

5150.6 BULLYING

The Union City Area School Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students in the schools. The Union City Area School District recognizes that bullying and intimidation have a negative effect on this environment. Students who feel unsafe, intimidated, or abused cannot fully attend to the educational process. Bullying can lead to more serious harassment and violence; therefore, it shall be the policy of the Union City Area School District to maintain an educational environment in which bullying in any form is not tolerated.

A student is being bullied if s/he is exposed repeatedly over time to negative actions by one or more individuals. A **bully** is defined as an individual who repeatedly engages in negative actions toward others.

Negative actions include physical, verbal, or indirect actions that are intended to inflict physical or emotional discomfort upon another and can result in cruel rumors, false accusations, and social isolation. These actions may include, but are not limited to:

1. Name calling.
2. Teasing.
3. Threatening looks.
4. Gestures.
5. Note writing.
6. Electronic communication.
7. Extortion.
8. Physical intimidation.
9. Threats.
10. Assault.

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying of students on District grounds, on District or contracted vehicles, or at any school activity that occurs off campus.

The District expects staff members and support personnel who observe an act of bullying to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If a student informs a staff member that s/he has witnessed or is the target of bullying behavior, the staff member must take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If an employee believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying persists, s/he shall report the bully to the school principal or other designated authority for further investigation.

Students will be provided with skills to deal with bullying situations and will be made aware of available resources to assist in resolution of the problem.

The District encourages parents to contact one another directly in an attempt to resolve those situations that occur outside the school setting as defined in the previous section.

Upon learning about a bullying incident, the principal or designee will interview the students involved and thoroughly investigate. This investigation may include interviews with additional students, parents, and school staff, along with associated documentation.

Interventions for students who bully may include, but are not limited to:

1. Student conference.
2. Parent conference.
3. Referral for counseling.
4. Detention.
5. Suspension.
6. Review of Harassment Policy and/or subsequent legal action.
7. Expulsion.

Adopted: 10/23/06;
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