STUDENT HARASSMENT AND BULLYING

Reference Code: JBF

The School Board seeks to provide a safe and positive learning environment for all students. Harassment and bullying disrupt both a student's ability to learn and the school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. Therefore, the Board will not tolerate student harassment or bullying in any form.

Defining Bullying

As used in this policy:

- 1. "Bullying" refers to severe, systematic, or repeated actions that involve the threatened, attempted, or actual infliction of physical harm or psychological/emotional distress on one or more students, staff, or other persons. Bullying usually (but not always) involves an actual or a reasonable perception of an imbalance of power between the bully and the victim/target. Bullying occurs when someone purposefully engages in written, spoken, nonverbal, or physical behaviors or communications (including but not limited to actions that threaten, intimidate, insult, degrade, or ostracize) that have the effect of doing any of the following:
 - a. Substantially interfering with any student's education;
 - b. Substantially interfering with a person's ability to participate in or benefit from any school activity or program;
 - c. Endangering the health, safety, or property of the target(s) of the behavior; or
 - d. Creating a threatening, intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment within any District school, activity, or program.
- "Cyber-bullying" is defined as bullying that involves the use of digital technologies, including but not limited to, e-mail, cell phones, text messages, instant messages, chat rooms, and social media. Cyber-bullying is prohibited and treated the same as all other types of bullying.

Younger students might better understand the meaning of "bullying" when the term is defined to include conduct that one person uses on purpose and usually more than just one time to hurt, put down, embarrass, or scare another person, where the person who is being bullied would have difficulty protecting or defending him/herself.

Bullying can involve direct interaction between the aggressor-bully and the target(s), or it can be indirect (such as orchestrating others to engage in acts of bullying, facilitating bullying conduct by others, taking secretive or covert actions, etc.).

While bullying involves deliberate/purposeful conduct, intent/purpose may properly be inferred from the totality of the circumstances (e.g., where the behavior is persistent/repeated or where the responsible party reasonably should have been able to foresee the consequences of his/her actions and the manner in which his/her conduct would be likely to be perceived by the target(s) of the conduct).

Not all behaviors that (1) hurt another person's feelings; (2) are a manifestation of an interpersonal conflict; or (3) are in some way unkind amount to acts of bullying (or harassment) as defined in this policy. However, such negative behaviors are still a legitimate subject of concern and regulation within the school environment.

Reference Code: JBF

Defining Harassment

As used in this policy, the term "harassment" means behavior directed towards another person:

 which either: (a) is based, in whole or in part, on any legally-protected characteristic or classification, including (with respect to a student victim/target) a student's race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, religion, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, or any physical, mental, emotional or learning disability; (b) is based on some other actual or perceived, but irrelevant, distinguishing characteristic, such as (with respect to a student victim/target) a student's physical appearance, economic status, or social status; or (c) does not serve a legitimate purpose;

<u>AND</u>

2. which either: (a) substantially interferes with a student's school performance, an employee's ability to do his/her work, or any person's ability to perform or participate in a District-related function; (b) substantially interferes with a student's ability to participate in or benefit from any school activity or program; (c) creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment within any District school, activity, or program; (d) substantially interferes with or endangers the education, health, safety, or property of the victim/target; (e) causes a substantial disruption to any school-related activity or program; or (f) compromises the District's ability to operate efficiently and effectively.

Defining Sexual Harassment

Refer to School Board Policy AG.

All staff members must be alert to and aware of the signs of harassment and bullying and intervene promptly and firmly against it. The District shall provide staff with the necessary information and training to be able to carry out this responsibility.

Any person who believes that a student has been the subject of harassment or bullying, including the student him/herself, shall report the incident to the building principal or a pupil services staff member for investigation and action. If a student is not comfortable with making a complaint to the principal or pupil services staff member, the complaint may be made to any other adult employee. The employee will then report the complaint to the appropriate principal or pupil services staff member. All reports of harassment or bullying shall be taken seriously, treated fairly and properly and thoroughly investigated. There shall be no retaliation against individuals for filing complaints under this policy or assisting in the investigation of such complaints.

School officials shall take all appropriate and necessary action to eliminate student harassment and bullying, up to and including positive behavioral interventions and support, disciplinary action towards offenders, and/or referral to law enforcement officials. In situations in which the alleged harassment or bullying originated off school property, any disciplinary action shall be based upon whether the conduct is determined to be severely disruptive of the educational process so that it markedly impedes the day-to-day operations of the school.

