

## BULLYING PREVENTION

The board recognizes the negative impact that bullying has on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment and prohibits such behavior. Bullying is defined as any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, at a designated school bus stop, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Bullying will result in, at minimum a 5 day out of school suspension and 3 weeks suspension from all school activities, including practices, graduation, field trips, etc., and may constitute grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment, subject to state and federal statutes and the district's student discipline and due process procedures. Bystanders that do not report the bullying to appropriate school personnel will also be subject to school discipline.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to implement appropriate programs or procedures for the purpose of educating students regarding bullying prevention.

This policy shall be reviewed annually.

This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is protected by state or federal law.

Legal Reference:                   Neb. Statute 79-2,137

Cross Reference:                 505     Student Discipline