

## **BULLYING, CYBERBULLYING, INTIMIDATION, HARASSMENT, AND HAZING**

The Beauregard Parish School Board is committed to maintaining a safe, orderly, civil and positive learning environment so that no student feels threatened while in school or participating in school-related activities. Students and their parents/guardians shall be notified that the school, school bus, and all other school environments are to be safe and secure for all. Therefore, all statements or actions of a bullying, cyberbullying, intimidating, threatening, harassing, hazing, or any other violent nature made on campus, at school-sponsored activities, on school buses, at school bus stops, and en-route from home to the bus stop and from the bus stop home shall not be tolerated. Even if made in a joking manner, these statements or actions threatening other students, school personnel, or school property shall be unacceptable.

All students, teachers, and other school employees shall take responsible measures within the scope of their individual authority to prevent violations of this policy

### **BULLYING, CYBERBULLYING, INTIMIDATION, HARASSMENT**

*Bullying, intimidation, and harassment*, shall mean any intentional gesture or written, verbal, or physical act that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of harming a student or damaging his/her property or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his/her life or person or damage to his/her property and is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

Cyberbullying shall mean harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student on school property by another student using a computer, mobile phone, or other interactive or digital technology or harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student while off school property by another student using any such means when the action or actions are intended to have an effect on the student when the student is on school property.

### **HAZING**

*Hazing* shall mean any knowing behavior, whether by commission or omission, of any student to encourage, direct, order, or participate in any activity which subjects another student to potential physical, mental, or psychological harm for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, continued membership in, or acceptance by existing members of any organization or extracurricular activity at a public elementary or secondary school, whether such behavior is planned or occurs on or off school property, including any school bus and school bus stop. Hazing does not mean any adult-directed and school-sanctioned athletic program practice or event or military training program.

Any solicitation to engage in hazing, and the aiding and abetting another person who engages in hazing shall be prohibited. The consent, stated or implied, of the hazing victim shall not be a defense in determining disciplinary action.

## REPORTING PROCEDURES

Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of bullying, cyberbullying, intimidation, threatening behavior, harassment or hazing by a student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel, or by any other person who is participating in, observing or otherwise engaged in activities including sporting events and other extracurricular activities, under the auspices of the school district or a school within the school system, is encouraged to immediately report the alleged acts to any appropriate school district official.

Any teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who has or receives notice that a student has or may have been the victim of bullying, cyberbullying, intimidation, threatening behavior, harassment, or hazing at school or any school activity shall be required to immediately report the alleged acts to an appropriate school district official, utilizing the Louisiana Department of Education's *behavior incidence checklist* to document the details of each reported incident of harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including cyberbullying.

Any student, School Board employee, or school volunteer who in good faith reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyberbullying to the school administrator in accordance with appropriate procedures shall be immune from a right of action for damages arising from any failure to remedy the reported incident.

## INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS AND REPORTS

The Principal or his/her designee shall immediately investigate or authorize the investigation of all reports and complaints involving alleged bullying, cyberbullying, intimidation, threatening behavior, harassment or hazing of students. Investigations may consist of personal interviews with the complainants or the individual who is alleged to have been bullied, intimidated, threatened, harassed or hazed, the individual or individuals against whom the complaint is made, witnesses, and any other persons who may have knowledge of the alleged incident or incidents or circumstances leading to or giving rise to the complaint. Other methods of investigation also may be used and pertinent documents may be examined by the investigator.

During the pendency of an investigation, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, students, teachers, administrators or other school personnel pending completion of the investigation.

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The school district shall take appropriate action in response to a report following an investigation of any alleged bullying, [cyberbullying](#), intimidation, threatening behavior, harassment, or hazing of a student. When the report determines that the alleged act or conduct appears to be in violation of this policy, disciplinary action shall be taken as outlined in the *Student Handbook*. The principal/designee shall contact the parent, tutor, or legal guardian of the pupil being disciplined for alleged misconduct to notify them of the disciplinary action.

Whenever the act or conduct determined to be a violation of this policy may also constitute a violation of state or federal criminal statute, the appropriate law enforcement officer shall be promptly notified.

## DISSEMINATION OF POLICY NOTIFICATION

This policy shall be conspicuously posted in each school in a place or places accessible to all students, teachers and other personnel.

The school district shall develop a method for discussing this policy with students which shall take into account their level of understanding based upon their grade level or other consideration generally applicable to students enrolled in the same class or grade. The school district also shall discuss this policy with administrators and teachers, and other school personnel whose employment duties bring them into contact with students.

[The School Board shall inform each student in writing within ten \(10\) days after enrolling in school of the prohibition against harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including cyberbullying, of a student by another student; the nature and consequences of such actions; and the proper process and procedure for reporting any incidents involving such prohibited actions.](#)

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Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:183, 17:416, 17:416.13; Board minutes, 8-12-04, 3-11-10.