

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 49 (CENTRAL COAST)

REGULATION: Bullying

Regulation No. 3023

Board Approved: June 19, 2008

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The Board believes that every child has the right to be safe. Bullying in any form is unacceptable. The Board shall consider any act of bullying to be a serious threat to the school environment and shall deal with any act of bullying according to this regulation.

The Board encourages each school to develop an action plan to prevent bullying. Within the constraints of the funding provided by the Ministry of Education, the board will annually budget a specific amount to enable schools to implement their plans. Should a school elect not to develop its own plan suited to the unique needs of the school, the plan detailed in this Regulation shall apply.

1. Definitions:

a. School Environment

The school environment includes travel to and from school, being in the vicinity of the school, on school property, or in attendance at a school activity. While on school property during the normal school day, or riding in a school bus, the Principal is responsible for supervising the behaviour of the student. If a student walks to and from school, the student is responsible to the Principal for her/his actions. If a parent or guardian transports a student, the parent or guardian is responsible for supervising the student. Being in the "vicinity of the school" applies during the period of time that a student is normally in transit to, in attendance at or in transit from, the school or in attendance at a school function.

b. Bullying

- i) Bullying occurs when a person uses power in a willful manner with the aim of hurting and other individual or individuals physically or psychologically.
- ii) Bullying is a form of violence which may be a single act, or which takes place over a period of time, where one or more individuals subjects a victim to fear, intimidation or harassment of a physical, sexual, racial or psychological nature.
- iii) Bullying is different from ordinary conflict or quarreling: when bullying occurs, there exists a power imbalance.

2. This Regulation shall be included in the School Code of Conduct and provided to students, parents and staff.

3. In accordance with every school plan, every reported act of bullying will:

- be acknowledged, investigated and dealt with
- result in a remediation/consequence for the bully and support for the victim – result in a progressive plan of remediation or set of consequences for the bully.

The final step in any school action plan, where there is no improvement in behaviour, must result in indefinite suspension for the student.

4. If a school action plan does not exist, the following progression shall apply:

First Offence: Parents informed by phone and the incident recorded in the student file. Student and Parent must meet with the Principal and/or school personnel and a corrective plan developed and agreed to before the student is re-admitted to class.

Second Offence: Parents informed by phone and registered letter and the incident is recorded in the student file. Student suspended for 3 - 5 days depending on the incident. Parent and student meet with Principal and/or Counselor to review/amend the corrective plan.

Agreement must be reached before re-admission.

Third Offence: Parents informed by phone and registered letter and the incident recorded in the student file. Student suspended indefinitely. Suspension Review Committee convened to hear the case.

Fourth Offence: Parents informed by phone and registered letter. Incident recorded in the student file. Student suspended indefinitely with recommendation to the Board for expulsion. The Principal of the school shall use discretion and may, depending on the severity of the bullying, institute the progression at any step.

5. Funding

- a. Schools may access the fund established by the Board by submitting their action plan for approval to the Superintendent of Schools not later than October 15th of the year of implementation of the action plan. Within the limit of any budget set by the Board for this purpose, each school submitting an approved plan shall receive a base amount and a per student amount.
- b. The Superintendent of Schools will establish, in consultation with representatives of the Central Coast Teachers' Association and Principals, a process to disburse the fund.