

# **Bullying Prevention**

## **Discrimination/Harassment Policy**

Sisseton School District

Adopted: 3/14/11

The Sisseton School District 54-2 believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy environment. The district, schools, and community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance. The Sisseton School District 54-2 will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student.

Bullying is repeated and intentional harmful behavior initiated by one or more students and directed toward another student. Bullying exists when a student with more social and or physical power deliberately dominates and harasses another who has less power. Bullying is unjustified and typically repeated. Bullying differs from conflict. Two or more students can have a disagreement or a conflict. Bullying involves a power imbalance element where a bully targets a student who has difficulty defending himself or herself.

The forms of bullying:

Physical-involves harmful actions against another person's body

Verbal-involves speaking to a person or about a person in an unkind or hurtful way

Emotional-involves behaviors that upset, exclude, or embarrass a person

Sexual-involves singling out a person because of gender and demonstrates unwarranted or unwelcome sexual advances

Racial-involves rejection or isolation of a person because of ethnicity

To ensure bullying does not occur on school campuses, the Sisseton School District will provide staff development training in bullying prevention and cultivate acceptance and understanding in all students and staff to build each school's capacity to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment.

Teachers should discuss this policy with their students in age-appropriate ways and should assure them that they need not endure any form of bullying. Students who bully are in violation of this policy and are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

The school board requires its school administrators to develop and implement procedures that ensure both the appropriate consequences and remedial responses to a student or staff member who commits one or more acts of harassment or bullying.

The school board requires the principal and/or the principal's designee at each school to be responsible for receiving complaints alleging violation of this policy. All school employees, students, parents, visitors or any other member of the community are required to report alleged violations to the school principal. The school principal and/or principal's designee are to be responsible for determining whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy. In so doing, the principal and or principal's designee shall conduct a prompt, thorough, and complete investigation of each alleged incident.

This policy is in effect while students are on property within the jurisdiction of the board; while students are in school-owned or school-operated vehicles; and while students are attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities.

All staff, students and their parents will receive a summary of this policy prohibiting bullying; at the beginning of the school year, as part of the student handbook and /or information packet, as part of new student orientation, and as part of the school system's notification to parents.