

## STUDENT VIOLENCE / HARASSMENT / INTIMIDATION / BULLYING

**(To be displayed in school buildings  
and in student handbooks)**

The Governing Board of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District believes it is the right of every student to be educated in a positive, safe, caring, and respectful learning environment. The Governing Board further believes a school environment that is inclusive of these traits maximizes student achievement, fosters student personal growth, and helps a student build a sense of community that promotes positive participation as citizens in society.

To assist in achieving a school environment based on the beliefs of the Governing Board, bullying in any form will not be tolerated.

*Bullying:* Bullying may occur when a student or group of students engages in any form of behavior that includes such acts as intimidation and/or harassment that

- has the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm or damage to property;
- is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that the action, behavior, or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment in the form of physical or emotional harm;
- occurs when there is a real or perceived imbalance of power or strength: or
- may constitute a violation of law.

Bullying of a student or group of students can be manifested through written, verbal, physical, or emotional means and may occur in a variety of forms including, but not limited to, the following:

- verbal, written/printed or graphic exposure to derogatory comments, extortion, exploitation, name calling, or rumor spreading either directly through another person or group or through cyberbullying;
- exposure to social exclusion or ostracism;
- physical contact including but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, or spitting;
- damage to or theft of personal property;

*Cyberbullying:* Cyberbullying is, but not limited to, any act of bullying committed by use of electronic technology or electronic communication devices, including telephonic devices, social networking and other internet communications, on school computers, networks, forums and mailing list, or other District-owned property, and by means of an individual's personal electronic media and equipment.

*Harassment:* Harassment is intentional behavior by a student or group of students that is disturbing or threatening to another student or group of students. Intentional behaviors that characterize harassment include, but are not limited to, stalking, hazing, social exclusion, name calling, unwanted physical contact and unwelcome verbal or written