

BULLYING, CYBERBULLYING, HARASSMENT, HAZING AND SEXTING

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and secure environment that promotes respect, dignity, and equality for all members of the school community. For the purposes of this policy, the terms “bullying”, “cyberbullying” “harassment,” “hazing,” and “sexting” collectively shall refer to any written, verbal, or electronic communication or physical act that actually does or is perceived to intimidate, threaten, or harm another.

Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, hazing, and sexting are detrimental to student learning and achievement, as well as to a safe and productive work environment. They interfere with the mission of the District to educate its students, and they disrupt the operation of the schools. Such behavior affects not only the students or employees who are its targets but also those individuals who participate in and witness such acts.

To this end, the Board strictly prohibits all forms of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, hazing, and sexting on school grounds, school buses, and at all school-sponsored activities, programs, and events, including those that take place at locations outside the District. Off-campus bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, hazing, and sexting that endanger the health and safety of students or staff or substantially disrupt the educational process are also prohibited.

In order for the Board to effectively enforce this policy and to take prompt corrective measures, it is essential that all victims and persons with knowledge of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, hazing, and sexting report such behavior immediately to a school administrator, teacher, dean, guidance counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, or other appropriate staff member. The District will promptly investigate all complaints, formal or informal, verbal or written. To the extent possible, all complaints will be treated in a confidential manner. However, limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation and to take suitable action.

If, after appropriate investigation, the District finds that a student, an employee, or a third party has violated this policy, prompt corrective and/or disciplinary action will be taken. All complainants and those who participate in the investigation of a complaint shall be free from retaliation of any kind.

In accordance with the New York State Dignity for All Students Act (July 1, 2012), the Board will designate a Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for each school in the District. The role of each DAC in the school to which they are assigned is to oversee and enforce this policy for conduct that is of such a severe nature that it either has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental emotional or physical well being; or reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.

Great Neck Public Schools

Adopted: 06/18/07

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