

BULLYING

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 be civil, polite, and fully engaged in the learning process. Students who act inappropriately are not 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

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.

In administering discipline, consideration will be given to alternative methods of punishment to insure that the most effective discipline is administered in each case. In all disciplinary action, teachers and administrators will be mindful of the fact that they are dealing with individual personalities. 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.

1. Conference with student 2
2. Conference with parents
3. In-school suspension
4. Detention
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
9. Requiring a student to clean or straighten items or facilities damaged by the student's behavior
10. Restriction of privileges
11. Involvement of local authorities
12. Referring student to appropriate social agency or to a delinquency prevention and diversion program administrated by the Office of Juvenile Affairs
13. Suspension
14. Performing Campus-site services for the school district
15. 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.

Harassment set forth above may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Verbal, physical, or written harassment or abuse;
2. Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
3. Implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc.;
4. Demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at the student;
5. Unwelcome physical contact.

The superintendent shall develop procedures providing for:

1. Prompt investigation of allegations of harassment;
2. The expeditious correction of the conditions causing such harassment;
3. Establishment of adequate measures to provide confidentiality in the complaint process;
4. Initiation of appropriate corrective actions;
5. Identification and enactment of methods to prevent reoccurrence of the harassment;
6. A process where the provisions of this policy are disseminated in writing annually to all staff and students.

A copy of this policy will be furnished to each student and teacher in this school district.

REFERENCE: [21](#) O.S. §850.0

[70](#) O.S. §24-100.2

Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

As per State guidelines the Stroud Public Schools provides policy regarding the prohibition of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Bullying has a negative effect on the social environment of schools, creates a climate of fear among students, inhibits the ability to learn, and leads to other antisocial behavior. Other detrimental effects of bullying include impact on school safety, student engagement, and the overall school environment. Successful school programs recognize, prevent, effectively identify, and intervene in incidents involving harassment, intimidation and bullying behavior. Schools that implement these programs have improved safety and create a more inclusive learning environment. The purpose of the policy is to provide a comprehensive approach for public schools to create an environment free of unnecessary disruption which is conducive to the learning process.

Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this Part, shall have the following meaning:

(1) "Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying" means any gesture, written or verbal expression, electronic communication, or physical act that a reasonable person should know will:

- (A) Harm another student;
- (B) Damage another student's property;
- (C) Place another student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property; or
- (D) Insult or demean any student or group of students,

The aforementioned conduct constitutes harassment, intimidation, and bullying if conducted in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. This includes, but is not limited to gestures, written, verbal, or physical acts, or electronic communications.

(2) "Electronic Communication" means the communication of any written, verbal, or pictorial information by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, a cellular telephone or other wireless telecommunication device, or computer.

(3) "Threatening Behavior" means any pattern of behavior or isolated action, whether or not it is directed at another person, that a reasonable person would believe indicates potential for future harm to students, school personnel, or school property.

(4) Scope. Threatening behavior, harassment, intimidation, and bullying is prohibited on school grounds, in school vehicles, at designated bus stops, at school-sponsored activities, or at school-sanctioned events. Threatening behavior, harassment, intimidation, and bullying 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.

Control and Discipline

Anyone believing that he or she has been the subject of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying should immediately report the incident in writing to a teacher, their building principal, a school staff member, or the Superintendent. Such incident report should be immediately reported to the building principal and/or Superintendent. If reported to the building principal, the building principal should make that report known to the Superintendent. An initial investigation is to be conducted by the building principal and/or the Superintendent. The Superintendent may direct the investigation in the event he or she determines that to be appropriate. Once the investigation has been completed, the building principal and/or Superintendent shall advise the complainant in writing of his or her findings and the disposition of the complaint. Harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying are not tolerated and will be responded to in a manner determined to effectively deter future incidents. All persons are to be treated with respect and dignity. Consequences for negative actions toward others will be determined by the nature and severity of the action and designed to correct those negative actions. Individuals who want to file a complaint with the District regarding harassment on the basis of race, color national origin. sex, disability, religion, or age should use the procedures set out in the District's Civil Rights Policy.

The policy further provides:

(1) Prohibition of threatening behavior, harassment, intimidation, and bullying by students at school and by electronic communication. Electronic communication shall be 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.

(2) Prevention of and education about threatening behavior, harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

(3) For the investigation of harassment, intimidation, bullying or threatening behavior reported to school officials for the purpose of determining the severity of the incidents and their potential to result in future violence.

(4) Procedure which provides, upon the completion of an investigation, that a school may recommend that available community mental health care options be provide to the student, if appropriate.

(A) The High School and/or the Elementary/Middle School Counselor after consult with the building principal and/or Superintendent may provide information about the types of support services available to the student bully, victim, and any other students affected by the prohibited behavior.

(5) The Stroud Public Schools' building principals, counselors, and/or Superintendent may request the disclosure of any information concerning students who have received mental health care pursuant to sub-section (4) of this rule that indicates an explicit threat to the safety of students or school personnel provided, the disclosure of information does not violate the provisions or requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Section 2503 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1376 of Title 59 of Oklahoma Statutes, or any other state or federal laws relating to the disclosure of confidential information. That information may be requested of any appropriate party.

Monitoring and Compliance

The State Department of Education requires identification of a Bullying Coordinator who serves as the Stroud Public Schools contact responsible for providing information to the State Board of Education. The Bullying Coordinator shall maintain on file with the Department of Education updated contact information. The designated Bullying Coordinator for the Stroud Public Schools is the Middle School Principal. Stroud Public Schools is directed to notify the State Department of Education within (15) business days of the appointment of a new Bullying Coordinator. Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year and for each school year following, the Stroud Public Schools shall submit to the State Board of Education a copy of the District's bullying policy. The bullying policy shall be submitted to the State Department of Education by December 10th of each school year, and shall be submitted as a part of the school's Annual Performance Report.

Harassment, intimidation, and bullying behavior may also result in discriminatory harassment, prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II). Section 504 and Title II prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. The Stroud Public Schools seek to take necessary steps to ensure compliance with federal law.

Approved January 13, 2014