

**Policy 5.28: Student Bullying Prevention** 

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 01/13/2014 | **Last Revised Date:** 12/09/2019 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 12/09/2019

**A. Bullying, Intimidation, Violence, and Threats of Violence Prohibited**

No student shall engage in or be subjected to bullying, violence, threats of violence, or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics set forth in this policy. Students who violate this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions as specified in the Student Code of Conduct and applicable law, subject to the investigating school administrator's authority and decision.

**B. Definitions - In this policy, these terms shall have the following meaning:**

- I. The term "bullying" as used in this policy means a continuous pattern of intentional behavior that takes place on or off school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function including, but not limited to, cyberbullying or written, electronic, verbal, or physical actions that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the characteristics set forth in Section III B below. To constitute bullying, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:
  - Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
  - Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.
  - Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school whether the conduct occurs on or off school property, online, or electronically;
  - Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
  - Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
- I. "Hostile environment" means the perception by an affected student that the conduct of another student is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, would agree that the conduct constitutes bullying, threat of assault, or assault.
- II. The term "violence" as used in this policy means the unjustified infliction of physical force by a student with the intent to cause injury to another student or damage to the property of another student.
- III. The term "threat" means a statement of an intention to inflict pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action to cause fear or harm. The intention may be communicated through an electronic, written, verbal, or physical act to cause fear, mental distress, or interference in the school environment. The intention may be expressly stated or implied and the person communicating the threat has the ability to carry out the threat.
- IV. The term "threat of violence" as used in this policy means an unjustified expression of intention to inflict injury or damage that is made by a student and directed to another student.
- V. The term "intimidation" as used in this policy means an unjustified threat or other action that is intended to cause fear or apprehension in a student. -
- VI. The term "student" as used in this policy means a student who is enrolled in the Tallapoosa County School System.

**C. Description of Behavior Expected of Students**

- I. Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected and required (1) to comply with the requirements of law, policy, regulation, and rules prohibiting bullying, violence, or intimidation; (2) to refrain from inflicting or threatening to inflict violence, injury, or damage to the person or property of another student; and (3) to refrain from placing another student in fear of being subjected to violence, injury, or damage when such actions or threats are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any personal characteristic of the student that is identified in this policy.
- II. Bullying, intimidation, violence, or threats of violence, are prohibited and will be subject to disciplinary consequences and/or sanctions if the perpetrator of such action is found to have based the prohibited action on one or more of the following personal characteristics of the student's:
  - disability
  - national origin

- religion
- sex
- race

#### **D. Consequences for Violations**

A series of graduated consequences for any violation of this policy will be those outlined in the Code of Student Conduct or any rule or standard adopted under authority of this policy.

#### **E. Reporting, Investigation, and Complaint Resolution Procedures**

Complaints alleging violations of this policy must be made on Board-approved complaint forms available in the handbook, on the website, or at the school's office. The complaint must be delivered to the principal or the principal's designee either by mail or personal delivery. Incidental or minor violations of the policy may be presented and resolved informally.

The complaint form developed to report violations of this policy will include a provision for reporting a threat of suicide by a student. If a threat of suicide is reported, the principal or the principal's designee is authorized to inform the student's parent or guardian of the report unless at the discretion of the school principal or the principal's designee the apparent cause of the threat of suicide is child abuse or other significant harm from a parent or guardian.

Upon receipt of the complaint, the principal or the principal's designee will, in his/her sole discretion, determine if the complaint alleges a serious violation of this policy. If the principal or the principal's designee determines that the complaint alleges a serious violation, the principal or the designee will undertake an investigation of the complaint. The investigation will entail the gathering of relevant facts and evidence taking into account the circumstances of the complaint. If the investigation establishes a violation, appropriate disciplinary sanctions will be imposed on the offending student(s). Other measures that are reasonably calculated to prevent a recurrence of the violation(s) may also be imposed by the principal or the school system.

Acts of reprisal or retaliation against any student who has reported a violation of this policy or sought relief provided by this policy are prohibited, and are themselves a violation of this policy. Any confirmed acts of reprisal or retaliation may be subject to disciplinary sanctions that may include any sanction, penalty, or consequence that is available to school officials under the Code of Student Conduct. A student who deliberately, recklessly, and falsely accuses another student of a violation of this policy is may be subject to disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

#### **F. Promulgation of Policy and Related Procedures, Rules, and Forms**

This policy and any procedures, rules, and forms developed and approved to implement the policy will be published, on the Tallapoosa County School system website, shall be available at each school office, and shall be included in the student handbook that is distributed to each student at the beginning of each school year.

#### **G. Construction of Policy**

This policy is supplemental to other Board Policies and procedures and does not repeal, replace, or supersede any other prohibition on bullying, violence, threats of violence or intimidation found elsewhere in the board policy or procedure, including the Code of Student Conduct. This policy shall not be construed to allow bullying, violence, threats of violence or intimidation for any reason not specifically listed in this policy or to prohibit the Board from disciplining students for acts of bullying, violence, threats of violence or intimidation not specifically listed herein. Students who engage in bullying, violence, threats of violence or intimidation not specifically covered by this policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

#### **REFERENCE(S):**

**CODE OF ALABAMA 16-8-8-16-28B-1, et seq. (1975)**  
**LEGISLATIVE ACT 2009-571**

---

## Supporting Documents



[Anti Bullying Form updated](#)



# TALLAPOOSA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Raymond C. Porter**  
Superintendent



School: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

INFRACTION REPORTED BY : _____ STUDENT _____ PARENT/GUARDIAN _____		
<i>Date of Incident</i>		<i>Time</i>
<i>Specific Location of Incident</i>		
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>		
<b>OTHER INFORMATION</b>		

The Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act, No. 2018 -472, defines bullying as a continuous pattern of intentional behavior that takes place on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function including, but not limited to, cyberbullying or written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student, or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the categories of personal characteristics contained in the policy adopted by the local board. To constitute bullying, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:

- a. Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
- b. Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
- c. Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
- d. Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.
- e. Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment or a student.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR** Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that the submission of a complaint does not automatically substantiate that misconduct has occurred. The school administration has the prerogative to investigate any allegations of wrongdoing.