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Berkeley USD
Board Policy 5131.2
Anti-Bullying

The Governing Board of the Berkeley Unified School District affirms that every
student and staff member has the right to a safe and secure school
environment, free of humiliation, intimidation, fear, harassment, or any form of
bullying behavior. Furthermore, the Board believes that a healthy, positive
psychosocial school environment enhances and increases academic
achievement and pro-social development (BP 5030.2), and therefore the
prevention, [reduction/elimination], and effective disposition of bullying are
fundamental to Berkeley’s educational goals. The District, students, families,
and staff have an obligation to create an environment that celebrates and
respects diversity and human dignity and admonishes bullying behavior. To
this end, the District has in place policies, procedures, and practices that are
designed to reduce and eliminate bullying and harassment as well as address
incidents of bullying and harassment when they occur.

The District will not tolerate bullying – as defined in this policy -- or any
behavior that infringes on the safety or well-being of students, staff, or any
other persons within the District’s jurisdiction whether directed at an
individual or group.
2) Creation of a school climate which encourages students to disclose and
discuss incidents of bullying, both in their roles as victims, perpetrators
and bystanders

3) Demonstration of a commitment to address incidents of bullying by
outlining the school response to any such behaviors

The District will communicate its objectives, programs, and procedures to
eliminate bullying in its annual parent/student handbook.

Definition:

Bullying means

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o Hazing: ritualistic behavi or that subjec ts persons to intentionally

mean-spirited, physically or psychologically abusive, or

humiliating ta sks as a rite of passage or initia tion.

Jurisdiction:

This policy applies t o stud ents and staff on school grounds, while traveli ng to

and from school or a school sponsored activity, during the lunch period,

whether on or off campus, and during a school-sponsored activity. I t a lso

includes acts of bullying that take place at any time when the acts ha ve a

nexus to school attendance/activities by posing a threat or danger to the sa fety

of students, District property, or materially and substantially disrupting the

school environment.

This policy pertains to cyberbullying that is related to school activity or

attendance that occurs at any time, including, but not limited to, while on school

grounds, while going to or coming from school, during the lunch period whether

on or off campus, during, or while going to or coming from, a school sponsored

activity, that is directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel. I f the

cyberbullying occurs outsid e of the scope of the District but the school has

knowledge of its occurrence, the school will inform the parents/guardians of

the students involved.

Bullying and Harassment:

Bullying, cyberbullying, and intimidation, may, from time to time, be part of a

continuum of student misconduct such as sexual harassment, hate- motivated

behavior, assault or child abuse, and, as such, the action of the student or the

nature of the incident could be considered a violation of other asp ects of

student conduct policies and state and fed eral law.

Bullying based on a person’s or group’s actual or perceived sex, gender,

transgender or gender-identi ty non-conforming, socio-economic status, their

race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification,

physical or mental disability, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental

status, which constitutes discriminatory harassment, shall be dealt with in

accordance with the Nondiscrimination/Harassment Policy (BP 5145.3) as well

as with this policy.

Reporting:

Students who are the targets of bullying, sta ff, or any community member who

has witnessed bullying, should report the abuse to the principal, the

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District and make recommendations as to how this policy can be more

effectively implemented.

Approved: January 25, 2012

Revised: April 9, 2014

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