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Prohibition on Bullying

Schools will work toward providing an orderly, caring and nondiscriminatory learning environment which prohibits acts of harassment or bullying behavior. Each school will strive to provide a safe and civil environment necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Active demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and promoting an inclusive atmosphere is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, parents, students and volunteers in order to model and promote a safe academic environment.

A student shall not be harassed, intimidated, or bullied based on his/her actual or perceived characteristics as set forth in Penal Code section 422.55 and Education Code sections 220 and 234.1, which includes but is not limited to disability; gender; gender identity; gender expression; nationality; race or ethnicity; religion; sexual orientation; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

For purposes of Board Policy 5145.4 and this Administrative Regulation, bullying is defined as, and includes, but is not limited to abusive action or conduct, which can be physical, verbal, written, psychological or sexual in nature. Examples of bullying in these different forms include, but are not limited to:

1. Physical: hitting, kicking, spitting or pushing
2. Verbal or Written: teasing, threatening, or name-calling
3. Psychological: social isolation, manipulation, spreading rumors, or intimidating
4. Sexual: touching, assault, exhibitionism, or many of the actions listed above.

Normally, bullying is a pattern of conduct or is conduct which is repeated over a period of time, but may, in some instances, take the form of one severe or egregious act.

Cyberbullying

Bullying may also take place through the Internet or through other forms of technology or electronic acts. "Cyberbullying" includes the transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

For purposes of student suspension or recommendation for expulsion from a school, Education Code section 48900(r) defines "electronic act" as the creation and transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of electronic device, of an electronic communication.

Student Discipline for Bullying

For purposes of student discipline, the definition of bullying is governed by Education Code 48900(r) and district Administrative Regulation 5144.1, and is as follows: bullying means severe or pervasive physical or verbal act(s) or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, as defined in Education Code 48900(r)(2), and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students, directed towards one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing a reasonable student(s) in fear of harm to that student's or a group of student's person or property
2. Causing the student(s) to be expelled or suspended from school or to be subjected to a disciplinary action

The school site principal or designee shall develop strategies to assess the need^a

