

BULLYING

Maryetta School is committed to creating a safe, healthy, learning environment for all students that enhances personal safety and encourages respect, dignity and equality among students and is free from bullying and harassment. It is the policy of this school district that bullying of students by other students, personnel, or the public will not be tolerated. Students are expected to act appropriately, be civil, polite, and fully engaged in the learning process. This policy is in effect while the students are on school grounds, in school vehicles, at designated bus stops, at school-sponsored activities, or at school-sanctioned events, and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the school district. Bullying of students by electronic communication is prohibited whether or not such communication originated at school or with school equipment, if the communication is specifically directed at students or school personnel and concerns harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school.

The school district is not required to provide educational services in the regular school setting to any student who has been removed from a public school or private school in Oklahoma or another state by administrative or judicial process for an act of using electronic communication with the intent to terrify, intimidate or harass, or threaten to inflict injury or physical harm to faculty or students.

Definition

As used in the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act, "bullying" means any pattern of harassment, intimidation, threatening behavior, physical acts, verbal or electronic communication directed toward a student or group of students that results in or is reasonably perceived as being done with the intent to cause negative educational or physical results for the targeted individual or group and is communicated in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. Such behavior is specifically prohibited.

Training and Prevention

The safe school committee has the responsibility of studying and making recommendations regarding unsafe conditions, strategies for students to avoid harm at school, student victimization, crime prevention, school violence, and other issues that interfere with an adversely affect the maintenance of safe schools. Staff members and administrators will be required to complete training on an annual basis to provide education on prevention and identification of harassment to enhance responding effectively to bullying and harassment. Faculty will integrate appropriate social interaction lessons focused on violence prevention into their classroom curriculum.

Stop It Bullying App- Anonymous

In an effort to provide an easy and anonymous way to report bullying, harassment, threats and inappropriate behavior, our district has provided all students, parents, employees and patrons with access to the Stop It Bullying App. All stakeholders are encouraged to download the app from the App Store or Google Play and be prepared to report any types of incidents that could harm students and staff or their well-being. Upon the first time launch of the app, the user will need to input "maryetta2285" when prompted for our school access code. Additional ways to report bully incidents is to a classroom teacher, CARE Box, call the front office and/or contact an administrator.

Student Reporting

Employees, whether certified or noncertified, shall encourage students to inform school personnel if they are the victim of or a witness to acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying or submit the incident anonymously through the Stop It Bullying App. For young students, staff members will need to provide direct assistance to the student.

Staff Reporting

An important duty of the staff is to report acts or behavior that the employee witnesses that appears to constitute harassing, intimidating, or bullying. Staff members who witness such events are required to document the incident in ALCA and notify the principal or employee designated by the superintendent. Staff members who hear of incidents that may, in the staff member's judgment, constitute harassment, intimidation, or bullying, are to report all relevant information to the principal or superintendent's designee.

BULLYING (Cont.)Investigation of Reports

The procedure for investigating reported incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying or threatening behavior is outlined in Policy FNCD-P.

Discipline

Administration will refer to the school disciplinary levels of infraction in order to assign the appropriate action for any violation of the "Bullying" policy. In all disciplinary action, teachers and administrators will be mindful of the fact that they are dealing with individual personalities. School administration will also reserve the right to involve law enforcement officials and/or require a mental health assessment before allowing the individual(s) to return to school. In administering discipline, consideration will be given to alternative methods of punishment to ensure that the most effective discipline is administered in each case. The faculty may consider consultation with parents to determine the most effective disciplinary measure. In considering alternatives of corrective actions, the faculty/administration of the school district will consider those listed below. However, the school is not limited to these alternative methods, nor does this list reflect an order or sequence of events to follow in disciplinary actions. The board of education will rely upon the judgment and discretion of the administrator to determine the appropriate remedial or corrective action in each instance. Anonymous reports must be confirmed before issuing discipline.

1. Conference with student
2. Conference with parents
3. In-school or out-of-school suspension
4. Restriction of privileges
5. Referral to counselor
6. Behavioral contract
7. Changing student's seat assignment or class assignment
8. Requiring a student to make financial restitution for damaged property or requiring a student to clean or straighten items or facilities damaged by the student's behavior
9. Corporal Punishment
10. Referring student to appropriate social agency or involvement of local authorities, including law enforcement
11. Other appropriate disciplinary action as required and as indicated by the circumstances which may include, but is not limited to, removal from eligibility to participate or attend extracurricular activities as well as removal from the privilege of attending or participating in the graduation ceremony, school dances, prom, prom activities, and/or class trips.

Parental Responsibilities

Parents/guardians will be informed in writing of the district's program to stop bullying. An administrative response to bullying may involve certain actions to be taken by parents. Parents will be informed of the program and the means for students to report bullying acts toward them or other students. They will also be told that to help prevent bullying at school they should encourage their children to:

1. Report bullying when it occurs;
2. Take advantage of opportunities to talk to their children about bullying;
3. Inform the school immediately if they think their child is being bullied or is bullying other students;
4. Watch for symptoms that their child may be a victim of bullying and report those symptoms; and
5. Cooperate fully with school personnel in identifying and resolving incidents.

An annual written notice of this policy will be provided to parents, guardians, staff, volunteers and students via the school website.

**REFERENCE: 21 O.S. §850.0
70 O.S. §24-100.2**

THIS POLICY REQUIRED BY LAW.