



Handling Bullying

LET US BE CLEAR: HMES DOES NOT TOLERATE BULLYING OF ANY KIND.

With that said, we also must be clear that we are a place of learning, and our first goal is to educate. Our approach is one of kindness, understanding, and forgiveness, as we realize our students are growing and still learning appropriate behavior.

If bullying behavior is identified, it is immediately addressed by the student's teacher. If repeated bullying takes place, the teacher will involve the principal, and the student's parents/guardians will be notified.

Our top priority is the safety and wellbeing of our students, and we want all of our students to feel comfortable and safe at HMES.

Each situation is taken case-by-case, to be sure it is handled in an appropriate manner for the students involved.

If your student feels they are being bullied, please notify the principal immediately (jtuffs@hmesd.org) so the situation can be addressed before it escalates.

Bullying can be subtle, confusing, and varied, and it doesn't have to be physical or even take place in person for it to be bullying. This generation the first to experience "cyberbullying:" bullying exacted online or via text.

For more information about what bullying looks like, and how to address it with your child—whether they are the victim or the bully—please explore the following websites:

stopbullying.gov
cyberbullying.org
pacer.org/bullying



Intimidación

SEAMOS CLAROS: HMES NO TOLERA LA INTIMIDACIÓN DE NINGÚN TIPO.

Dicho esto, también debemos tener claro que somos un lugar de aprendizaje, y nuestro primer objetivo es educar. Nuestro enfoque es la bondad, la comprensión y el perdón, ya que nos damos cuenta de que nuestros estudiantes están creciendo y aún están creciendo y aún están aprendiendo un comportamiento apropiado.

Si se identifica el comportamiento de intimidación, el maestro del alumno lo aborda inmediatamente. Si se repite la intimidación, el maestro involucrará al director y se notificará a los padres/tutores del alumno.

Nuestra prioridad principal es la seguridad y el bienestar de nuestros estudiantes, y queremos que todos nuestros alumnos se sientan cómodos y seguros en HMES.

Cada situación se toma caso por caso, para asegurarse de que se maneje de manera apropiada para los estudiantes involucrados.

Si su estudiante siente que están siendo intimidados, por favor notifique al director inmediatamente (jtuffs@hmesd.org) para que la situación se pueda abordar antes de que se intensifique.

La intimidación puede ser sutil, confusa y variada, y no tiene que ser física o incluso tener lugar en persona para que sea una intimidación. Esta generación fue la primera en experimentar “acoso cibernético:” acoso escolar en línea o por mensaje de texto.

Para obtener más información acerca de cómo se ve el acoso y cómo abordarlo con su hijo, ya sea la víctima o el abusador, explore los siguientes sitios web:

stopbullying.gov
cyberbullying.org
pacer.org/bullying

Howell Mountain ESD | AR 5131.2 Students

Bullying

Definitions

Bullying is an unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived imbalance of power between individuals with the intent to cause emotional or physical harm. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social/relational and involves repetition or potential repetition of a deliberate act.

Cyberbullying includes the electronic creation or transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account or assuming that person's online identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology)

Examples of the types of conduct that may constitute bullying and are prohibited by the district include, but are not limited to:

1. Physical bullying that inflicts harm upon a person's body or possessions, such as hitting, kicking, pinching, spitting, tripping, pushing, taking or breaking someone's possessions, or making cruel or rude hand gestures
2. Verbal bullying that includes saying or writing hurtful things, such as teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, or threats to cause harm
3. Social/relational bullying that harms a person's reputation or relationships, such as leaving a person out of an activity on purpose, influencing others not to be friends with someone, spreading rumors, or embarrassing someone in public
4. Cyberbullying, such as sending demeaning or hateful text messages or emails, sending rumors by email or by posting on social networking sites, or posting embarrassing photos, videos, web site, or fake profiles

Measures to Prevent Bullying

The Superintendent or designee shall implement measures to prevent bullying in district schools, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Ensuring that each school establishes clear rules for student conduct and implements strategies to promote a positive, collaborative school climate

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

2. Providing to students, through student handbooks and other age-appropriate means, information about district and school rules related to bullying, mechanisms available for reporting incidents or threats, and the consequences for engaging in bullying

3. Encouraging students to notify school staff when they are being bullied or when they suspect that another student is being bullied, and providing means by which students may report threats or incidents confidentially and anonymously

