

5000 – STUDENTS

PROHIBITION ON BULLYING

BP 5131.2

The Sacramento County Board of Education (Board) recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on pupil learning and school attendance, and desires to provide safe school environments that protect pupils from physical and emotional harm. The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) shall establish pupil safety as a high priority and shall not tolerate bullying of any pupil. This policy applies to all acts related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a SCOE-operated school or its programs.

No pupil or group of pupils shall-through physical, written, verbal, or other means-harass; sexually harass; threaten; intimidate; cyberbully; cause bodily injury to; or commit hate violence against any other pupil or school personnel.

Cyberbullying includes the transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful text, sounds, or images on the internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any electronic or wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes creating a false profile, or breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to bully the person.

Strategies for bullying prevention and intervention shall be developed in accordance with the law, Board policy, and administrative regulations and shall be incorporated into comprehensive safety plans. To the extent bullying is discriminatory and based on legally protected characteristics, it is also addressed in BP/ARR 5145.3 (Prohibition on Discrimination/Harassment/Sexual Harassment; Participation of Transgender Pupils in Academic and Educational Programs and Activities).

To the extent possible, SCOE strategies shall focus on prevention of bullying by establishing clear rules for pupil conduct to establish a positive climate in SCOE schools and school activities. Pupils shall be informed, through pupil handbooks and other appropriate means, of SCOE's rules related to bullying, mechanisms available for reporting incidents or threats and the consequences for perpetrators of bullying.

SCOE may provide pupils with instruction, in the classroom or other educational settings, that promotes effective communication and conflict resolution skills, social skills, character/values education, respect for cultural and individual differences, self-esteem development, assertiveness skills, and appropriate online behavior, including but not limited to cyberbullying awareness and response, and how to interact with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms.

Based on an assessment of bullying incidents at school or school activities, the Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools (Superintendent) or designee may increase supervision and security in areas where bullying most often occurs, such as classrooms, playgrounds, hallways, restrooms, and cafeterias.

Pupils are strongly encouraged to notify SCOE staff when they are being bullied, or suspect that another pupil is being victimized. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall develop means for pupils to report threats or incidents confidentially.

SCOE staff who witness bullying shall immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so and shall take appropriate action to respond to the bullying.

Complaints of bullying shall be filed and resolved in accordance with SCOE's Uniform Complaint Procedures.

When a pupil is reported to be engaging in bullying of a SCOE pupil off campus, the Superintendent or designee may investigate the activity to determine the impact or potential impact on school or program activity, school or program attendance, or the targeted pupil's educational performance.

Any pupil who engages in bullying on SCOE school or program premises, or off campus in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school or program activity and/or a school or program attendance, shall be subject to appropriate action or discipline in accordance with SCOE policies and regulations.

The Superintendent, principal, or principal's designee may refer a victim, witness, perpetrator, or other pupil affected by an act of bullying to a school counselor, school psychologist, social worker, child welfare attendance personnel, school nurse, or other school support service personnel for case management, counseling, and/or participation in a restorative justice program as appropriate. In addition, affected pupils may be referred to community mental health workers, other health professionals, and law enforcement when appropriate.

If any pupil involved in bullying exhibits warning signs of suicidal thoughts, the Superintendent or designee shall, as appropriate, follow SCOE's Suicide Prevention Plan, which can be found in SCOE's comprehensive safety plan (See BP/ARR 5141.52 Suicide Prevention).

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

234.4 Adoption of bullying prevention procedures

32280-32289 Comprehensive safety plan

32283.5 Bullying; online training

35181 Governing board authority to set policy on responsibilities of pupils

35291-35291.5 Rules and procedures on school discipline

44807 Duty concerning conduct of pupils

48205 Excused absences

48900-48927 Suspension and expulsion

48900.9 Bullying referral of affected pupils

51512 Prohibition against electronic listening or recording device in classroom

PENAL CODE

288.2 Harmful matter with intent to seduce

417.25-417.27 Crimes against pointing a laser pointer

653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety

TITLE 47, UNITED STATES CODE

254 Universal Service (e-rate discounts)

TITLE 5, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

4600-4671 Uniform Complaints Procedures

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