Building principals shall be responsible for informing students, parents and guardians, and staff of this policy annually and for overseeing its proper implementation.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JEFFERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

Reference Code: JBF

ADOPTED: July 23, 1990

REVISED: December 17, 1990 (under Policy ACA) March 20, 1995 (under Policy ACA)

February 24, 2003 (under Policy ACA) May 24, 2010 (under Policy ACB)

January 11, 2021 (Under Policy JBF)

REVIEW DATE: January 11, 2021

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

Section 118.13[student nondiscrimination]Section 118.46(2)[student bullying policy required]Section 120.13(1)[school board power to set conduct rules and discipline students]

Section 947.0125 [unlawful use of electronic communications]
Section 947.013 [harassment prohibited]

Section 947.013 [harassment prohibited]
Section 948.51(2) [hazing prohibited]

<u>Section 995.55</u> [restricted access to personal Internet account]

Wisconsin Administrative Code

PI 9.02(9) [student harassment defined]

<u>PI 9.03(1)</u> [student nondiscrimination policy prohibiting harassment required]

Federal Laws

<u>Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972</u> [sex discrimination in educational programs, includes sexual harassment]

Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964 [race, color and national original discrimination]

<u>Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act</u> [disability discrimination; free and appropriate public education (FAPE) and reasonable accommodations]

<u>Children's Internet Protection Act</u> (CIPA) and Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) [policy and other requirements related to Internet safety]

CROSS REFS.: AG, Nondiscrimination in District Programs, Activities, and Operations

JFCK, Student Use of Two-way Communication Devices

IIBH, Student Safe and Responsible Use of the Internet and Other Technology Resources

REPORTING BULLYING / HARASSMENT: PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND OTHER NON-EMPLOYEES

Reference Code: JBF-R(1)

Any student who (1) is the target of any bullying or harassment; (2) who observes/witnesses any incident involving bullying or harassment; or (3) obtains knowledge of possible bullying or harassment that the student finds credible or upsetting, is strongly encouraged to report the incident(s) to District staff using any of the procedures identified in this rule. Parents and guardians and others with relevant knowledge/information/concerns related to incidents involving students are similarly encouraged to report such concerns/incidents to the District.

There are several different ways that students, parents and guardians, and others can report concerns related to bullying and/or harassment:

1. At the **Building/School** Level:

- a. Making an informal verbal or written report (e.g., via a parent email) to a teacher, activity supervisor (e.g., a head coach, a bus driver, etc.), student services staff member or building principal; or
- b. Completing a "Report of Bullying or Harassment" form and delivering the form to a teacher, student services staff member (e.g., a school counselor) or to the building principal.

2. At the **District** Level:

- a. Completing a "Report of Bullying or Harassment" form and delivering the form to the office of the District Administrator; or
- Pursuing a District-level complaint using the District's student discrimination complaint procedures. When using these procedures, the complaint may be initially filed with the District's designated Equal Educational Opportunities Compliance Officer.

A student or parent or guardian can choose the specific reporting method with which they are most comfortable. That is, any report/concern/incident(s) can be brought forward at the building level and/or at the District level. The specificity and clarity of the information (e.g., expressly identifying in connection with a verbal report that the issue concerns "bullying" and/or "harassment") is likely to be more important than the particular method that is used to make the initial point of contact. To help avoid misunderstandings, the District strongly encourages students and parents and guardians to submit a written report using the District's "Report of Bullying or Harassment" form any time they want to be sure that they are triggering the investigation and intervention steps outlined in related District procedures.

Regardless of the reporting method that is used, the District's primary concern in any situation that involves the bullying or harassment of a student is for the safety and well-being of the victim/target, and it is the District's goal to provide an adequate and appropriate response. Employees are directed to use their professional judgment to appropriately scale the nature of the District's response to the nature of the specific incident(s)/concern(s).