4. Conducting an assessment of bullying incidents at each school and, if necessary, increasing supervision and security in areas where bullying most often occurs, such as classrooms, playgrounds, hallways, restrooms, and cafeterias
5. Annually notifying district employees that, pursuant to Education Code 234.1, any school staff who witnesses an act of bullying against a student has a responsibility to immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so

Staff Development

The Superintendent or designee shall make the California Department of Education's online training module on the dynamics of bullying and cyberbullying, which includes the identification of bullying and cyberbullying and the implementation of strategies to address bullying, available annually to all certificated staff and to other employees who have regular interaction with students. (Education Code 32283.5)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to teachers and other school staff to raise their awareness about the legal obligation of the district and its employees to prevent discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of district students. Such training shall be designed to provide staff with the skills to:

1. Discuss the diversity of the student body and school community, including their varying immigration experiences
2. Discuss bullying prevention strategies with students, and teach students to recognize the behavior and characteristics of bullying perpetrators and victims
3. Identify the signs of bullying or harassing behavior
4. Take immediate corrective action when bullying is observed
5. Report incidents to the appropriate authorities, including law enforcement in instances of criminal behavior

Student Instruction

As appropriate, the district shall provide students with instruction, in the classroom or other educational settings, that promotes social-emotional learning, effective communication and conflict resolution skills, character/values education, respect for cultural and individual differences, self-esteem development, assertiveness skills, and appropriate online behavior.

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

The district shall also educate students about the negative impact of bullying, discrimination, intimidation, and harassment based on actual or perceived immigration status, religious beliefs and customs, or any other individual bias or prejudice.

Students should be taught the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors, how to advocate for themselves, how to help another student who is being bullied, and when to seek assistance from a trusted adult. As role models for students, staff shall be expected to demonstrate effective problem-solving and anger management skills.

To discourage cyberbullying, teachers may advise students to be cautious about sharing passwords, personal data, or private photos online and to consider the consequences of making negative comments about others online.

Reporting and Filing of Complaints

Any student, parent/guardian, or other individual who believes that a student has been subjected to bullying or who has witnessed bullying may report the incident to a teacher, the principal, a compliance officer, or any other available school employee.

When a report of bullying is submitted, the principal or a district compliance officer shall inform the student or parent/guardian of the right to file a formal written complaint in accordance with AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. The student who is the alleged victim of the bullying shall be given an opportunity to describe the incident, identify witnesses who may have relevant information, and provide other evidence of bullying.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Within one business day of receiving such a report, a staff member shall notify the principal of the report, whether or not a uniform complaint is filed. In addition, any school employee who observes an incident of bullying involving a student shall, within one business day, report such observation to the principal or a district compliance officer, whether or not the alleged victim files a complaint.

Within two business days of receiving a report of bullying, the principal shall notify the district compliance officer identified in AR 1312.3.

When the circumstances involve cyberbullying, individuals with information about the activity shall be encouraged to save and print any electronic or digital messages that they feel constitute cyberbullying and to notify a teacher, the principal, or other employee so that the matter may be investigated. When a student uses a social networking site or service to bully or harass another student, the Superintendent or designee may file a request with the networking site or service to suspend the privileges of the student and to have the material removed.

Discipline/Corrective Actions

Corrective actions for a student who commits an act of bullying of any type may include counseling, behavioral intervention and education, and, if the behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code 48900, may include suspension or expulsion in accordance with district policies and regulations.

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

(cf. 6159.4 - Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students)

When appropriate based on the severity or pervasiveness of the bullying, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of victims and perpetrators and may contact law enforcement.

The Superintendent, principal, or principal's designee may refer a victim, witness, perpetrator, or other student affected by an act of bullying to a school counselor, school psychologist, social worker, child welfare attendance personnel, school nurse, or other school support service personnel for case management, counseling, and/or participation in a restorative justice program as appropriate. (Education Code 48900.9)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

If any student involved in bullying exhibits warning signs of suicidal thought or intention or of intent to harm another person, the Superintendent or designee shall, as appropriate, implement district intervention protocols which may include, but are not limited to, referral to district or community mental health services, other health professionals, and/or law enforcement.

(cf. 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention)

Regulation HOWELL MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

approved: September 11, 2019 Angwin, California

Howell Mountain ESD | AR 5131.2 Students

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