

**Anti-Bullying - DRAFT****Policy 5800**

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Reviewed: May 4, 2012

Next Review:

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Expires:

The Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education recognizes that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. The District finds that bullying, like other disruptive or violent behavior, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment.

This policy prohibits bullying against students in any form, regardless of its subject matter or motivating animus. Retaliation or false accusation against a target of bullying, a witness or another person with reliable information about an act of bullying, is also prohibited.

The Superintendent shall ensure implementation of this policy and develop ongoing strategies for environmental change that are shared annually with all district staff.

The Board of Education delegates to the Superintendent the function of implementing administrative procedures which provide for notification of the parents or legal guardians of both victims and perpetrators of bullying.

**REPORTING**

Any student who believes he or she has been or is currently the victim of bullying or retaliation, should immediately report the situation to the school principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate school administrator.

**INVESTIGATION**

All reports about bullying behavior, or other complaints that may violate this policy, shall be promptly investigated. The Board of Education delegates to the Superintendent the responsibility of establishing and implementing a procedure for the prompt investigation of a report of bullying or related complaint to be followed by a school principal or assistant principal who receives a report of a violation of this policy.

If the investigation concludes that bullying behavior or other prohibited activity has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken.

**RECORD-KEEPING**

The Board of Education delegates to the Superintendent the function of establishing a procedure to document the report of any prohibited incident.

Verified incidents of bullying and the resulting consequences, including discipline and referrals, shall be reported to the Board of Education on at least an annual basis.

This policy and related information will be published and disseminated annually as part of the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.