

Jackson Local Schools

Striving for Excellence



September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Subject: Board of Education Policy 5517.01—Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school- approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students, and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Education's Model Policy.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:

- A. any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or
- B. violence within a dating relationship.

"Electronic act" means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

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Harassment, intimidation, or bullying also means cyberbullying through electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, e-mail, cellular telephone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that a student(s) or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

In an effort to inform students and staff of the dangers of; the definition of; and how to report bullying, harassment and other aggressive behaviors, the district has taken the following measures:

- The district trains all staff each school year on awareness issues and policy relating to bullying and aggressive behaviors through Vector Solutions modules.
- At each building at the beginning of the school year, principals reinforce information provided in the Vector Solutions modules and provide other relevant information regarding this topic for staff through professional development.
- Students in grades 6 – 12 have received age-appropriate instruction on all issues of bullying and harassment. High School and Middle School students receive instruction in Health class on dating violence and characteristics of healthy relationships.
- Students in kindergarten through fifth grade have received age-appropriate instruction through classroom lessons and one-on-one counseling with elementary school counselors.

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes s/he has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the building principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator. Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student.

All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The building principal or appropriate administrator shall prepare a written report of the investigation upon completion. A report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying were verified, and, when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action shall be included in the report.

In accordance with Board Policy 8462, the Superintendent provides a program of in-service education on school safety, prevention of child abuse, violence and substance abuse and promotion of positive youth development, including a review of Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior, for all nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists and administrators who work in the District's elementary, middle and high school. In order to see Board Policy 5517.01, you may find it on the Jackson Local School District's website.

If you have questions, please contact your child's building principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris DiLoreto". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Chris DiLoreto
Superintendent