

## **Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School Bullying Policy**

Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School (BSFCS) recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student learning and school attendance and desires to provide safe school environments that protect students from physical and emotional harm. Employees shall establish student safety as a high priority and shall not tolerate bullying of any student. No student or group of students shall (through physical, written, verbal, or other means) harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any other student or school personnel.

In accordance to the California Department of Education's publication, *Bullying at School*, bullying is defined by as follows:

*Bullying behaviors at school are recognized as dangerous and harmful acts that victimize the targeted student and bystanders. Bullying is a pattern of deliberate, negative, hurtful, aggressive acts that works to shift the balance of physical, emotional, or social power. Behavior motivated by bias or hate is similar to bullying and is intended to cause emotional suffering, physical injury, or property damage through intimidation, harassment, bigoted slurs or epithets, force or threat of force, or vandalism. Hateful or biased behavior is motivated in part or in whole by hostility toward a person's real or perceived race, nationality, religion, disability, gender, or sexual orientation. (Education Code sections 200, 220, 233, and 48900.3 describe policies and intent specific to hate-motivated violence. Penal Code sections 422.6, 422.7, 422.75, 422.8, 422.9, 422.95, and 628 define what constitutes hate-motivated crimes.)*  
(<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/se/bullyfaq.asp>)

"Cyberbullying" includes the transmission of communications, posting of harassing messages, direct threats, social cruelty, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device on or off campus. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into or setting up another person's electronic account, and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's communications, reputation or friendships. A student may be disciplined for off-campus conduct that is brought to the attention of school officials when the conduct causes, or is likely to cause, a "substantial disruption" of school activities.

Strategies for bullying prevention and intervention shall be developed with involvement of key stakeholders in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

### **Bullying Prevention**

To the extent possible, district and school strategies shall focus on prevention of bullying by establishing clear rules for student conduct and strategies to establish a positive, collaborative school climate. Students shall be informed, through student handbooks and other appropriate

means, of district and school rules related to bullying, mechanisms available for reporting incidents or threats, and the possible consequences for perpetrators of bullying.

BSFCS may provide students with instruction, in the classroom or other educational settings, that promotes effective communication and conflict resolution skills, social skills, character/values education, respect for cultural and individual differences, self-esteem development, assertiveness skills, and appropriate online behavior.

School staff shall receive related professional development, including information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors and effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Based on an assessment of bullying incidents at school, the Principal or designee may increase supervision and security in areas where bullying most often occurs.

### **Intervention**

Students are encouraged to notify school staff when they are being bullied or suspect that another student is being victimized. In addition, the Principal or designee shall develop means of students to report threats or incidents confidentially and anonymously.

School staff who witness bullying shall immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so. (Education Code 234.1)

As appropriate, the Principal or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of victims and perpetrators. He/she also may involve teachers, school counselors, mental health counselors, Student Support specialists and/or law enforcement.

### **Complaints and Investigation**

Students may submit to a teacher or administrator a verbal or written complaint of conduct they consider to be bullying. Parents/Guardians may utilize the Complaint Policy to report circumstances of bullying. Complaints of bullying shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with site-level Complaint Policy.

When a student is reported to be engaging in bullying off campus, the Principal or designee shall investigate and document the activity and shall identify specific facts or circumstances that explain the impact or potential impact on school activity, school attendance, or the targeted student's educational performance.

When the circumstances involve cyberbullying, individuals with information about the activity shall be encouraged to save and print any electronic or digital messages sent to them that they feel constitute cyberbullying and to notify a teacher, the Principal, or other BSFCS employee so that the matter may be investigated.

If the student is using a social networking site or service that has terms of use that prohibit posting of harmful material, the Principal or designee also may file a complaint with the Internet site or service to have the material removed.

## **Discipline**

Any student who engages in bullying on school premises, or off campus in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, shall be subject to discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion, in accordance with district policies and regulations.

### Legal References:

#### EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

32282 Comprehensive Safety Plan

35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students

35291-35291.5 Rules

48900-48925 Suspension or expulsion

48985 Translation of Notices

#### PENAL CODE

647 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor

647.7 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; punishment

653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety

#### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47

254 Universal service discounts (e-rate)

#### COURT DECISIONS

J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, (2010) 711 F. Supp.2d 1094

Lavine v. Blaine School District, (2002) 279 F.3d 719

### Management Resources:

#### CSBA Publications

Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure Student Success, 2011

Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for All Students, Policy Brief, April 2010

Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, July 2007

#### CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Health Education Content Standards for California Public School: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008  
Bullying at School, 2003

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org> California Cybersafety for Children: <http://www.cybersafety.ca.gov>

California Department of Education, Safe Schools Office: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ss>

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use: <http://cyberbully.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>