Students

5131.1 - BP

STUDENT ANTI-BULLYING

The Board of Education believes every child is entitled to a safe school environment free from bullying. Just as the Board expects professional behavior of its staff, similar behavior is expected of the students. The Board also believes that students should not be disruptive or create a climate of fear by bullying other students. Bullying is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, committed by a student or group of students directed toward other students.

Children need to learn appropriate social behaviors as well as consider the needs, behaviors, and feelings of others. Various strategies will be used to promote respectful relationships and to improve or change inappropriate behaviors.

Consistent with state and federal law, the district prohibits bullying and provides a timely and effective complaint procedure for pupils who believe they have been the victim of bullying. In order to create a positive climate for education, all reports of bullying will be investigated and resolved promptly to avoid an atmosphere of harassment.

The district also is mindful that, at times, behavior that is rude or insensitive may nevertheless be constitutionally protected in the context of a public school environment. Such conduct can best be prevented with effective strategies that involve pupils, parents and school employees in collaborative efforts to promote respectful relationships and to improve or change inappropriate behaviors while teaching acceptance and ensuring equal educational opportunities for all. Regulations regarding this policy will be made a part of each school's student discipline and safety plan.

Cross Reference:	District Policy	48900.2 48900.3 48900.4 48900(r) 5131.2 5145.3 5145.7 1312.3 6202

Policy adopted: 5/8/12