

# Gaiser Bullying Policy

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Vancouver School District is committed to a safe, civil, respectful and inclusive learning environment. Bullying, which is a form of harassment, is a major distraction from learning and has no place in a school setting.

Vancouver School District prohibits bullying based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, marital status, socio-economic status, physical appearance, or other distinguishing characteristic.

For purposes of this policy, bullying is defined as any intentional threat of or act of physical, verbal (which includes oral, written and electronically transmitted), or emotional abuse, or attacks on the property of another, which

1. has the effect of materially interfering with a student's education,
2. is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment, or
3. has the effect of materially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying may include, but is not limited to taunts, slurs, name calling, rumors, drawings, cartoons, ostracism, extortion of money, or damage or destruction of another's possessions.

Bullying is often carried out through harassment or intimidation, which are addressed and prohibited under other district policies and regulations, specifically, Policy and Regulation 5146.1, Zero Tolerance (See 1.6., Threatening or causing physical injury, malicious harassment, verbal abuse, or intimidation), Policy 5159.1, Prohibited Activities (See Extortion, Blackmail or Coercion, and Malicious Harassment), and Policy and Regulation 5161, Sexual Harassment.

Administrators shall notify staff, students, volunteers and parents that bullying in school, on school grounds, on the school bus, or at school-sponsored activities will not be tolerated and will be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including suspension and expulsion. Law enforcement may be notified depending on the nature and severity of the conduct.

False reports of bullying also constitute violations of this policy. This policy does not prohibit the civil, respectful expression of religious or political views, provided that the expression does not materially disrupt the educational environment.