REPORTING BULLYING / HARASSMENT: EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Reference Code: JBF-R(2)

Expectations for District Employees to Report Bullying or Harassment Involving Students

Any District employee who, in connection with his/her duties, witnesses or obtains credible knowledge of any incident of bullying or harassment of a student is expected to make a timely (usually same day) written report of the incident to the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services in any of the following circumstances:

- 1. The employee knows or suspects that a student has been, or is being, subjected to any severe or repeated act(s) of bullying or harassment and believes that the incident(s) have caused, or are likely to cause, physical, emotional, or mental harm to the target/victim;
- 2. Any time the incident involves conduct by a District official, District employee, or other adult toward a student victim/target;
- 3. The conduct in question would clearly constitute prohibited harassment based on a student's legally-protected status;
- 4. Any time a person who is verbally reporting an incident or concern involving potential bullying or harassment expressly states that he/she wants the incident/concern to be documented;
- 5. If the employee knows that the incident reflects a continuation or escalation of prior bullying or harassment that has already been reported and that the bully-aggressor has already been expressly directed to cease; and
- 6. Any time an employee with knowledge of possible bullying or harassment concludes that he/she has (a) reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been (or is currently) subject to abuse or neglect, or (b) reason to believe that a student has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect will occur (IMPORTANT: Such an incident also triggers a duty to report the information to appropriate external legal authorities under state law).

District employees may, in connection with their duties, witness or obtain credible knowledge of other incidents involving inappropriate conduct by or that is directed toward one or more students that may, or may not, also constitute bullying or harassment. For example, not all incidents of interpersonal conflict, teasing, name-calling, etc. amount to bullying or harassment. Provided that the employee is not required to report the matter pursuant to the paragraph immediately above, the District expects the employee to exercise reasonable judgment to determine (1) how to intervene to stop and address the inappropriate behavior; and (2) whether the incident should be further reported/documented.

In making such discretionary reporting decisions, an employee is expected to consider factors such as: (1) the extent to which the inappropriate behavior has stopped; (2) whether the incident appears to have been a relatively minor and isolated incident versus a severe or repeated behavior; and (3) the extent to which the victim/target, even if initially upset in the moment, does not appear to be substantially affected by the incident going forward.

Employees are expected to:

1. Make efforts to be reasonably consistent in making such reporting decisions;

- 2. Follow any supervisory guidance that they may receive; and
- 3. Seek assistance from the appropriate building principal or from student services personnel whenever they encounter a concern with bullying or harassment where (a) the employee is unsure how to fully assess or otherwise handle the situation; or (b) the employee believes that his/her standard behavior management techniques and practices are inadequate to appropriately respond to the situation/concern.

Reference Code: JBF-R(2)

<u>SPECIAL PROVISION APPLICABLE TO HOURLY EMPLOYEES</u>: Hourly employees who are not assigned responsibility for regularly managing student conduct or for determining how the District will respond to incidents of bullying or harassment should, as a default, contact their supervisor or the relevant building principal any time they have significant concerns about the bullying or harassment of any student(s). This paragraph does not mean that hourly staff should refrain from attempting to stop harmful behavior in any incident that is presently taking place.

Reporting Procedures:

A District employee that is making a written report of bullying or harassment under this rule is expected to submit the report to the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services. The employee may use the District's Harassment and Bullying Complaint Form (GBAE-E). The employee should make an effort to confirm that the administrator received the report.

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RESPONDING TO REPORTS OF BULLYING AND HARASSMENT INVOLVING STUDENTS

Reference Code: JBF-R(3)

I. RESPONDING TO AND INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF POSSIBLE BULLYING OR HARASSMENT INVOLVING STUDENTS

A. General Expectations and Priority Actions

Whenever the District receives any report or complaint regarding alleged bullying or harassment of a student (whether written or verbal), or where any employee is otherwise addressing an incident, concern, or allegation that the employee understands to be related to possible bullying or harassment of a student, the highest-priority response measures are the following:

- 1. Intervening to attempt to stop harmful or inappropriate behavior in any incident that is presently taking place;
- 2. Taking steps to address concerns regarding any imminent threats or imminent harm; and
- 3. Identifying a teacher, administrator, or other licensed staff member who will make a personal contact with the student who has been clearly identified as a possible victim/target of bullying or harassment.

The District's further expectation is that employees will process written reports and formal complaints according to established procedures, and, more generally, appropriately scale the District's response to any report or complaint in a manner that reflects the known nature and severity of the specific incident(s)/concern(s). The District's response to any situation involving bullying or harassment should be adjusted any time the District determines that an initial response or attempted resolution has been ineffective.

