

Students

Violent and Aggressive Behavior, Bullying

The Board of Education recognizes that there are certain behaviors that, if tolerated, destroy the type of learning environment to which the students and staff are entitled within the school system. These behaviors, categorized as violent and/or aggressive, will not be tolerated and shall result in immediate action by the school system.

All acts of violence and aggression, including harassment and bullying, shall result in specific consequences, determined by the seriousness of the act, including suspension from school and consideration of expulsion from school by the Board of Education.

Acts of violence and aggression must be well documented and communicated to the school principal or his/her designee. The Superintendent of Schools is to be notified immediately of all acts pertaining to possession, threat with, or use of, a weapon; physical assaults; and stalking. The Board of Education will be informed and involved when deemed necessary by the Superintendent or when required by law. The involvement of the parent(s) or guardians(s) is essential.

Serious consideration is to be given to the involvement of appropriate law enforcement agencies and other agencies in such cases. The police shall be involved if there is any violation of the law.

Bullying

The Board of Education promotes a school climate, conducive to teaching and learning that is free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behavior. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the board that bullying of a student by another student is prohibited.

Bullying is defined by law as any overt acts by a student or groups of students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or intimidate the other student while on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity, or on a school bus, which acts are committed more than once against any student during the school year. Bullying that occurs outside of the school setting may be addressed by school officials if it has a direct and negative impact on a student's academic performance or safety in school. This policy shall be included in the school district's publication of the rules, procedures and standards of conduct for schools and in all student handbooks.

The school district will:

1. Enable students to submit anonymous reports of bullying to teachers and school administrators;
2. Enable parents or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying;
3. Require teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying or receive student reports of bullying to notify school administrators in writing;

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4. Require school administrators to investigate any written reports made under this policy and review any anonymous reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report;
5. Establish a prevention and intervention strategy for school staff to deal with bullying, which may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Implementation of positive behavioral intervention and support process or other evidence-based model approach for safe school climate or for the prevention of bullying as identified by the State Department of Education;
 - b. School rules prohibiting bullying, harassment and intimidation and establishing appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts;
 - c. Adequate adult supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom and other specific areas where bullying is likely to occur;
 - d. Inclusion of grade-appropriate bullying prevention curricula in kindergarten through high school;
 - e. Individual interventions with the student, parents and school staff, and interventions with the targeted child, parents and school staff;
 - f. School-wide training related to safe school climate; and
 - g. Promotion of parent involvement in bullying prevention through individual or group participation in meetings, training and individual interventions.
6. Include language about bullying in student codes of conduct;
7. Require each school to notify parents or guardians of any student who commits any verified act of bullying and the parents or guardians of any student against whom such acts were directed, and invite them to attend at least one meeting. The notice shall be simultaneously mailed to the parent/guardian with whom the student primarily resides. The notice must describe the school's response to the acts of bullying and any consequences that may result from commission of further acts of bullying;
8. Require each school to maintain a publicly available list of the number of verified bullying acts that occurred there and, within available appropriations, annually report such number to the State Department of Education, in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;
9. Require the development of case-by-case interventions, which may include both counseling and intervention, for addressing reported incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual;
10. Require students to be notified annually of the process by which they may make reports of bullying; and
11. Identify the appropriate school personnel, who may include, but not be limited to, pupil services personnel, responsible for taking a bullying report and investigating the complaint.

The following behaviors, in addition to bullying as defined by state law, are defined as violent and aggressive:

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Physical Assault

The act of striking or touching a person or that person's property with a part of the anatomy or any object, with the intent of causing hurt or harm.

Verbal Abuse

Includes, but is not limited to, swearing, screaming, obscene gestures, bigoted language or threats when directed, either orally or in writing, including communication via electronic/Internet means, at an individual, at his/her family or at a group.

Intimidation

An act intended to frighten or coerce someone into submission or obedience.

Extortion

The use of verbal threat or physical coercion in order to obtain financial or material gain from others.

Gang Activity

Unlawful and anti-social activities of groups of youths who share common beliefs, attitudes and attire.

Threat

A communication with the intent to a) commit violence, b) terrorize another, c) cause evacuation of a building, or d) cause serious public inconvenience, which is in reckless disregard of the risk causing such terror or inconvenience.

Stalking

The persistent following, contacting, watching or any other such threatening actions that compromise the peace of mind or the personal safety of an individual.

cf. 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

cf. 5130 – Student Conduct

cf. 5141.5 – Crisis Management

cf. 5141.6 – Safety

cf. 5144 – Discipline/Punishment

cf. 5144.2 – Use of Physical Force

cf. 5144.3 – Discipline of Students with Disabilities

cf. 5145.12 – Search and Seizure

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

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4-176e through 4-180a. Contested Cases. Notice. Record.
10-233a through 10-233f. Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended.
46a-60 Discriminatory employment practices prohibited.
53a-3 Definitions.
53a-217b Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds.
53-206 Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons.
PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.

Other

Constitution of the State of Connecticut, Article I, Section 20.
GOALS 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227.
18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.
Title III – Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence).
Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.
PL 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendment of 1997.
Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, 42 U.S.C.
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Policy Guidance (N-915.035) on Current Issues of Sexual Harassment, effective 10/15/88.
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, CFR Section 106 *Meritor Savings Bank. FSB v. Venison*, 477 U.S. 57 (1986).

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