

## Anti-Bullying Policy:

### Introduction

The Anti-Bullying Policy in full is located in the Board of Education Policy Manual and is also posted on the school district's website. The purpose of this policy on bullying is to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that no student will be subject to any bullying and to otherwise secure a safe, orderly, and respectful environment that promotes teaching and learning.

### Bullying/Cyber-Bullying Defined

"Bullying is intentional harmful physical or verbal behavior, including communications made in writing or electronically, initiated by one or more students and directed toward another student. It exists when a student deliberately seeks to exercise power (physical or social) in order to intentionally dominate and harass another student. It is typically repeated. It is an imbalance of power where the bully targets a student who has difficulty defending himself or herself." (*Illinois Principals Association*) This specifically includes any behavior that represents cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication). It can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- 1 Placing the student in reasonable fear of harm;
- 2 Causing a substantially negative effect on the student's physical or mental health;
- 3 Substantially interfering with academic performance;
- 4 Substantially interfering with the student's participation in any school-based activities.

(Paraphrased from IL legal definition in 105ILCS 5/27-23.7(b))

### Bullying Prohibited

Bullying is NOT acceptable and is strictly prohibited by Illinois state law and HACUSD #11. Bullying behavior that is covered by this Policy is behavior that occurs on school property or at school sponsored activities or events; while students are being transported or walking to or from school or school sponsored activities or events; while students are waiting at school bus stops, or when the conduct otherwise would substantially impede the educational environment, regardless of where the conduct occurs. The grounds for disciplinary action apply whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, and may include incidents that occur off school grounds. No student shall be retaliated against for reporting bullying behavior. A student's act of retaliation will be treated as bullying and shall be subject to appropriate discipline. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying and shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

### Bystander Responses

For purposes of this Policy, a bystander to bullying is a witness to bullying behavior and may be considered to be aiding or abetting the bully. This aiding and abetting includes, but may not be limited to, standing idly by, looking away, or otherwise actively encouraging the bully. Any student who is a bystander to any bullying behavior and who fails to take any productive action to discourage the bullying behavior may be subject to appropriate discipline.

### Report and Investigation

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the building principal or designee(s) or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encourage to report it to the building principal or designee(s). Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing.

Maple Grade Center (217) 283-6665

Honeywell Grade Center (217) 283-6666

John Greer Grade Center (217) 283-6667

Hoopeston Area Middle School (217) 283-6664

Hoopeston Area High School (217) 283-6661

The principal or designee(s) responsible for student discipline shall as soon as practicable conduct or cause to be conducted a thorough investigation of the alleged incident, making all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, parents/guardians of primary students involved in the alleged incident of bullying will be informed about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the building principal or designee(s) to discuss the investigation, findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying. This may include a discussion of interventions to be taken to address bullying, which may include, but are not limited to school social work services, restorative measures, school psychological services, and community-based services. Discipline and/or other intervention appropriate to the outcome of the investigation shall be imposed consistent with the School District's adopted discipline code. The police may be notified of incidents involving bodily harm or property damage.

### Notification

Students and Parents/legal guardians will be notified of this Policy annually through receipt of each school's Student Handbook. The Anti-Bullying Policy in full is also posted on the school district's website.

### Conclusion

HACUSD #11 recognizes the importance of a safe, orderly, and respectful learning environment. The purpose of this Policy on Bullying is to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that no student will be subject to bullying.