

BULLYING

Bullying is a form of harassment and is prohibited under the Student Code of Conduct.

“Bullying”, for the purposes of this policy, means “the repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, or through attacks on the property of another. It may include, but not be limited to, actions such as teasing; physically assaultive behavior; verbal taunts; making threats; name-calling and put-downs, including ethnically-based or gender based verbal put-downs; extortion of money or possessions; or spreading of cruel and untrue rumors within the school.”

Students who engage in any act of bullying or intimidation while at school, at any school function, activity, or event supported or sponsored by the District, or while enroute to or from school are subject to a disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion. As may be required by law, law enforcement officials shall be notified of bullying incidents.

This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is protected by state or federal law. This policy shall be included in all student and employee handbooks.

Approved: 11/13/02

LEGAL REF: “Policies on Bullying,” Michigan State Board of Education, 7-19-01; Tinker v Des Moines Independent School District, 393 US 503 (1969). See also: Saxe v State College Area School District, 240 F3d 200 (CA 3, 2001).