



Mitchell School District 17-2 POLICY

Category	Approval	
Series 100: Foundations and Basic Commitments	Adopted	Revised
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	Reviewed	
	6/27/11, 6/10/219	

BULLYING

MSD 111

Persistent bullying can severely inhibit a student’s ability to learn effectively or a member of the staff’s ability to do their job. The negative effects of bullying can have an impact on a person for their entire life. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Bullying is repeated and intentional harmful behavior initiated by one or more students and directed toward another student. Bullying exists when a student with more social and or physical power deliberately dominates and harasses another who has less power. Bullying is unjustified and typically repeated. Bullying differs from conflict. Two or more students can have a disagreement or a conflict. Bullying involves a power imbalance element where a bully targets a student who has difficulty defending himself or herself.

The forms of bullying:

- Physical-involves harmful actions against another person’s body
- Verbal-involves speaking to a person or about a person in an unkind or hurtful way
- Emotional-involves behaviors that upset, exclude, or embarrass a person
- Sexual-involves singling out a person because of gender and demonstrates unwarranted or unwelcome sexual advances
- Racial-involves rejection or isolation of a person because of ethnicity

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

The school board believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, parents and guardians, staff and community members of the school district, producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for district and community property on the part of students, staff, and community members.

The school board requires its school administrators to implement practices that ensure both the appropriate consequences and remedial responses to a student or staff member who commits one or more acts of harassment or bullying.

The school board requires the principal and/or the principal’s designee at each school to be responsible for receiving complaints alleging violation of this policy. All school employees, students, parents, visitors or any other member of the community are required to report alleged violations to the school principal or designee. A report may be made anonymously, although disciplinary action may not be based solely on an anonymous report. If disciplinary action is being requested, the individual reporting the bullying will be asked to submit a signed written complaint or report form. The written complaint/report must include the following:

- the date the written complaint was filed or report completed,
- the school employee receiving the complaint (if applicable),
- the name of the person reporting the bullying,

- the address/phone # of the person reporting the bullying,
- the specific conduct or nature of the bullying complaint including the person(s) alleged to have bullied the complaining party or another person, the date(s) and location where the conduct occurred, witnesses, etc.,
- the date the school employee completed the form (if applicable),
- the date and signature of the person reporting the bullying.

If the signed written complaint/report was given to a teacher or completed by a teacher, the teacher shall forward the complaint/report to the teacher's building principal.

The school principal and/or principal's designee are to be responsible for determining whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy. In so doing, the principal or and principal's designee shall conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of each alleged incident, whether the incident occurred on school grounds, in school facilities, on board a school bus/vehicle, or at a school- sponsored event.

Building principals or their designee shall annually discuss the school district policy on bully prevention with students and staff. The school district will incorporate information regarding this policy in each school handbook.

Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is a form of harassment over the Internet or other forms of electronic communications, including cell phones. Students and staff will refrain from using communication devices or District property to harass or stalk another. The District's computer network and the Internet, whether accessed at school or away from school, during or after school hours, may not be used for the purpose of cyber bullying. All forms of cyber bullying are unacceptable and viewed as a violation of this policy and the District's acceptable computer use policy and procedures.

Users are responsible for the appropriateness of the materials they transmit. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, or other anti-social behaviors are expressly prohibited. Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or web site postings, including blogs. It is also recognized that the author (poster or sender) of the inappropriate material is often disguised (logged on) as someone else.

Students and community members, who believe they have been victims of such misuses of technology, as described in this policy, should not erase the offending material from the systems. A copy of the material should be brought to the attention of a principal or teacher.

Malicious use of District's computer system to develop programs or to institute practices that harass other users to gain unauthorized access to any entity on the system and/or change the components of an entity on the network is prohibited.

Consequences of Bullying/Cyber Bullying

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, the loss of computer privileges, detention, Saturday School, suspension, or expulsion for verified perpetrators. In addition, when any kind of threat constitutes a violation of law, it shall be reported to local law officials. For more information on the disciplinary consequences for engaging in bullying behavior, refer to the student discipline section of the relevant student handbook, which can be found on the district website.