

2.32 ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Washakie County School District No. 1 supports a school climate conducive to teaching and learning that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying, and from reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or person who reports information about an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying. The purpose of this policy is to create a climate in which all types of bullying are regarded as unacceptable.

Definitions

1. *“Harassment, intimidation or bullying” means any intentional gesture, an intentional electronic communication or any intentional written, verbal or physical act initiated, occurring or received at school that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of:*

(A) Harming a student physically or emotionally, damaging a student’s property or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage;

(B) Insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school; or

(C) Creating an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student or group of students through sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive behavior.

2. *“School” includes a classroom or other location on school premises, a school bus or other school-related vehicle, a school bus stop, an activity or event sponsored by a school, whether or not it is held on school premises, and any other program or function where the school is responsible for the child;*

3. *“Retaliation” means any verbal or physical action taken against any person who reports or makes a complaint of harassment, intimidation or bullying, or who participates in an investigation of the same.*

General Provisions

A student who is found to engage in any of the conduct prohibited herein shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

The superintendent of school shall develop and implement a comprehensive program to address harassment, intimidation and bullying at all school levels. This shall include a procedure for reporting and documenting alleged acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying, including a provision for reporting anonymously. It shall also include procedures

for prompt investigation of reports or complaints; a prohibition of reprisal or retaliation against a person who reports or who makes a complaint of the prohibited conduct; a strategy for protecting a victim from additional harassment, intimidation or bullying, and from retaliation; consequences and appropriate remedial action for persons found to have made false accusations of prohibited conduct; a process for discussing and disseminating the District's policy; and a statement of how the policy is to be publicized which shall include a notice that the policy applies to participation in functions sponsored by the school. The policies will be disseminated in each school's student handbook.

Information pertaining to this policy against harassment, intimidation and bullying shall be incorporated into the district's professional development program and shall be disseminated to volunteers and other non-certified employees of the district who may have significant contact with students.

(Policy 2.32 Adopted: 12-21-09)