

5276-R Bullying

Reporting Bullying or Retaliatory Behaviors

Any student, employee, parent, or third party who has knowledge of conduct in violation of Policy 5276, Bullying or Administrative Regulation 5276-R, Bullying; or any student who feels they have been a victim of hazing, harassment, discrimination, blackmail, intimidation, bullying, menacing, or retaliation or reprisal (hereafter “bullying” or “retaliatory behavior”) in violation of Policy 5276, Bullying or Administrative Regulation 5276-R, Bullying shall immediately report their concerns to:

- The building principal or designee;
- A teacher who will be responsible for notifying the building principal or designee immediately if the matter cannot be adequately addressed by the teacher, or it is sufficiently serious to warrant administrative intervention;
- A counselor who is responsible for notifying the building principal or designee immediately if the matter cannot be addressed by the counselor, or it is sufficiently serious to warrant administrative intervention; or
- The superintendent of schools or designee.

Teachers, counselors and other certified, educational support personnel, and administrative staff who observe students engaging in bullying behavior are responsible for taking action to timely and appropriately address the behavior, and/or timely report the incident to the administrator or his designee.

Students and parents are encouraged to resolve concerns through discussions with school staff. However, if they are unable to resolve the complaint and believe the student is the recipient of bullying, they are encouraged to follow the procedure outlined in this administrative regulation.

Reports may be made anonymously through a variety of means. Anonymous reports will be investigated and addressed consistent with the investigation process under this administrative regulation. Formal disciplinary action shall not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report unless the allegation has been investigated and corroborating evidence indicates a violation.

While many concerns may be resolved through an informal process, the severity and/or nature of a specific incident may require an immediate formal complaint and disciplinary action.

Complaint Process

Reporting parties may use informal procedures such as oral reports to report and resolve lesser and/or isolated complaints of bullying or retaliation which do not result in physical harm or meet other criteria for formal reporting. Such complaints will be appropriately investigated and addressed by teachers, counselors, or other adults consistent with due process requirements. Substantiated reports will be documented in PowerSchool and/or student disciplinary file. Repeat offenses shall be referred to the principal or designee.

Formal complaints should be made in writing and submitted to the appropriate administrator or designee. Forms shall be available for reporting, although the use of a specific form is not mandatory in order to lodge a formal complaint if the reporting party is unable or unwilling. Formal complaints are warranted any time a report and investigation is requested by any parent, student or other person, when bullying involves threats, is physical in nature, causes physical harm, is repeated (i.e.; more than once), is unusual in nature, is perpetrated by a group or groups of students or others, is racial or discriminatory in nature and/or otherwise highly offensive in nature, and leaves the victim feeling defenseless or vulnerable.

A copy of all formal complaints, investigations, and findings should be forwarded to the student support services office within 7 (seven) school days of completing the documentation. Such files shall be stored in a confidential manner, with access limited to administrative personnel and designees. File information shall also be available to administrative personnel or designees for the gathering and reporting of statistical and other data which does not individually identify the individuals therein.

Investigation

In all schools the principal or designee shall be responsible for timely investigating a complaint made under Policy 5276, Bullying or Administrative Regulation 5276-R, Bullying. Alleged serious violations shall be promptly investigated and documented. While the investigator will make efforts to maintain confidentiality to the extent reasonably possible, reporting parties shall not be promised full confidentiality.

The complaint, investigation, witness, and other information shall be documented along with the findings. Substantiated reports will be documented in PowerSchool and/or student discipline file.

Both the alleged student victim and the individual accused of bullying behavior shall have the opportunity to be heard by the investigating adult or designee prior to a final “substantiated” or “unsubstantiated” finding.

For formal complaints, the complainant, reported party, and their respective parents or guardians shall be notified of whether the allegations are substantiated or unsubstantiated; and if appropriate, what remedial action has or will be taken.

