

It is the policy of this district to maintain a safe school environment for all students while attending school, riding the school bus, and attending district-sponsored activities on school premises or at other locations. Harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, regardless of the specific nature of the students' behavior, is disruptive to a safe school environment and will not be tolerated.

DEFINITION

Harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying are defined as misconduct by a student(s), which is characterized by the aggressor(s) creating a hostile environment that is severe, pervasive, or persistent. Harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying are generally characterized by aggressive or intentionally harmful behavior.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

Students attending district schools are prohibited from engaging in the following behaviors:

1. Physical abuse against a student, including, but not limited to, hitting, pushing, tripping, kicking, blocking, or restraining another's movement; sexual misconduct; causing damage to another's clothing or possessions; and taking another's belongings.
2. Verbal abuse against a student, including, but not limited to, name calling, threatening, sexual misconduct, taunting, and malicious teasing.
3. Psychological abuse against a student, including, but not limited to, spreading harmful or inappropriate rumors regarding another, drawing inappropriate pictures or writing inappropriate statements regarding another, and intentionally excluding another from groups, or similar activities.
4. Cyberbullying, including, but not limited to, using any electronic communication device to convey a message in any format (audio or video, text, graphics, photographs, or any combination thereof) that intimidates, harasses, or is otherwise intended to harm another individual.
5. Harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, including any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal, or physical acts or threats, against another student that:
 - a. A reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of:
 - (1) Harming a student; or
 - (2) Damaging a student's property; or

- (3) Placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person; or
 - (4) Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to his or her property; or
 - b. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
6. Conspiring with another individual to commit any act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying against another student.
 7. Sexting, including but not limited to, sending or forwarding through cellular telephones and other electronic media, sexually explicit language, nude, or partially nude photographs/images.

The prohibition extends not only to actions taking place on school grounds but also actions originating at a remote location and carried out via any technology, including but not limited to, the use of a landline, car phone, or wireless telephone, or through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network.

INVESTIGATION

The school administrator or designee will investigate any allegations of misconduct that are reasonably characterized as harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and completion of the Blackfoot School District Harassment Incident Report. At the discretion of the school principal and/or superintendent, the alleged perpetrator(s) may be suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Students who engage in harassment, intimidation, or bullying will be disciplined as determined to be appropriate, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

REPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

After the school administrator has conducted an investigation, the administrator will refer allegations of bullying to law enforcement if he/she reasonably believes that the student has engaged in conduct, including harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, in violation of Idaho Code Section 18-917A.

PREVENTATIVE ACTION

Annual training for all school staff about policies relevant to the issues of harassment, intimidation, and bullying will be conducted by the school administration. The goal of such professional development sessions will be to establish a common understanding of tools necessary for staff to create a school climate that is free of harassment, intimidation, and bullying for themselves and students.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code Sections

18-917A

33-512

ADOPTED: December 15, 2005

AMENDED: December 21, 2006

December 17, 2009

December 16, 2010

December 8, 2011

January 17, 2013