

SUGAR VALLEY RURAL CHARTER SCHOOL

POLICY NUMBER: 249
SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: **BULLYING/CYBER BULLYING**
DATE ADOPTED: OCTOBER 2008
DATE LAST REVISED: APRIL 2021

BULLYING/CYBER BULLYING

Purpose

Create and maintain a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students is a high priority at the Sugar Valley Rural Charter School. The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for SVRCS students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying and cyberbullying by school students.

Definitions

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantially interfering with a student's education.
2. Creating a threatening environment.
3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.

Authority

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying in any school setting.

The Board encourages students who believe they or others have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

Students are encouraged to use the school's report form, available from the building principal, or to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted and documented. The person accepting the complaint shall handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the student filing the complaint or those accused of a violation of this policy.

The Board directs that verbal and written complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective or preventative action be taken when allegations are substantiated. The Board directs that any complaint of bullying brought pursuant to this policy shall also be reviewed for conduct which may not be proven to be bullying under this policy but merits review and possible action under other Board policies.

Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination

Every report of alleged bullying that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a bullying investigation, potential issues of discrimination are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination as well as the incidents of alleged bullying.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy and the school's legal and investigative obligations.

Retaliation

Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of bullying or participation in an investigation of allegations of bullying is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Delegation of Responsibility

Each student must be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.

The CEO or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The CEO or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.

The CEO or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate school administrators ensure that this policy is reviewed every three (3) years, then, if applicable, recommend necessary changes to the Board of School Directors.

The school administrators must annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:

1. The Board of School Director's Bullying Policy.
2. A report of the school's bullying incidents.
3. Information on the development and implementation of the bullying prevention, intervention, and education programs.

Guidelines

Student, Parent/Guardian and Employee Reporting

SVRCS expects students and parents/guardians who become aware of any act of bullying to immediately report that conduct. Students may report acts of bullying to their teachers, principals or other school employee sponsoring school-sponsored activities. Students should be encouraged not to stand by as third parties and tolerate bullying by others. Parents/Guardians may contact administration to report acts of bullying.

Notices

The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, must be disseminated annually to students.

This policy must be accessible in every classroom. The policy must be posted in a prominent location within each school building where notices are usually posted, and posted on the school school's web site.

Education

The school may develop, implement and evaluate bullying prevention and intervention programs and activities. Programs and activities shall provide school staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.

Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:

1. Counseling within the school.

2. Parental conference.
3. Loss of school privileges.
4. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
5. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
6. Detention.
7. Suspension.
8. Expulsion.
9. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
10. Referral to law enforcement officials.

References:

24 P.S. 1303.1-A
Pol. 103
Pol. 103.1
Pol. 218
22 PA Code 12.3
20 U.S.C. 7118
24 P.S. 1302-A
Pol. 236
Pol. 233
Pol. 113.1