a violation of criminal or other laws. The school district has the authority to report students violating this rule to law enforcement officials.

Employees whose behavior is alleged to be in violation of this policy will be subject to the investigation procedure which may result in discipline, up to and including, discharge or other appropriate action. Other individuals whose behavior is alleged to be in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the superintendent or board.

Individuals who feel that they have been bullied/harassed by employees, board members, administrators, parents, vendors or others doing business with the school district should communicate to the bully/harasser that the individual expects the behavior to stop, if the individual is comfortable doing so. If the individual needs assistance communicating with the bully/harasser, he/she should ask a teacher, counselor or principal to help.

Complaint Procedure

An employee or student who believes that they have been bullied/harassed shall notify the superintendent, the designated investigator. The alternate investigator is the principal. The investigator may request that the employee or student complete the Bullying/Harassment Complaint form and turn over evidence of the bullying/harassment, including, but not limited to, letters, tapes, or pictures. Information received during the investigation shall be kept confidential to the extent possible.

The superintendent, or the investigator with the approval of the superintendent, has the authority to initiate a bullying/harassment investigation in the absence of a written complaint.

Investigation Procedure

The investigator shall reasonably and promptly commence the investigation upon receipt of the complaint. The investigator shall interview the complainant and the alleged harasser. The alleged bully/harasser may file a written statement refuting or explaining the behavior outlined in the complaint. The investigator may also interview witnesses as deemed appropriate.

Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator shall report to the superintendent. The investigator will outline the findings of the investigation to the superintendent.

Resolution of the Complaint

The superintendent will complete the next step in the investigation reasonably and promptly upon receipt of the investigator's report. Following the investigator's report, the superintendent may investigate further, if deemed necessary, and make a determination of the appropriate next step which may include discipline, up to and including, discharge.

Prior to the determination of the appropriate remedial action, the superintendent may, at the superintendent's discretion, interview the complainant and the alleged bully/harasser. The

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superintendent shall file a written report closing the case and documenting any disciplinary or other action taken in response to the complaint. The complainant, the alleged bully/harasser and the investigator shall receive notice as to the conclusion of the investigation.

Points to Remember in the Investigation

- Evidence uncovered in the investigation is confidential.
- Complaints must be taken seriously and investigated.
- No retaliation will be taken against individuals involved in the investigation process.
- Retaliators will be disciplined up to and including discharge.

Conflicts

If the investigator is the alleged bully/harasser or a witness to the incident, the alternate investigator shall be the investigator.

If the alleged bully/harasser is the superintendent, the alternate investigator shall take the superintendent's place in the investigation process. The alternate investigator shall report the findings to the board.