BULLYING

It is the policy of this school district that bullying of students by other students, personnel, or the public will not be tolerated. Students are expected to be civil, polite, and fully engaged in the learning process. Students who act inappropriately are not fully engaged in the learning process. This policy is in effect while the students are on school grounds, in school vehicles, at designated bus stops, at school-sponsored activities, or at school-sanctioned events, and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the school district. Bullying of students by electronic communication is prohibited whether or not such communication originated at school or with school equipment, if the communication is specifically directed at students or school personnel and concerns harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school. The school district is not required to provide educational services in the regular school setting to any student who has been removed from a public school or private school in Oklahoma or another state by administrative or judicial process for an act of using electronic communication with the intent to terrify, intimidate or harass, or threaten to inflict injury or physical harm to faculty or students.

As used in the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act, "bullying" means any pattern of harassment, intimidation, threatening behavior, physical acts, verbal or electronic communication directed toward a student or group of students that results in or is reasonably perceived as being done with the intent to cause negative educational or physical results for the targeted individual or group and is communicated in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. Isolated action does not meet the state's definition of bullying. However, the administration will investigate isolated incidents or actions and apply appropriate discipline under the student discipline code. This policy addresses bullying which is specifically prohibited.

In administering discipline, consideration will be given to alternative methods of punishment to ensure that the most effective discipline is administered in each case. In all disciplinary action, teachers and administrators will be mindful of the fact that they are dealing with individual personalities. The faculty may consider consultation with parents to determine the most effective disciplinary measure.

In considering alternatives of corrective actions, the faculty/administration of the school district will consider those listed below. However, the school is not limited to these alternative methods, nor does this list reflect an order or sequence of events to follow in disciplinary actions. The board of education will rely upon the judgment and discretion of the administrator to determine the appropriate remedial or corrective action in each instance.

1. Conference with student
2. Conference with parents
3. In-school suspension
4. Detention
5. Referral to counselor
6. Behavioral contract
7. Changing student's seat assignment or class assignment
8. Requiring a student to make financial restitution for damaged property
9. Requiring a student to clean or straighten items or facilities damaged by the student's behavior
10. Restriction of privileges
11. Involvement of local authorities
12. Referring student to appropriate social agency or to a delinquency prevention and diversion program administrated by the office of Juvenile Affairs
13. Suspension
14. Performing Campus-site services for the school district
15. Other appropriate disciplinary action as required and as indicated by the circumstances which may include, but is not limited to, removal from eligibility to participate or attend extracurricular activities as well as removal

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from the privilege of attending or participating in the graduation ceremony, school dances, prom, prom activities, and/or class trips.

Harassment set forth above may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Verbal, physical, or written harassment or abuse.
2. Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature.
3. Implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc.
4. Demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at the student.
5. Unwelcome physical contact.

The superintendent shall develop procedures providing for:

1. Prompt investigation of allegations of harassment.
2. The expeditious correction of the conditions causing such harassment.
3. Establishment of adequate measures to provide confidentiality in the complaint process.
4. Initiation of appropriate corrective actions.
5. Identification and enactment of methods to prevent reoccurrence of the harassment.
6. A process where the provisions of this policy are disseminated in writing annually to all staff and students.

All school employees at each school site shall be required to complete professional development training in school bullying prevention, identification, response and reporting that meets the requirements of Oklahoma law and shall include recommendations from each school site's Safe Schools Committee.

Students will receive annual training regarding identifying, preventing, addressing, and reporting incidents of bullying via educational programs. These programs may include, but are not limited to, classroom discussions, assemblies, multimedia and presentations. The purpose of the educational programs are to assist students in the identification of bullying behaviors, reporting procedures and the consequences for violation of school policy.

The district will implement a research-based educational program as designed and developed by the Oklahoma State Department of Education for students and parents to prevent, identify, respond to and report bullying.

A copy of this policy will be furnished to each student and teacher in this school district.

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REFERENCE: 21 O.S. §850.0
70 O.S. §24-100.2

THIS POLICY REQUIRED BY LAW