

	<b>ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	<b>NEPN Code: JFCE</b>
	<b>POLICIES AND REGULATIONS</b>	

## **STUDENT BULLYING**

The Aberdeen School District is committed to maintaining a constructive, safe school climate that is conducive to student learning and fostering an environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity.

Persistent bullying can severely inhibit a student's ability to learn and may have lasting negative effects on a student's life. The bullying of students by students, staff or third parties is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated.

Bullying consists of persistent physical, verbal, written or electronic conduct directed toward a student that is so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it:

1. has the purpose of effecting or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive academic environment, or
2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance which deprives the student access to educational opportunities.

This policy is in effect while students are on property within the jurisdiction of the Board; while students are in school-owned or school-operated vehicles; while students are attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities; and while students are away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop administrative regulations, in accordance with this policy, to protect the district's students from the harmful effects of bullying. Regulations accompanying this policy shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Additional definitions, if necessary, to assist in the implementation of this policy;
2. A procedure to report incidents of bullying;
3. A process to investigate reported acts of bullying;
4. A procedure, consistent with district policy, to provide appropriate consequences for any individual found to have engaged in bullying;
5. A statement prohibiting retaliation against individuals who, in good faith, report acts of bullying; and
6. A process to inform staff, students and parents of the district's bullying prevention policies and efforts.

This policy shall not be interpreted or applied to prohibit civil exchange, opinions, or debate protected under the state or federal constitutions. Conduct which substantially interferes with the work of the school, intrudes upon the rights of others or reasonably leads the school authorities to forecast that they will cause substantial disruption or material interference with school activities is not constitutionally protected speech, and, is therefore, prohibited under this policy.

**District Policy Cross References:**

- EE Student Conduct on School Buses
- GBAA Sexual Harassment
- JFA Student Due Process Rights
- JKD Student Suspension and Expulsion
- JIFCA Hazing
- JK Rules of Student Conduct and Discipline

**SDCL Cross References:**

- SDCL 22-19A-1 Stalking
- SDCL 22-19A-4 Harasses defined
- SDCL 49-31-31 Threatening or harassing contacts by telephone or other electronic communication device as misdemeanor
- SDCL 13-32-15 Bullying defined

**ADOPTED:** August 10, 2009

**REVISED:** August 10, 2015

**REVIEWED:** January 27, 2020