B. Investigating a Written Report of Bullying or Harassment

The following procedures shall be used to process any clearly identified written report of possible bullying or harassment of a student that is received by the District, including most reports submitted using the District's "Report of Bullying or Harassment" form, but not including any report or complaint that is being separately processed under the District's formal student discrimination complaint procedure. Where any written report of bullying or harassment specifies that the alleged conduct is based, in whole or in part, on a student's legally-protected status or classification (race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, etc.), the District reserves the right to divert the report for separate processing as a complaint under the District's student discrimination complaint procedures.

- 1. **Initial Screening.** Under the direction of the Superintendent, each written "Report of Bullying or Harassment" will initially be screened by a licensed staff member to determine whether the report involves conduct that, if substantiated, could be a violation of the District's anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy. This step will normally involve making an initial contact with the individual who submitted the report, as well as with each student who is an alleged target/victim.
 - a. If the District, with the approval of a school administrator, determines that the report involves conduct that would <u>not</u> be a violation of the District's anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy, the issue may be diverted from these procedures for some other appropriate resolution. The individual filing the report

Reference Code: JBF-R(3)

and each known target/victim and his/her parent or guardian will be notified of such a decision, and they may, within **10 days** of being notified, request reconsideration of the decision.

- b. If the initial screening suggests that bullying or harassment may have occurred (or may be occurring), an administrator or designee will continue to process the report under these procedures.
 - (1) From this point forward, and regardless of who initially submitted the report, the District's primary point of contact regarding the report will be with each student who is an alleged target/victim and the student's parent or guardian.
 - (2) Nothing in the remainder of these procedures prevents an administrator, a target/victim, and the student's parent or guardian from mutually agreeing, at any time, to a resolution of a report of bullying or harassment that is satisfactory to all parties, even though it departs from these procedures. Such an alternative resolution shall be documented in the District's records. However, no administrator shall approve a resolution that he/she determines (a) does not adequately address the matter, or (b) may jeopardize any person's safety.
- 2. **Post-Screening Investigation.** When any report of bullying or harassment is investigated beyond the initial screening stage, the investigation shall be conducted by an administrator or by a licensed staff member acting under the direction of an administrator, unless the Superintendent engages an independent outside party to conduct the investigation.
 - a. The investigation shall be conducted by a person who the District determines is not identified as a person who is allegedly responsible for, or who was directly involved in, the underlying issue or incident.
 - b. The investigator shall ensure that the person who filed the report and any student who has been identified as an alleged victim/target has had an opportunity to present relevant information or other evidence.
 - c. Prior to making and issuing any determination that a report of bullying or harassment has been substantiated, the investigator shall (unless the student is unavailable to the District) provide any accused bully/aggressor who has been identified with an opportunity to respond to the allegations and to present relevant information or other evidence.
 - d. Nothing in these procedures prevents the District from implementing interim responsive measures (e.g., pending completion of an investigation) that are intended to address any person's safety and well-being, prevent continuation or escalation of a conflict, or prevent disruption to a student's education or within any school environment.
- 3. **Administrative Determination.** Following the completion of the investigation described in Step 2, the person who conducted the investigation (if someone other than the building principal or Superintendent) shall consult with a building principal or the Superintendent, and the administration will determine whether any bullying, harassment, or other violation of District policies or school rules has been substantiated.
 - a. The District will notify each student (and his/her parent or guardian) who was identified as an <u>alleged target/victim</u> of the extent to which the District determined that the student has (or has not) been subjected to bullying or harassment in violation of Board policy.

b. The District will notify each student (and his/her parent or guardian) who was identified as an <u>alleged bully/aggressor</u> of the extent to which the District determined (if at all) that the student engaged in bullying, harassment, or other conduct prohibited by Board policy or school rules. The appropriate entries documenting any violation(s) will be made in the student's behavioral records.

