[School Name] Bullying Prevention Policy

Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation

[School Name] is committed to fostering a safe, positive physical and emotional school environment that promotes learning and creates a climate of trust. [School Name] prohibits all forms of bullying, discrimination, harassment, or intimidation of a student.

Definition

Bullying is defined as a deliberate, repeated act with the intention to hurt, insult, or threaten another person that takes place on school property, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, at a school-sponsored activity or event on or off school premises, or at any program or function where the school is responsible for the student.

Rules, Expectations, and Consequences

[School Name] believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, parents and guardians, staff, and community members of the school district, producing opportunities for helping students learn to assume and accept responsibility for their behavior and the consequences of their behavior. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, and for district and community property from students, staff, and community members. Staff members who interact with students shall apply best practices designed to prevent discipline problems and encourage students to grow in self-discipline.

Reporting and Resources

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to bullying, discrimination, harassment, or intimidation is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with procedures established by [School Name]. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal or the principal's designee. All other members of the school community are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy.

If You are Being Bullied

- Tell an adult that you trust
- Do not show anger or fear
- Calmly tell the bully to stop or say nothing and walk away
- Avoid situations where bullying is likely to happen

If Someone You Know if Being Bullied

- Don't encourage the bully by laughing or joining in
- If you feel safe, tell the bully to stop
- Help the victim get away from the situation by asking them to come with you
- Encourage the person who was bullied to talk to someone they trust about what happened

Complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and confidentially. [School Name] prohibits retaliation in any form against a person who has filed a complaint or report of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. [School Name] also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

For additional information or resources on bullying prevention, please contact [school administrator or counselor].

The wording in this model policy was adapted from the South Carolina Department of Education's, "Model Policy and Guidance for Prohibiting Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying" and Berkeley County School District Bullying Prevention and Intervention student services. Retrieved from: https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-safety/bullying/model-policy-prohibiting-harassment/