

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

No student shall intentionally commit, or conspire to commit, an act of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber bullying against another student. Such behaviors foster a climate of fear and disrespect that can seriously impair the physical and psychological health of its victims, create conditions that negatively affect learning, and undermine the ability of students to achieve their full potential.

It is the policy of this district to maintain a safe school environment for all students while on school grounds; walking or busing directly to or from school; and attending district-sponsored activities, events, or functions on school premises or at other locations. Harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber bullying are disruptive to a safe school environment and will not be tolerated.

The district encourages the implementation of school and community wide anti-bullying education and prevention programs.

DEFINITIONS

Harassment – Defined to include verbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct relating to but not limited to an individual’s gender or sexual orientation, race, color, national origin, age, religious beliefs, or ethnic background. Hazing is considered a form of harassment. (Ref: 570-E Activity Contract)

Intimidation – To make someone fearful; compel or deter them from acting, as if by threats.

Bullying – Characterized by the aggressor(s) repeatedly engaging in negative actions against another student in an attempt to exercise control over the victim.

Cyber Bullying – Includes but is not limited to, using any electronic communication device to convey a message in any format (audio or video, text, graphics, photographs, or any combination thereof) that intimidates, harasses, or is otherwise intended to harm another individual.

Reference – Idaho State 18-917A (as modified) “Student Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying” means any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal, or physical acts or threats against another student that

1. A reasonable person under the same or similar circumstances knows or should know will have the effect of
 - a. Harming a student, and/or
 - b. Damaging a student’s property, and/or
 - c. Placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person, and/or
 - d. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to his or her property, and
2. is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student.

An act of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber bullying includes the use of a land line, car phone, or wireless telephone or through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

The district expects students to conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of others.

Students attending district schools are prohibited from engaging in the following behaviors:

1. Harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber bullying as defined above.
2. Conspiring with another individual to commit any act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying against another student; or perpetuating such conduct by spreading hurtful or demeaning material created by another person (e.g., forwarding offensive e-mails or text messages).
3. Retaliatory actions against another for reporting an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.



LEGAL REFERENCE: Idaho Code Sections 18-917A, 33-512(6)
POLICY REFERENCE: 570 Curricular Extra-Curricular Activities
543 Student Suspension

Adopted: June 3, 2013 **Reviewed:** _____

Revised: February 3, 2014
September 9, 2013

REPORTING

District personnel are required to report, in a timely and responsive manner, any incident of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber bullying they witness or are aware of to the school principal or designee. All other persons, including students, parents/guardians, volunteers, and visitors are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy.

Reports by non district personnel may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on an anonymous report.

The district prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber bullying; or cooperates in an investigation. The consequences for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the school principal or designee.

INVESTIGATION

The school principal or designee will promptly investigate any allegations of misconduct that are reasonably characterized as harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber bullying. At the discretion of the school principal or designee, disciplinary action may take place.

If the school principal or a designee determines that harassment, intimidation, bullying, cyber bullying or retaliation has occurred, the school principal or designee shall (1) take appropriate disciplinary action; (2) notify the parent/guardian of the perpetrator; (3) notify the parent/guardian of the victim; and to the extent allowed under state and federal law, (4) notify the parent/guardian of the action taken to prevent any further acts of bullying or retaliation.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Students who engage in harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber bullying may be disciplined as determined appropriate, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

In the situation that cyber bullying originated from a non-school electronic device, but has been brought to the attention of school officials, any disciplinary actions shall be based on whether the conduct is determined to be disruptive of the educational process and in violation of district policy or state law.

REFERRAL TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

If the school principal or designee reasonably believes that the student has engaged in conduct in violation of Idaho Code 18-917A, he or she shall report to law enforcement.

DOCUMENTATION

Any incident of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber bullying will be documented into the student information system.

NOTICE

The district will provide each student and parent/guardian with written annual notice of this policy in a manner consistent with students' age, grade and level of academic achievement through publication in the student handbook.



LEGAL REFERENCE: Idaho Code Sections 18-917A, 33-512(6)

Adopted: June 3, 2013 **Reviewed:** _____ **Revised:** February 3, 2014

SECTION 500: STUDENTS District 271 Board Policy. The Board acknowledges all or in part:
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