Reference Code: JBF-R(3)

- 4. **Request for Reconsideration of the Administrative Determination.** Any student, or any parent or guardian of the student, who is an alleged target/victim or an alleged bully/aggressor and who disagrees with the administration's decision in the matter may, within **10** calendar days of being notified of the administration's decision, file a written request for reconsideration with the office of the Superintendent. Unless additional time is needed to conduct further investigation or to evaluate new information, the Superintendent shall normally respond to the request for reconsideration within **10** calendar days.
- 5. **Optional Appeal to the School Board.** Any student, or any parent or guardian of the student, who is an alleged target/victim or an alleged bully/aggressor and who disagrees with the Superintendent's resolution upon reconsideration may treat the Superintendent's decision as the District's final decision or submit an appeal to the School Board. Any appeal to the Board shall be filed in care of the School Board Clerk at the Office of the Superintendent within **10** calendar days of receipt of the Superintendent's decision, and the request shall state the reasons the decision is being appealed. The Board will provide a response to the appeal, which may or may not involve a meeting with the relevant parties and/or further investigation.
- 6. **Appeal to DPI in Limited Cases.** Where any written "Report of Bullying or Harassment" investigated under these procedures specifies that the alleged conduct is based, in whole or in part, on a student's legally-protected classification (e.g., race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, etc.), the complaining party may appeal any negative final decision of the District to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Accordingly, in such cases, notice of a negative determination issued to the complainant by the Superintendent upon reconsideration or (if applicable) by the Board shall include notice to the complainant that the District's determination may be appealed to the State Superintendent in writing within 30 days using the procedures identified in Chapter PI 1 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

II. DISTRICT INTERVENTIONS FOLLOWING REPORTS AND SUBSTANTIATED INCIDENTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSMENT INVOLVING STUDENTS

A. Supporting a Student Who Expresses Concerns or Fears Related to Bullying or Harassment

In some situations, an investigation may be unable to substantiate a particular incident, unable to identify any or all students who may have been involved in a particular incident, or result in a finding that away-from-school conduct cannot be investigated as a District matter. However, a substantiated incident is <u>not</u> a pre-requisite to providing supportive interventions on behalf of a student who expresses concerns or fears related to bullying or harassment. Any time the District is working with a student and/or his/her parent or guardian surrounding concerns with bullying or harassment, staff may explore the extent to which on-going monitoring, counseling, or other supportive measures may be useful and appropriate.

B. Supporting a Student Victim Following a Substantiated Incident of Bullying or Harassment

Following any substantiated incident of bullying or harassment involving a student victim, the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services shall specify in writing for the student and his/her parent or guardian the victim-focused interventions that the District intends to implement. Examples of possible interventions and responses include:

• Establishing clear points of contact if the student, or the student's parent or guardian, has ongoing or new concerns, if any issues concerning retaliation arise, etc.;

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- Establishing date(s) by which a designated staff member will initiate follow-up contact with the student and/or the parent or guardian;
- Involving/notifying additional school staff;
- Monitoring particular situations/settings;
- Providing student services (e.g., counseling);
- Establishing and implementing specific safety plans.

C. Accountability for Students Who Have Engaged in Bullying or Harassment

If the District issues a determination under these procedures that a student has engaged in conduct that constitutes bullying or harassment in violation of Board policy, the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services shall specify in writing for the student and his/her parent or guardian (1) any school-related consequences that the District is imposing on the student; and/or (2) any other interventions that the District intends to implement to promote positive changes in the student's interpersonal skills, communication skills, socio-emotional development (e.g., his/her capacity to demonstrate empathy for others) and/or general behavior moving forward.

Examples of possible school-related consequences include: loss or suspension of privileges, detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and expulsion from school.

Examples of other possible interventions include:

- Holding meetings involving the student and his/her parent or guardian which cover issues such as ensuring
 that the student understands (a) the consequences and impact of his/her past behavior; (b) how the District
 defines bullying and harassment; (c) the possible consequences for future violations of the District's
 behavioral expectations; and (d) that any type of retaliation related to the incident is prohibited and would
 be a serious offense;
- Establishing date(s) by which a designated staff member will initiate follow-up contact with the student and/or the parent or guardian;
- Providing student services (e.g., counseling);
- Interventions intended to identify/address potential underlying causes of the behavior and teach new skills;
- Referring the student's parent or guardian to available community services, non-District counseling, etc.

Nothing in these procedures prevents District staff from involving or referring a matter to law enforcement where a student's conduct may have violated one or more laws or where safety interests indicate that such involvement is appropriate.

