

	BARTLESVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION	Student Bullying & Harassment	FIG
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Student Bullying and Harassment

It is the policy of the Bartlesville 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. 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.

Reporting Bullying Incidents

Reporting

Students are encouraged to inform school personnel if they are the victim of or a witness to acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. To make a report, students should notify a teacher, counselor, or principal. The employee will give the student an official report form, and will help the student complete the form, if needed. Parents, guardians, volunteers, and community members are encouraged to report acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to school personnel.

Students may make an anonymous report of bullying, and such report will be investigated as thoroughly as possible. However, it is often difficult to fully investigate claims which are made anonymously and disciplinary action cannot be taken against a bully solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

No student shall be discouraged or prevented from making a good-faith report of suspected bullying.

Retaliation

Students who report bullying or other inappropriate behavior in good faith, or who participate as witnesses in an investigation, are protected from retaliation. Retaliation of any kind—including threats, intimidation,

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exclusion, harassment, cyberbullying, spreading rumors, or any other adverse treatment intended to discourage or punish a student for reporting a concern—is strictly prohibited. Any student found to have engaged in retaliatory behavior will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with school policy. Students who believe they have experienced retaliation should report it immediately to a teacher, school counselor, administrator, or other trusted school employee so that the matter can be promptly investigated and addressed. If an employee of the district is found to have engaged in retaliatory action against a student who has reported bullying, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken which could include termination of employment.

False Reporting

Any person who knowingly makes a false report shall receive disciplinary consequences and any accusations found to be false will be removed from the falsely accused student's records.

Staff Reporting

All employees, whether certified or noncertified, are required to promptly report acts or behavior that appears to constitute harassing, intimidating, or bullying to the school principal. Employees must complete and submit an official report form. In addition, staff members will encourage students who tell them about acts that may constitute intimidation, harassment, or bullying to complete a report form.

Publication of Policy

A full copy of this policy will be posted on the district's website and included in all district handbooks. Parents, guardians, community members, and volunteers will be notified of the availability of this policy through the district's annual written notice of the availability of the district's anti-bullying policy. Written notice of the policy will also be posted at various places in all district school sites.

Students and staff will be periodically reminded throughout the year of the availability of this policy, the district's commitment to preventing bullying, and help available for those affected by bullying. Anti-bullying programs will be incorporated into the district's other violence prevention efforts.

Student and Staff Education and Training

All staff will receive annual training regarding preventing, identifying, reporting, and managing bullying. The district's bullying coordinator and individuals designated as school site investigators will receive additional training regarding appropriate consequences and remedial action for bullies, helping targets of bullies, and the district's strategy for counseling and referral for those affected by Bullying.

Students will receive annual education regarding behavioral expectations, understanding bullying and its negative effects, disciplinary consequences for infractions, reporting methods, and consequences

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for those who knowingly make false reports. Parents and guardians may participate in a parent education component.

Review of Policy

The safe schools committee at each site will annually review this policy and provide recommendations to the building principal. The building principal will provide those recommendations to the superintendent. The superintendent shall make a formal recommendation to the board of education to modify the policy at a lawfully convened meeting under an appropriately worded agenda item. After the policy is modified, the policy shall be disseminated to all parents, students, staff and the community.

Monitoring and Compliance

In order to assist the State Department of Education with compliance efforts pursuant to the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act, 70 OKLA. STAT. § 24-100.2 et seq., the district will identify a Bullying Coordinator who will serve as the district contact responsible for providing information to the State Board of Education. The Bullying Coordinator shall maintain updated contact information on file with the State Department of Education and the school district will notify the State Department of Education within fifteen (15) days of the appointment of a new Bullying Coordinator.

A copy of this policy will be submitted to the State Department of Education by December 10th of each school year as part of the school district's Annual Performance Report.

REFERENCE:

21 O.S. §850.0, School Bullying Prevention Act; 70 Okla. Stat. § 24-100.2

CROSS-REFERENCE:

Policy FA, Sexual Harassment of Students

Policy FAA, Grievance Procedure, Sex Discrimination/Harassment

Policy FIB, Hazing

Policy CF, Safety Program

Regulation FIC-R, Bullying Prevention and Investigation Procedures