

STUDENT POLICIES – Series 500

CYBER BULLYING – 500.29A

Cyber bullying is all forms of harassment and/or intimidation over the Internet or other forms of electronic communications, including but not limited to: email, texting, computers, pda's and cell phones. Students, staff and all others on school property will refrain from using communication devices or District property to harass or stalk any person. The District's computer network and the Internet, whether accessed at school or away from school, during or after school hours, shall not be used for the purpose of cyber bullying. All forms of cyber bullying are unacceptable and viewed as a violation of this policy and the District's acceptable computer use policy and procedures.

Users are responsible for the appropriateness of the material they transmit. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks are expressly prohibited. Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or web site postings, including blogs.

Students and community members, who believe they have been the victims of such misuses of technology, as described in this policy, should not erase the offending material from the system. A copy of the material should be brought to the attention of a principal or teacher.

The administration shall fully investigate all reports of cyber bullying. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, the loss of computer privileges, detention, suspension, or expulsion for perpetrators of cyber bullying. In addition, when any kind of threat is communicated or when a hate crime is committed, it shall be reported to local law officials.

In situations in which cyber bullying originated from a non-school computer or electronic device, but is brought to the attention of school officials, any disciplinary action shall be based upon whether the conduct is determined to be disruptive of the educational process. In addition, such conduct must also violate a school policy. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, threats, or making a threat off school grounds, to harm a member of the school staff or a student.

Malicious use of the District's computer system to develop programs or to institute practices that harass other users, to gain unauthorized access to any entity on the system and/or damage the components of an entity on the network is prohibited.

Legal References:

Adopted: Aug. 2009