D. Enhancing School Climate and Building All Students' Awareness and Skills

The District's goals include creating a culture in which bullying and harassment are not tolerated, in which students are supported and encouraged to report concerns with possible harassment or bullying, and in which students build skills that enable them to assist peers who are harassed or bullied. Accordingly, anti-bullying and anti-harassment efforts have an on-going instructional component for all students, which will not necessarily be associated with any particular incident. However, it is also possible that certain incidents or observed patterns of conduct may cause the District to implement a group-based, class-wide, or school-wide intervention measure that is intended to enhance student awareness, communicate particular concerns, identify and promote desired behaviors, and/or to improve the class or school climate. However, the District will give due consideration to

Reference Code: JBF-R(3)

the privacy interests of, and potential negative consequences for, any individual students whenever such interventions are considered.

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BOARD GUIDELINES FOR THE DISTRICT'S PROCEDURES, SERVICES, AND COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO BULLYING AND HARASSMENT IN THE SCHOOLS

Reference Code: JBF-R(4)

The Board believes that bullying and harassment are complex school and community issues that have harmful consequences, first and foremost, for those individuals who are the victims of the behavior; but bullying and harassment also have negative consequences for those who engage in the behavior, for the overall school environment, and for the broader community. Accordingly, the Board directs the administration to ensure that the District's schools are taking active steps, directed toward both students and staff, surrounding bullying and harassment awareness, prevention, and intervention/response.

The administration shall ensure that bullying and harassment are addressed:

- 1. Within the District's personal development and health education curriculum;
- 2. As an element of technology/Internet safety instruction;
- As an element of developing and monitoring the overall climate of District schools and programs;
- 4. By providing staff development resources related to harassment and bullying and communicating to District employees about their responsibilities related to awareness, prevention, and intervention;
- 5. By enforcing the Board's expectations that employees and other adults who are present in the school environment will model appropriate behaviors, including not only the expectation that such adults will avoid engaging in bullying or harassment of students and others, but also the expectation that such adults will model the responsive behaviors that students are encouraged to use when they observe or intervene in response to negative conduct by others;
- 6. Through the provision and use of interventions and supports for students;
- By establishing and communicating expectations for student conduct that address negative behaviors that, even if
 not rising to the level of bullying or harassment, are inappropriate for the school environment and that may be a
 precursor to bullying or harassment; and
- 8. By establishing and implementing procedures under which incidents and concerns involving bullying and harassment can be reported and addressed in an appropriate manner.

While there are often challenges associated with appropriately identifying, assessing, and responding to incidents of bullying and harassment, the District's procedures, services, and communications related to bullying and harassment shall take the following positions of the Board into consideration:

The Board expects the District's response to any incident or course of conduct that involves bullying or harassment
to exhibit a degree of proportionality to the totality of the known circumstances. No single, pre-defined response is
appropriate for all circumstances. Similarly, if District employees conclude that an initial response to an incident or
pattern of bullying or harassment has been ineffective, and they know that the behaviors have continued or that the
behaviors have escalated, then a proportional response would include changing the District's approach to
intervention.

2. Because these behaviors and their effects differ substantially from one situation to the next, the District can be more effective in its efforts when the students and parents and guardians affected by a serious situation (a) clearly identify the severity and totality of the circumstances of the situation to a teacher or administrator; and (b) participate in an ongoing partnership with District employees to monitor, communicate about, and make adjustments to the response(s) that have been implemented to date.

Reference Code: JBF-R(4)

3. Bullying and harassment involve many overlapping behaviors, and conduct that may be properly labeled as bullying and/or harassment may also violate a state law, another District policy, school rules, or other established behavioral expectations for students or employees. Assigning a particular label to a negative behavior is generally less important than identifying the behavior as inappropriate and taking action to address the behavior. However, where any written complaint or written report of bullying or harassment specifies that the alleged conduct is based, in whole or in part, on a student's legally-protected classification, the District shall treat its final determination as appealable to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Information/Notice

- 1. Students and parents and guardians shall be informed annually of relevant portions of the District's anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy and the related complaint/reporting procedures through the Student Handbook.
- 2. The District will also provide a copy of the anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy and the related complaint/reporting procedures to any person who requests it.
- 3. A reference to the District's anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy and the related procedures shall also be included in the District's Employee Handbook.

Annual Report

The District's Equal Educational Opportunities Compliance Officer shall keep data on the number and types of student-related incidents of bullying and harassment that are the subject of a written report/complaint. The Compliance Officer shall create an end-of-year annual summary report of such incidents (not including any personally-identifiable student information) to assist with the District's evaluation of its efforts to address bullying and harassment in the schools.

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