

POLICY NO. 3207

PROHIBITION OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING

The Blaine School District is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, parents/legal guardians, volunteers and patrons that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any intentionally written message or image – including those that are electronically submitted – verbal or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, mental or physical disability, or other distinguishing characteristics, when an act, including that which occurs outside the school setting:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student's property.
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education.
- Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidation or threatening educational environment.
- Has the effect of or potential to be substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Alleged acts of bullying, which have no acknowledgeable impact in the school setting, will be referred to the police. Nothing in this section requires the affected student to actually possess a characteristic that is a basis for the harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

"Other distinguishing characteristics" can include but are not limited to physical appearance, clothing or other apparel, socio-economic status and weight.

"Intentional acts" refers to the individual's choice to engage in the act rather than the ultimate impact of the action(s).

Behaviors/Expressions

Harassment, intimidation or bullying can take many forms including, but not limited to, slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawings, cartoons, graffiti, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or other written, oral, physical or electronically transmitted messages or images.

This policy is not intended to prohibit expression of religious, philosophical, or political views, provided that the expression does not substantially disrupt the educational environment. Many behaviors that do not rise to the level of harassment, intimidation or bullying may still be prohibited by other district policies or building, classroom, or program rules.

Training

This policy is a component of the district's responsibility to create and maintain a safe, civil, respectful and inclusive learning community and shall be implemented in conjunction with comprehensive training of staff and volunteers.

Prevention

The district will provide students with strategies aimed at preventing harassment, intimidation and bullying. In its efforts to train students, the district will seek partnerships with families, law enforcement and other community agencies.

Interventions

Interventions are designed to remediate the impact on the targeted student(s) and others impacted by the violation, to change the behavior of the perpetrator, and to restore a positive school climate.

The district will consider the frequency of incidents, developmental age of the student, and severity of the conduct in determining intervention strategies. Interventions will range from counseling, correcting behavior and discipline, to law enforcement referrals.

Retaliation/False Allegations

Retaliation is prohibited and will result in appropriate discipline. It is a violation of this policy to threaten or harm someone for reporting harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

It is also a violation of district policy to knowingly report false allegations of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Students or employees will not be disciplined for making a report in good faith. However, persons found to knowingly report or corroborate false allegations will be subject to appropriate discipline.

Compliance Officer

The superintendent will appoint a compliance officer as the primary district contact to receive copies of all formal and informal complaints and ensure policy implementation. The name and contact information for the compliance officer will be communicated throughout the district.

The superintendent is authorized to direct the implementation of procedures addressing the elements of this policy.

Cross References: Policy 3200 Rights and Responsibilities

Policy 3210 Nondiscrimination

Policy 3240 Student Conduct

Policy 3241 Classroom Management,
Corrective Action and Punishment

Policy 6590 Sexual Harassment

Legal Reference: RCW 28A.300.285 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying prevention policies

Management Resources: *Policy News*, December 2010 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy Strengthened

Policy News, April 2008 Cyber bullying Policy Required

Policy News, April 2002 Legislature Passes an Anti-Bullying Bill

Adopted: April 28, 2008

Revised: June 25, 2012

Blaine School District