

Bullying Prevention and Education Policy SVCMS-JICDE

St. Vrain Community Montessori School supports a safe 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 of approach and to help create a climate in which all types of bullying are regarded as unacceptable.

"Bullying" means any written or verbal expression, or physical or electronic act or gesture, or a pattern thereof, that is intended to coerce, intimidate, or cause any physical, mental, or emotional harm to any student.

Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that it is directed toward a student on the basis of his or her academic performance or any basis protected by federal and state law, including disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry or the need for special education services, whether such characteristic(s) is actual or perceived.

Bullying is prohibited on School property, at school-sanctioned activities and events, when students are being transported in any vehicle dispatched by the School, or off school property when such conduct has a nexus to school or any school 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. 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 school policies and procedures. Students targeted by bullying when such bullying behavior may constitute unlawful discrimination or harassment also have additional rights and protections under school policies and procedures regarding unlawful discrimination and harassment.

The Head of School school shall develop a program to address bullying appropriate for the age levels served by that school. 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.

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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/guardians and community members in order to help maintain a bully-free environment.
6. To support victims of bullying.
7. To help develop peer support networks, social skills and confidence for students.
8. To recognize positive, supportive behaviors of students toward one another.

Adopted: October 10, 2012

LEGAL REFS.: CROSS REFS.:

C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(X) (safe schools plan)

(SVVSD sites

AC, Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

ACE, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability

JBB, Sexual Harassment

JICDA, Code of Conduct

JK, Student Discipline)