

POLICY S-005
BULLYING PREVENTION

Introduction

Western Gateway Elementary School recognizes that the need for student safety is imperative in order to promote a climate that is safe and conducive for learning.

Students are prohibited from bullying, harassing, threatening, or intimidating other students or school personnel. Bullying means any 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.

The following steps shall apply to the investigation of reported incidents of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or threatening behavior:

- If any person is aware of, observes, or is a victim of bullying, harassing, threatening, or intimidating behavior or communications from a student, such person must report the behavior or communication to the Head of School.
- The Head of School will gather information deemed necessary to evaluate the incident.
- After completing any necessary investigation, the Head of School shall determine if the student accused of bullying, harassing, threatening, or intimidating behavior or communications engaged in prohibited conduct and, if so, shall determine the appropriate discipline.
- Parents and guardians of both victims and perpetrators of verified bullying will be notified and steps taken to rectify the actions of students involved.
- During the pendency of the investigation, the Head of School may take appropriate action to ensure the safety of all students or school personnel involved.
- If warranted, the Head of School shall notify law enforcement of the reported incident and cooperate with any law enforcement investigation.
- If the student's actions are determined to constitute harassing, intimidating, threatening, hazing, or bullying behavior or communications, the Head of School may, as a condition and part of any disciplinary action that is taken, recommend that available community mental health care options be provided to the student.
- The Head of School may also require that the student and the student's parent or guardian meet with the administrator, a school counselor, and/or other appropriate school personnel before being allowed to return to school.
- If a student is found to have falsely accused another student of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or threatening behavior as a means of retaliation, reprisal or as a means of bullying then they may be assigned disciplinary consequences as deemed appropriate by the Head of School.

Definitions/Terms:

“At school” means on school grounds, in school vehicles, at school-sponsored activities or at school-sanctioned events.

“Electronic communication” means the communication of any written, verbal, pictorial or video content by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, or mobile or cellular telephone or other wireless telecommunication device or a computer.

“Threatening behavior” means any pattern or behavior or isolated action, whether or not it is directed at another person, that a reasonable person would believe indicates potential for future harm to students, school personnel, or school property.

Appropriate school personnel consists of site administration (Head of School, Assistant Head of School), counselor, and/or teacher.

Information from this policy shall be posted in areas deemed appropriate by the Head of School, and will be included in all student and faculty handbooks.

The Head of School or designee will conduct an annual training of preventing, identifying, responding and reporting incidents of bullying with their faculty and staff. The Head of School will also provide for an educational program for students and parents in preventing, identifying, responding to and reporting incidents of bullying.

Adopted: 6/17/2021

LEGAL REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §24-100.3 and §24-100.4; 21 O.S. § 850.