

STUDENT BULLYING

The Rapid City Area Schools is committed to maintaining a constructive, safe school climate that is conducive to student learning and fostering an environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity.

Persistent bullying can severely inhibit a student's ability to learn and may have lasting negative effects on a student's life. The bullying of students by students, staff or third parties is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated.

Bullying consists of repeated physical, verbal, non-verbal, written, electronic or any conduct directed toward a student(s) that is so pervasive, severe and objectively offensive that it:

- A. has the purpose of creating or resulting in an intimidating, hostile or offensive academic environment, or
- B. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance which deprives the student access to educational opportunities.

Cyberbullying or use of electronic communication including, but not limited to, transmission of information over the internet or other forms of electronic communications including, but not limited to, computers, tablets and cell phones will not be tolerated. This would include, but not be limited to, harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening or terrorizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate and/or hurtful emails, instant messages, text messages, picture or images, or website postings, including blogs.

Any staff member observing or suspecting bullying toward another individual is required to report the issue to his or her building supervisor.

This policy is in effect while students are on property within the jurisdiction of the board of education; while students are in school-owned or school-operated vehicles; while students are attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities; and while students are away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the student or the District. The district 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 district will act to investigate all complaints (formal or informal, verbal or written) of bullying. The district requires that the principal and/or the principal's designee at each school to be responsible for receiving complaints alleging violation of this policy and alleged bullying. All students, parents, employees or other visitors are required to report alleged violations or alleged bullying to the school principal or the principal's designee. The principal or the principal's designee will be charged with the responsibility for investigating all complaints alleging bullying and will be responsible for determining whether an alleged act constitutes bullying and a violation of this policy.

If, after an investigation, a student is found to be involved in bullying in violation of this policy, the student shall be disciplined by appropriate measures up to and including student suspension and/or expulsion as defined by district policy.

This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit civil exchange of opinions or debate protected under the state or federal constitutions where the opinion expressed does not otherwise materially or substantially disrupt the education process or intrude upon the rights of others.

Adopted: 04/18/13

Reviewed 03/19/15
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