

Bullying is a Form of Harassment

The Mt. Diablo Unified School District believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment.

To that end, the District, schools, and community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance.

The District will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student. A student shall not intimidate or harass another student through words or actions. Such behavior includes direct physical contact, such as hitting or shoving, verbal assaults, such as teasing or name-calling; and social isolation or manipulation. This policy applies whenever a student is on school grounds, traveling to and from school or a school sponsored activity, during the lunch period, whether on or off campus, and during a school-sponsored activity.

The Board of Education expects students and/or staff to immediately report incidents of bullying to the principal or designee. Each complaint of bullying should be promptly investigated. If the complainant or the parent of the student feels that appropriate resolution of the investigation or complaint has not been reached, the student or the parent of the student should contact the Principal or the Office of Student Services. The school system prohibits retaliatory behavior against any complainant or any participant in the complaint process.

General Definitions

Bullying occurs when one or more students threaten, harass or intimidate another student through words, or actions including:

- direct physical contact such as hitting or shoving
- verbal assaults such as teasing or name-calling
- socially isolating or manipulating a student

These incidents will be acted upon when they occur:

- on the school grounds at any time
- en route to and from school or a school-sponsored activity
- during the lunch period whether on or off campus; or
- during, or while going to or coming from, a school sponsored activity.

Specific Examples

For the purpose of further clarification, bullying includes, but is not limited to:

- Making unsolicited written, verbal, physical and/or visual contact.

Examples include:

- written: intimidating/threatening letters, notes, or messages
- verbal: intimidating/threatening comments, slurs, innuendos, teasing, jokes or epithets
- verbal: leering or gestures
- physical: hitting, slapping and/or pinching
- making reprisals, threats of reprisal, or implied threats of reprisal
- engaging in implicit or explicit coercive behavior to control, influence or affect the health and the well being of a student

Complaint Process

Any student who believes he or she has been subjected to hate violence or hostile harassment should immediately report incidents to the principal or other school official. Any student who has reported a case of hate violence or hostile harassment to a school official, and believes the violence and/or harassment has not been remedied in a timely manner,

may file a written complaint in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Uniform Complaint Procedures described on page 27. Each complaint of hate violence or harassment shall be promptly investigated in a way that respects the privacy of all parties concerned. For more information regarding this policy, please call the Student Services Office, 682-8000, ext. 4069. For assistance with the complaint process call Parent Liaison at 682-8000, ext. 4297.