

ANTI-BULLYING/ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The Western Dubuque Community School District is committed to providing all students, employees, and volunteers with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. Bullying and/or harassing behavior can seriously disrupt the ability of school employees to maintain a safe and civil environment, and the ability of students to learn and succeed.

Bullying and/or harassment of or by students, employees, and volunteers is against federal, state, and local policy and is not tolerated by the board.

Accordingly, school employees, volunteers, and students shall not engage in bullying or harassing behavior while on school property, while on school-owned or school-operated vehicles, while attending or participating in school-sponsored or sanctioned activities, and while away from school grounds if the conduct materially interferes with the orderly operation of the educational environment or is likely to do so.

Complaints may be filed with the superintendent or superintendent's designee pursuant to the regulation accompanying this policy. The Superintendent is responsible for the implementation of this policy and all accompanying procedures. Complaints will be investigated within a reasonable time frame. Within 24 hours of receiving a report that a student may have been the victim of conduct that constitutes bullying and/or harassment, the district will notify the parent or guardian of the student.

If as a result of viewing surveillance system data or based on a report from a school district employee, the district determines that a student has suffered bullying or harassment by another student enrolled in the district; a parent or guardian of the student may enroll the student in another attendance center within the district that offers classes at the student's grade level, subject to the requirements and limitations established in Iowa law related to this topic.

A school employee, volunteer, or student, or a student's parent or guardian who promptly, reasonably, and in good faith reports an incident of bullying or harassment, in compliance with the procedures in the regulation, to the appropriate school official designated by the school district, shall be immune from civil or criminal liability relating to such report and to participation in any administrative or judicial proceeding resulting from or relating to the report.

Retaliation Prohibited

Individuals who knowingly file false bullying or harassment complaints and any person who gives false statements in an investigation may be subject to discipline by appropriate measures.

Any student found to have violated or retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. Any school employee found to have violated or retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, termination of employment. Any school volunteer found to have violated or retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, removal from service and exclusion from school grounds.

ANTI-BULLYING/ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the defined words shall have the following meaning:

- “Electronic” means any communication involving the transmission of information by wire, radio, optic cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. “Electronic” includes but is not limited to communication via electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, cell phones, and electronic text messaging.
- “Harassment” and “bullying” mean any repeated or potentially repeated electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or other ongoing conduct toward an individual based on any trait or characteristics of the individual which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:
 - Places the individual in reasonable fear of harm to the individual’s person or property.
 - Has a substantial detrimental effect on the individual’s physical or mental health.
 - Has the effect of substantially interfering with the individual’s academic or career performance.
Has the effect of substantially interfering with the individual’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school
- “Trait or characteristic of the individual” includes but is not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status.
- “Volunteer” means an individual who has regular, significant contact with students.

Publication of Policy

The board will annually publish this policy. The policy may be publicized by the following means:

- Inclusion in the student handbook,
- Inclusion in the employee handbook
- Inclusion in the registration materials
- Inclusion on the school or school district’s web site,

ANTI-BULLYING/ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. §§ 1221-1234i.
29 U.S.C. § 794.
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7.
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 2 *et. seq.*
Iowa Code §§ 216.9; 280.28; 280.3.
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6).
Morse v. Frederick, 551 U.S. 393 (2007)

Cross References:

102 Equal Educational Opportunity
102.R1 Equal Educational Opportunity – Grievance Procedure
102.E1 Equal Educational Opportunity – Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination
102.E2 Equal Educational Opportunity – Continuous Notice of Nondiscrimination
102.E3 Equal Educational Opportunity – Notice of Section 504 Student and Parental Rights
102.E4 Equal Educational Opportunity – Discrimination Complaint Form
102.E5 Equal Educational Opportunity – Witness Disclosure Form
102.E6 Equal Educational Opportunity – Disposition of Complaint Form\
401.1 Equal Employment Opportunity
401.13 Staff Technology Use/Social Networking401.13R1 Staff Technology Use/Social
Networking Regulation
402.3 Abuse of Student by School District Employees
404 Employee Conduct and Appearance
404.R1 Employee Conduct and Appearance – Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics
Regulation
404.R2 Employee Conduct and Appearance – Code of Rights and Responsibilities Regulation
604.11 Appropriate Use of Online Learning Platforms
605.6 Internet-Appropriate Use
605.6R1 Internet Appropriate Use – Regulation
605.6E1 Internet Appropriate Use – Internet Access Permission Letter to Parents
605.6E2 Internet Appropriate Use – Violation Notice

Approved: August 13, 2007

Reviewed: January 14, 2019

Revised: June 9, 2008; June 1, 2009; February 10, 2014; March 14, 2016; April 6, 2020; November 9, 2020; September 11, 2023; February 12, 2024