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# **Bow Bullying Policy**

**Effective January 3, 2011**



# Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the Bow School District that its students have an educational setting that is safe, secure, peaceful, and free from student harassment, also known as bullying or cyberbullying. The School District will not tolerate unlawful harassment of any type and conduct that constitutes bullying or cyberbullying as defined herein is prohibited. Retaliation or false accusations against a victim, witness, or anyone else who in good faith provides information about an act of bullying or cyberbullying is prohibited. All students are protected regardless of their status under the law. Any person violating this Policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Each building Principal is responsible for the implementation of this Policy.

# Definition

“Bullying” is:

- a **single significant** incident or a **pattern of incidents**
- involving a **written, verbal, or electronic** communication, or a **physical act or gesture**, or any combination thereof, directed at another student



# Which.....

- (a) **physically harms a student or damages the student's property;**
- (b) **causes emotional distress** to a student (for the purposes of this policy, “emotional distress” means distress that materially impairs the student’s participation in academic or other school sponsored activities. The term “emotional distress” does not include unpleasantness or discomfort that accompanies an unpopular viewpoint.)

# Which.....

- (c) **interferes** with a student's educational opportunities;

**OR**

- (d) creates a **hostile educational environment**;

**OR**

- (e) substantially **disrupts** the orderly operation of the school.



# Also.....

- **“Bullying”** includes actions motivated by an **imbalance of power** based on a student’s actual or perceived **personal characteristics, behaviors, or beliefs**, or motivated by the student’s association with another person and based on the other person’s characteristics, behaviors, or beliefs.

# Cyberbullying

And includes:

- **Bullying using technology that**
- (a) occurs on, or is delivered to, **school property or a school-sponsored activity** or event on or off school property

**OR**

- (b) **occurs off of school property** or outside of a school-sponsored activity or event, if the **conduct interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operations of the school** or school sponsored activity or event.



# Reporting

- Report bullying to the **Principal, Assistant Principal, or any School District Employee** OR
- By filling out a **district form** that you can obtain from your teachers

The administration will **investigate the allegations** and take remedial **disciplinary action** when the conduct has been **substantiated**.

**No action will be taken solely on the basis of a confidential report.**



# To Prevent Recurrence

Administration may choose necessary and appropriate **disciplinary action** which may include but is not limited to:

- Detention
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Notice to School Resource Officer

# Additional Discipline

Additional disciplinary action will also be taken against any student who

- **Retaliates** (tries to get even) against someone who reports him/her

OR

- **Encourages others to retaliate**

OR

- **Makes a FALSE accusation**