



Legal Notices for Pupils and Parents/Guardians

Bullying and Harassment

“Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act of conduct, including communications made in writing or by an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a pupil or group of pupils as defined in Section 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4, directed toward one or more pupils that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- (A) Placing a reasonable pupil or pupils in fear of harm to that pupil’s or those pupils’ person or property.
- (B) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
- (C) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
- (D) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

The Governing Board recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student well-being, student learning and school attendance and desires to provide safe school environments that protects students from physical and emotional harm. No individual or group shall, through physical, written, verbal, visual, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any student or school personnel, or retaliate against them for filing a complaint or participating in the complaint resolution process.

Definitions

Bullying is an unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived imbalance of power between individuals with the intent to cause emotional or physical harm. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social/relational and involves repetition or potential repetition of a deliberate act.

Cyberbullying includes the electronic creation or transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account or assuming that person's online identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

Examples of the types of conduct that may constitute bullying and are prohibited by the district include, but are not limited to:

1. Physical bullying that inflicts harm upon a person's body or possessions, such as hitting, kicking, pinching, spitting, tripping, pushing, taking or breaking someone's possessions, or making cruel or rude hand gestures
2. Verbal bullying that includes saying or writing hurtful things, such as teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, or threats to cause harm
3. Social/relational bullying that harms a person's reputation or relationships, such as leaving a person out of an activity on purpose, influencing others not to be friends with someone, spreading rumors, or embarrassing someone in public
4. Cyberbullying, such as sending demeaning or hateful text messages or emails, sending rumors by email or by posting on social networking sites, or posting embarrassing photos, videos, web site, or fake profiles

Measures to Prevent Bullying

The Superintendent or designee shall implement measures to prevent bullying in district schools, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Ensuring that each school establishes clear rules for student conduct and implements strategies to promote a positive, collaborative school climate
2. Providing to students, through student handbooks and other age-appropriate means, information about district and school rules related to bullying, mechanisms available for reporting incidents or threats, and the consequences for engaging in bullying
3. Encouraging students to notify school staff when they are being bullied or when they suspect that another student is being bullied, and providing means by which students may report threats or incidents confidentially and anonymously
4. Conducting an assessment of bullying incidents at each school and, if necessary, increasing supervision and security in areas where bullying most often occurs, such as classrooms, playgrounds, hallways, restrooms, and cafeterias
5. Annually notifying district employees that, pursuant to Education Code 234.1, any school staff who witnesses an act of bullying against a student has a responsibility to immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so

BP 5131.2, AR 5131.2

Report It	Investigation	Transfer Request
<p>Any person who has been a victim of, or witnessed bullying or harassment on school grounds, during school activities, or going to and coming from school should report the incident immediately to a counselor, administrator, or other adult personnel on campus. Students and parent/guardians have the option of reporting the incident through the Bullying/Harassment Complaint Form located at the school and online.</p>	<p>The principal or designee shall promptly investigate all complaints of bullying or harassment. The person who filed the complaint shall have an opportunity to describe the incident, present witnesses and other evidence of bullying or harassment, and put his/her complaint in writing. Within 10 school days of the reported incident, the principal or designee shall present a written response to the person who filed the complaint and to the accused individual. The report shall include his/her findings, decision, and reason for the decision.</p>	<p>A child who has been reported as the victim of a violent offense or bullying as defined by state law is entitled to transfer to another school within or outside the District, under CA Ed Code 46600(b). Placement at a requested school is contingent upon space availability. Transfer requests can be obtained at the Silver Valley Unified School District located at 35320 Daggett-Yermo Road, Yermo, CA 92398.</p>