

## **Bullying Prevention and Education**

Mapleton Public Schools (the “District”) supports a secure school climate conducive to teaching and learning that is free from threat, harassment, and any type of bullying behavior. The purpose of this policy is to promote consistency in the District’s approach and to help create a climate in which all types of bullying are regarded as unacceptable.

Bullying is the use of coercion or intimidation to obtain control over another person or to cause physical, mental, or emotional harm to another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal, or electronically transmitted expression, or by means of a physical act or gesture. Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student on the basis of his or her academic performance, disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation (which includes transgender), national origin, religion, ancestry, the need for special education services, or against whom federal and state laws prohibit discrimination upon the bases described in C.R.S. § 22-32-109(1)(II)(I), whether such characteristic is actual or perceived.

Bullying is prohibited on District property, at District or school-sanctioned activities and events, when students are being transported in any vehicle dispatched by the District or one of its schools, or off school property when such conduct has a nexus to school or any District curricular or non-curricular activity or event.

A student who engages in any act of bullying and/or a student who takes any retaliatory action against a student who reports in good faith an incident of bullying, is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. The severity and pattern, if any, of the bullying behavior shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made. Bullying behavior that constitutes unlawful discrimination or harassment shall be subject to investigation and discipline under related District policies and regulations. Students targeted by bullying when such bullying behavior may constitute unlawful discrimination or harassment also have additional rights and protections under District policies and regulations regarding unlawful discrimination and harassment.

The Superintendent shall develop a comprehensive program to address bullying at all school levels. The program shall be aimed toward accomplishing the following goals:

1. To send a clear message to students, staff, parents and community members that bullying and retaliation against a student who reports bullying will not be tolerated.
2. To train staff and students in taking pro-active steps to prevent bullying from occurring.

3. To implement procedures for immediate intervention, investigation, and confrontation of students engaged in bullying behavior.
4. To initiate efforts to change the behavior of students engaged in bullying behaviors through re-education on acceptable behavior, discussions, counseling, and appropriate negative consequences.
5. To foster a productive partnership with parents and community members in order to help maintain a bully-free environment.
6. To support victims of bullying by means of individual and peer counseling.
7. To help develop peer support networks, social skills, and confidence for all students.
8. To recognize and praise positive, supportive behaviors of students toward one another on a regular basis.

The District's comprehensive program to address bullying shall incorporate provisions for adequate due processes and safeguards for students accused of bullying behaviors, in accordance with applicable law and District policy.

The District shall administer surveys of students' impressions of the severity of bullying in their schools. Such surveys shall be conducted in accordance with applicable law and District policy. Students' survey responses shall be confidential. Participation in the surveys shall not be required and students shall voluntarily "opt in" to participate in the survey.

*Adopted June 11, 2013, by the Board of Education for Mapleton Public Schools.  
Revised June 27, 2017.*

LEGAL REFERENCES:

C.R.S. § 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(K) (*policy required as part of safe schools plan*)

C.R.S. § 22-32-109.1(1)(b) (*definition of "bullying"*)

CROSS REFERENCES:

AC: Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

JB: Equal Educational Opportunities

JBB: Sexual Harassment

JICDA: Code of Conduct

JICDD: Violent and Aggressive Behavior

JICJ: Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices

JK: Student Discipline

JKD/JKE: Suspension/Expulsion of Students (and Other Disciplinary Interventions)

JLDAC: Screening/Testing of Students (and Treatment of Mental Disorders)