

Students

Bullying

Hazing, bullying, menacing and abuse of students or school personnel will not be tolerated. Any student or school personnel who engages in an act that injures, degrades or disgraces another student or school personnel, disrupts the educational process, or interferes with a student's opportunity to obtain an education shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Appropriate disciplinary action may include suspension, expulsion, and/or referral to law enforcement officials.

Definition

Bullying is defined as any intentional act or acts by a student, a group of students, or staff member(s) directed against another student or any school personnel with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate, or intimidate another student or any school personnel while on school grounds, on school buses, at a bus stop, on the way to and from bus stops, or at a school sponsored activity; which acts are committed more than once against any student during the school year. Bullying which occurs outside of the school setting may be addressed by school officials if it has a direct and negative impact on a student's academic performance or safety in school.

Bullying may take many forms, such as but not limited to:

1. Physical violence and attacks
2. Verbal taunts and name calling
3. Discriminatory slurs, including but not limited to insulting, disparaging or derogatory comments regarding a person's race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national or ethnic background or disability
4. Threats and intimidation
5. Extortion or stealing of money and possessions
6. Exclusion from the peer group

Bullying Prevention Program

A comprehensive program to address bullying at all school levels is essential to reduce incidents of bullying. Therefore, a bullying prevention program shall be implemented for all Ansonia Public Schools that strives to develop a school environment:

1. Which firmly limits unacceptable behavior;
2. Where non-hostile, non-physical negative consequences are consistently applied in cases of violations of rules and other unacceptable behaviors;
3. Where adults act as authorities and positive role models;
4. Where students are included in efforts to improve the school climate;

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Bullying Prevention Program (continued)

5. Permits anonymous reports of bullying by students to teachers and administrators and written reports of suspected bullying by parents or guardians;
6. Requires teachers and other school staff to notify school administrators in writing of bullying acts they witness and students' reports they receive;
7. Requires school administrators to investigate parents' written reports and review students' anonymous reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report;
8. Requires each school to maintain a publicly available list of the number of verified bullying acts that occurred there, and within available appropriations, report such number to the Department of Education annually and in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;
9. Requires each school to have prevention and intervention strategy, as defined by statute, for school staff to deal with bullying, including language about bullying in student codes of conduct and in all student handbooks;
10. Requires each school to notify parents or guardians of all students involved in a verified act of bullying and invite them to attend at least one meeting. The notice shall be simultaneously mailed to the parent/guardian with whom the student primarily resides and to the other parent/guardian if requested. The notice must describe the school's response and any consequences that may result from further acts of bullying;
11. Requires the development of case-by-case interventions for addressing reported incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and discipline; ~~and~~
12. Requires students to be notified annually of the process by which they may make reports of bullying;
13. Requires the identification of appropriate school personnel, which may include, but shall not be limited to, pupil services personnel, responsible for taking a bullying report and investigating the complaint;
14. As required, but not later than February 1, 2009, submit this policy to the Department of Education for its review, analysis, and cooperative assistance; and
15. Inclusion in the District's staff development program for certified staff training pertaining to the prevention of bullying, effective July 1, 2009.

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Hazing

Bullying (continued)

Prevention and Intervention Strategy

The District shall implement, as required by C.G.S. 10-221d, as amended, a prevention and intervention strategy which may include, but is not limited to:

1. Implementation of a positive behavioral interventions and supports process or another evidence-based model approach for safe school climate or for the prevention of bullying identified by the Department of Education.
2. A school survey to determine the prevalence of bullying.
3. Establishment of a bullying prevention coordinating committee with broad representation to review the survey results and implement the strategy.
4. School rules prohibiting bullying, harassment, and intimidation and establishing appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts.
5. Adequate adult supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom, and other specific areas where bullying is likely to occur.
6. Inclusion of grade-appropriate bullying prevention curricula in kindergarten through high school.
7. Individual interventions with the bully, parents; and school staff, and interventions with the bullied child, parents; and the school staff.
8. School wide training related to safe school climate.
9. Promotion of parent involvement in bullying prevention through individual or team participation in meetings, trainings, and individual interventions.

Students, parents of students, and teachers shall be notified of this prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by the posting of such information at each school and by the inclusion of such information in student handbooks, parent handbooks, and teachers' manuals.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-222d Policy on bullying behavior, as amended by PA 08-160.

PA 06-115 An Act Concerning Bullying Policies in Schools and Notices Sent to Parents or Legal Guardians.

Policy adopted: April 7, 2004
Policy revised: June 7, 2006
Policy revised: December 3, 2008

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ansonia, Connecticut

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1. Students are encouraged to anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and the Principal. Students shall be notified annually of the process which they may make anonymous reports of bullying to teachers and school administrators.
2. Parents or guardians of students may file written reports of suspected bullying with the school Principal.
3. Teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying or receive student or parent reports of bullying are required to notify the Principal immediately.
4. The Principal of each school shall designate school administrator(s) to investigate reports of bullying.
5. The designated school administrator(s) are required to investigate written reports and to review any anonymous reports of bullying. Upon review of the suspected bullying, the designated school administrator(s) will report their finding to the school Principal. The report shall include a recommendation regarding discipline where necessary.
6. The parents or guardians, with whom the student resides, of students who commit any verified act of bullying and of the students against whom such acts were directed shall be notified in writing. Such notification shall include a description of the school staff response to such acts and any resulting consequences stemming from such act, as well as the consequences of committing further acts of bullying. The notice shall be simultaneously mailed to the parent/guardian with whom the student primarily resides and to other parents/guardians if requested.
7. Appropriate corrective action will be taken by school administrators to insure that the bullying behavior does not continue and to prevent retaliation against anyone reporting the bullying. The corrective action may include disciplinary action where appropriate.
8. Each of the Ansonia Public Schools shall maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying, and shall make such list available for public inspection.
9. The Principal of each school shall develop case-by-case interventions such as counseling and discipline, to address repeated incidents of bullying by the same individual.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-222d Policy on bullying behavior
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