

The Vanguard School

POLICY: Vanguard JICDE – Bullying and Threats

ADOPTED: 11-17-21

The Vanguard School is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, staff, volunteers, and parents, free from harassment, intimidation, and bullying. These behaviors include any intentional written, verbal, or physical action when said action:

- Physically harms another person or damages another's property,
- Substantially interferes with another student's education,
- Is severe, persistent, or pervasive, creating an intimidating or threatening educational environment, or
- Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is the repeated deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions intended to cause fear, intimidation, or harm. Bullying can be identified as persistent behavior and involve an imbalance of power. Single incidents or conflicts and fights between equals do not constitute bullying.

Bullying behavior can be:

- Verbal (name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats)
- Physical (hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting)
- Social (ignoring, excluding, ostracizing, alienating, making inappropriate gestures)
- Psychological (spreading rumors, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions, malicious texts, email messages, and social messaging, inappropriate use of camera phones)

Bullying behavior is not:

- Children not getting along well/making friends
- A situation of mutual conflict
- Single episodes of nastiness or random acts of aggression or intimidation

Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student based on his or her academic performance or any basis protected by federal and state law, including disability, race,

creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry, or the need for special education services, whether such characteristic(s) is actual or perceived.

Bullying behavior is prohibited on school property, at school-sanctioned activities and events, when students are being transported in any vehicle dispatched by the school or off school property when such conduct has a nexus to school or any curricular or non-curricular activity or event.

Threats

A threat to harm others is defined as any written, verbal, or electronically transmitted expression of intent to injure or harm someone else. A threat may be communicated directly to the intended victim or communicated to a third party. Threatening behavior is prohibited on school property, at school-sanctioned activities and events, when students are being transported in any vehicle dispatched by the school or off school property when such conduct has a nexus to school or any curricular or non-curricular activity or event.

Consequences of Threatening or Bullying Behavior

A student who engages in any act of bullying or threatening behavior and/or a student who takes any retaliatory action against a student who reports in good faith an incident of bullying is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to restoration practices, suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

Bullying behavior that constitutes unlawful discrimination or harassment shall be subject to investigation and discipline under related Board policies and procedures. Bullying and threatening behavior will be assessed by the school principal or his/her designee. The severity and pattern, if any, of the bullying behavior shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made. The personnel evaluating the bullying or threatening behavior will use **the school's conflict/bullying protocol flowchart and Conduct and Discipline Code** to assess the situation.

Parents/Guardians

A parent or guardian who engages in threatening or bullying behavior is also subject to appropriate action including but not limited to referral to law enforcement authorities. The severity and pattern, if any, of the bullying behavior shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made.

School-Based Programs

To effectively prepare our students for successful lives full of purpose and productivity, The Vanguard School and its staff believe students must be supported in not only intellectual development but character development as well.

To this end, administration, faculty, and staff members take every opportunity to guide and support students in the development of productive habits and character virtues. Additionally, students participate in character classes throughout the school year, where teachers introduce valuable character traits such as wisdom, integrity, respect, excellence, and citizenship. Students are introduced to not only the definition of these

traits; they develop an understanding of their relevance to daily lives by working through examples, non-examples, and situations whereby they can be applied.

In addition to the character development program at The Vanguard School, students are supported through a variety of strategies to ensure that students in need of guidance, remediation, and/or additional support are quickly identified and monitored.