

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Operations Policies

Category XI: **Students**

Subject: **Anti-Bullying**

STU1112

The Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education recognizes that a school that is physically and emotionally safe and secure for all students promotes good citizenship, increases student attendance and engagement and supports academic achievement. To protect the rights of all students and groups for a safe and secure learning environment, the Board of Education prohibits acts of bullying, harassment and other forms of aggression and violence. Bullying or harassment, like other forms of aggressive and violent behaviors, interferes with both a school's ability to educate its students and a student's ability to learn. All administrators, faculty, staff, parents, volunteers and students are expected to refuse to tolerate bullying and harassment and to demonstrate behavior that is respectful and civil.

Bullying is defined as the repeated or ongoing mistreatment of an individual or group characterized by a willful and/or perceived intent to cause harm and/or a perceived advantage in power. These acts can be socially, emotionally or physically damaging in nature and include, but are not limited to; teasing, name calling, rumor spreading, exclusion, intimidation, threats, damaging personal property, stealing, public humiliation, stalking, pushing, shoving or other physical attacks and sexual, religious or racial/ethnic harassment. Any of these acts can be committed in person or also via the Internet, email, telephone, text message or other forms of electronic devices and is also considered bullying (known as cyber-bullying).

The scope of this policy includes all students, administrators, faculty, staff, parents, volunteers and the prohibition of every form of bullying, whether in the classroom, on school premises, immediately adjacent to school premises, when a student is traveling to or from school (portal to portal), or at a school-sponsored event, whether or not held on school premises. Bullying or harassment, including cyber-bullying/harassment, that is not initiated at a location defined above is covered by this policy if the incident results in a potentially material or substantial disruption of the school learning environment for one or more students and/or the orderly day-to-day operations of any school or school program. If it is determined that the incident stems from behavior outside of the school venue, the parents (and police officials) may be notified.

The Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education prohibits reprisal or retaliation against, and assures confidentiality to, any person who reports an act of bullying or harassment or cooperates in an investigation. The Grand Ledge Public School Board of Education prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of bullying or harassment.

If anyone observes bullying behavior, they should report it to their building administrator, the Director of Human Resources or the Superintendent of Schools. The administrator who receives the complaints will promptly investigate the allegation and document the violation in the school information system, as well as notify the parents of the students involved, if appropriate.

This policy will be published with all other Board Policies, as well as in student handbooks. Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student who engages in one or more acts of bullying or harassment will be outlined in the student handbook.

1st Reading: March 12, 2012

Adopted: March 26, 2012