

Bullying Prevention and Education

The Charter Board supports a secure education climate, conducive to teaching and learning that is free from threat, harassment, and any type of bullying behavior. The purpose of this policy is to promote consistency of approach and to help create a climate in which all types of bullying are regarded as unacceptable.

Bullying is the use of coercion or intimidation to obtain control over another person or to cause physical, mental or emotional harm to another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal or electronically transmitted expression or by means of a physical act or gesture. Bullying can occur while in school buildings, on school grounds, when being transported in school vehicles, or during a school-sponsored activity or event and in certain cases when the behavior occurs off of school property or after school hours but has a reasonable connection to the charter school. Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student on the basis of his or her academic performance or any basis protected by federal and state law, including disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation (which includes transgender), national origin, religion, ancestry, or the need for special education services, whether such characteristic(s) is actual or perceived.

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

A student who engages in any act of bullying 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 suspension, expulsion, and/or 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. Bullying behavior that constitutes unlawful discrimination or harassment shall be subject to investigation and discipline under related Charter Board policies and procedures. Students targeted by bullying when such bullying behavior may constitute unlawful discrimination or harassment also have additional rights and protections under Charter Board policies and procedures regarding unlawful discrimination and harassment.

The administrator or designee shall develop a comprehensive program to address bullying. The program shall be aimed toward accomplishing the following goals:

1. To send a clear message to students, staff, parents, and community members that bullying and retaliation against a student who reports bullying will not be tolerated.
2. To train staff and students in taking pro-active steps to prevent bullying from occurring.
3. To implement procedures for intervention, investigation, and confrontation of students engaged in bullying behavior.
4. To initiate efforts to change the behavior of students engaged in bullying behaviors through re-education on acceptable behavior, discussions, counseling, and appropriate negative consequences.
5. To foster a productive partnership with parents and community members in order to help maintain a bully-free environment.

- 6. To support victims of bullying by means of individual and peer counseling.
- 7. To help develop peer support networks, social skills, and confidence for all students.
- 8. To recognize and praise positive, supportive behaviors of students toward one another on a regular basis.

Note: State law establishes a school bullying prevention and education grant program in the Department of Education. Under the program, a school or group of schools may apply for a grant to fund efforts to reduce the frequency of bullying incidents.

Pursuant to the State Board of Education’s rules for the grant program, districts that apply for the grant must adopt specific policies that include: provisions for adequate due processes and safeguards for students accused of engaging in bullying behavior; provisions for the administration of surveys of students’ impressions of the severity of bullying in their schools; and the designation of a team of persons at the charter school who advise the school administration concerning the severity and frequency of bullying incidents. ICCR 301-99, Rule 3.03.5.

Note: For school’s applying for a bullying prevention and education grant pursuant to the State Board rules, the following language is required. If the school does not intend to apply for this grant, the Charter Board may adopt all some, or none of the following policy language.

The charter school’s comprehensive program to address bullying shall incorporate provisions for adequate due processes and safeguards for students accused of bullying behaviors, in accordance with applicable law and Charter Board policy.

The charter school shall administer surveys of students’ impressions of the severity of bullying in their school. Such surveys shall be conducted in accordance with applicable law and Charter Board policy. Students’ survey responses shall be confidential. Participation in the surveys shall not be required and students shall voluntarily “opt in” to participate in the survey.

When included in a bullying prevention and education grant, the charter school shall appoint a team of persons to advise the administration concerning the severity and frequency of bullying incidents. The team may include, but need not be limited to; counselor, teachers, administrator, parents, students, law enforcement officials, social workers, prosecutors, health professionals, and mental health professionals.

LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(X) (*policy required as part of safe schools plan*)

CROSS REFS.:	AC	Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity
	JB	Equal Educational Opportunities
	JBB	Sexual Harassment
	JICDA	Code of Conduct
	JICDD	Violent and Aggressive Behavior
	JICJ	Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices
	JK	Student Discipline
	JKD/JKE	Suspension/Expulsion of Students (and other disciplinary interventions)
	JLDAC	Screening/Testing of Students (and treatment of Mental Disorders)

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