Consequences and Remedial Actions for Substantiated Reports

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of Policy 5276, Bullying or Administrative Regulation 5276-R, Bullying will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. See listing of potential consequences in the *Student Handbook*.

Schools may attempt to assist students and/or parents in resolving concerns and issues prior to the use of the formal complaint process, investigation and disciplinary procedures. These interventions may include consultation, counseling, education, mediation, and/or other opportunities for problem-solving between the parties.

Consequences and remedial actions shall be determined by taking into consideration the context of events, all relevant circumstances, the parties' prior behavior, the nature of the bullying behavior and its potential harm, and the emotional and/or physical harm resulting from the reported party's actions.

Protection of Victims from Additional Bullying or Retaliation/Reprisal

The principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for working with the student, parents, and others to timely develop and implement strategies for protecting the reporting party and/or affected student following the report of threat, hazing, harassment, intimidation, menacing, cyber-bullying, bullying, "sexting," reprisal or retaliation.

Such strategies may include, but are not limited to, monitoring, counseling, follow-up checks with the student and/or parent, safety plans for the affected student, reassignment of one or more students, and other protective planning and/or interventions.

The student who has been bullied, or his/her parent, is responsible for reporting any reprisal or retaliation.

Consequences and Remedial Actions for False Accusations

False accusations of bullying shall be immediately reported by the affected party or an adult to the school principal or designee.

False accusation reports shall be investigated consistent with due process procedures noted under "investigation" above.

Students found to have made false accusation reports may be disciplined up to and including expulsion or dismissal. The District will take disciplinary action against any individual making a false charge or malicious accusation of bullying, discrimination, or harassment.

For formal complaints, the complainant, reported party, and their respective parents or guardians shall be notified whether the allegations are substantiated or unsubstantiated and, if appropriate, what remedial action has or will be taken.

Student Bullying Policy Education for Students, Certified and Classified Personnel, Parents, Volunteers and the Community

- Students - Prior to October 1 of each year, Policy 5276, Bullying and Administrative Regulation 5276-R, Bullying, shall be discussed at each school during student orientation or at an alternative time to be determined by the principal or designee. Each building principal or designee shall be responsible for assuring the delivery of this standardized orientation information. In the event of a report of bullying or retaliatory behavior, substantiated or unsubstantiated, a student accused of a bullying or retaliatory behavior shall be re-educated concerning Policy 5276, Bullying and Administrative Regulation 5276-R, Bullying. Each building principal or designee shall be responsible for assuring the delivery and documentation of delivery of this re-education. A version of the Student Bullying Policy shall be included in the *Campbell County School District No. 1 Student Handbook*. Online versions of the *Student Handbook* shall include a link to Policy 5276, Bullying and Administrative Regulation 5276-R, Bullying.
- Certified and Educational Support Personnel - Prior to October 1 of each year, for those personnel who have substantial contact with students, Policy 5276, Bullying and Administrative Regulation 5276-R, Bullying shall be presented at employee orientations or at an alternative time to be determined by the building principal or designee. Each building principal or designee shall be responsible for assuring the delivery of this orientation information and documentation of delivery.

Professional development programs concerning bullying prevention, intervention, and reporting shall be available to certified and educational support personnel who have substantial contact with students.

- Students, Parents, Certified and Classified Personnel, Volunteers and Community Members - Policy 5276, Bullying and Administrative Regulation 5276-R, Bullying shall be posted on the Campbell County School District No. 1 website. Student support services shall be responsible for assuring the website posting and updating Policy 5276, Bullying and Administrative Regulation 5276-R, Bullying.

The District may establish bullying prevention programs or other initiatives and may involve school staff, students, administrators, volunteers, parents, law enforcement and community members.

ADOPTION DATE: January 12, 2021

LEGAL REFERENCE(S): W.S. § 21-4-311 – 21-4-315, “Safe School Climate Act”

CROSS REFERENCE(S): 5276, Bullying, 4374, Title IX Sexual Harassment

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION: