

ANTI-BULLYING/HARASSMENT POLICY

The *North Iowa Community School District* is committed to providing all students with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. Bullying and/or harassment of or by students, staff, and volunteers is against federal, state, and local policy and is not tolerated by the board. Bullying and/or harassing behavior can seriously disrupt the ability of school employees to maintain a safe and civil environment, and the ability of students to learn and succeed. Therefore, it is the policy of the state and the school district that school employees, volunteers, and students shall not engage in bullying or harassing behavior in school, on school property, or at any school function or school-sponsored activity.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the defined words shall have the following meaning:

- “Electronic” means any communication involving the transmission of information by wire, radio, optic cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. “Electronic” includes but is not limited to communication via electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, cell phones, and electronic text messaging.
- “Harassment” and “bullying” shall mean any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student based on the individual’s actual or perceived age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status, and which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:
 - (1) Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or property.
 - (2) Has a substantial detrimental effect on the student’s physical or mental health.
 - (3) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s academic performance.
 - (4) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.
- “Trait or characteristic of the student” includes but is not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status.
- “Volunteer” means an individual who has regular, significant contact with students.

Approved 1/10/2014

Reviewed 11/21/2016

Revised 12/19/2018

Filing a Complaint

A Complainant who wishes to avail himself/herself of this procedure may do so by filing a complaint with the superintendent or superintendent's designee. An alternate will be designated in the event it is claimed that the superintendent or superintendent's designee committed the alleged discrimination or some other conflict of interest exists. Complaints shall be filed within *180 days* of the event giving rise to the complaint or from the date the Complainant could reasonably become aware of such occurrence. The Complainant will state the nature of the complaint and the remedy requested. The Complainant shall receive assistance as needed.

School employees, volunteers, and students shall not engage in reprisal, retaliation, or false accusation against a victim, witness, or an individual who has reliable information about an act of bullying or harassment.

Investigation

The school district will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of bullying or harassment. The building principal (hereinafter "Investigator") will be responsible for handling all complaints alleging bullying or harassment. The Investigator shall consider the totality of circumstances presented in determining whether conduct objectively constitutes bullying or harassment. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall also be responsible for developing procedures regarding this policy.

Decision

If, after an investigation, a student is found to be in violation of this policy, the student shall be disciplined by appropriate measures, which may include suspension and expulsion. If after an investigation a school employee is found to be in violation of this policy, the employee shall be disciplined by appropriate measures, which may include termination. If after an investigation a school volunteer is found to be in violation of this policy, the volunteer shall be subject to appropriate measures, which may include exclusion from school grounds.

A school employee, volunteer, or student, or a student's parent or guardian who promptly, reasonably, and in good faith reports an incident of bullying or harassment, in compliance with the procedures in the policy adopted pursuant to this section, to the appropriate school official designated by the school district, shall be immune from civil or criminal liability relating to such report and to participation in any administrative or judicial proceeding resulting from or relating to the report.

Individuals who knowingly file false bullying or harassment complaints and any person who gives false statements in an investigation may be subject to discipline by appropriate measures, as shall any person who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy. Any student found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. Any school employee found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, termination of employment. Any

school volunteer found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds.

Publication of Policy

The board will annually publish this policy. The policy may be publicized by the following means:

- Inclusion in the student handbook
- Inclusion in the employee handbook
- Inclusion in the registration materials
- Inclusion on the school or school district's web site

Legal References:

20 U.S.C. §§ 1221-1234i.

29 U.S.C. § 794.

42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7.

42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 2 et. seq.

Iowa Code §§ 216.9; 280.28, 280.3.

281 I.A.C. 12.3(6).

Morse v. Frederick, 551 U.S. 393 (2007)

Cross References

102 Equal Educational Opportunity

502 Student Rights and Responsibilities

503 Student Discipline

506 Student Records

Code No. 104.R1

ANTI-BULLYING/ANTI-HARASSMENT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

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 - (6) Has a substantial detrimental effect on the student’s physical or mental health.
 - (7) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s academic performance.
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- “Volunteer” means an individual who has regular, significant contact with students.

Approved 01-13-14

Reviewed 11/21/2016

Revised 12/29/2018

Filing a Complaint

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school volunteer found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds.

**COMPLAINT FORM
(Discrimination, Anti-Bullying, and Anti-Harassment)**

Date of complaint: _____

Name of Complainant: _____

Are you filling out this form for yourself or someone else (please identify the individual if you are submitting on behalf of someone else):

Who or what entity do you believe discriminated against, harassed, or bullied you (or someone else)?

Date and place of alleged incident(s): _____

Names of any witnesses (if any): _____

Nature of discrimination, harassment, or bullying alleged (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Attribute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical/Mental Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Familial Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economic Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Party Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – Please Specify:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Race/Color	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Origin/Ethnic Background/Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Creed	<input type="checkbox"/>	

In the space below, please describe what happened and why you believe that you or someone else has been discriminated against, harassed, or bullied. Please be as specific as possible and attach additional pages if necessary.

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Approved 12-09-2013

Reviewed 11/21/2016

Revised 12/19/2018

WITNESS DISCLOSURE FORM

Name of Witness: _____

Date of interview: _____

Date of initial complaint: _____

Name of Complainant
(include whether the
Complainant is a student
or employee): _____

Date and place of alleged
incident(s): _____

Nature of discrimination, harassment, or bullying alleged (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Attribute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical/Mental Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Familial Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economic Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Party Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – Please Specify:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Race/Color	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Origin/Ethnic Background/Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Creed	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Description of incident witnessed: _____

Additional information: _____

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approved 12/09/2013

Reviewed 11-21-2016

Revised 12-19-2018

Date: _____

Date of initial complaint: _____

Name of Complainant
(include whether the
Complainant is a student
or employee): _____

Date and place of alleged
incident(s): _____

Name of Respondent
(include whether the
Respondent is a student or
employee): _____

Nature of discrimination, harassment, or bullying alleged (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Attribute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical/Mental Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Familial Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economic Background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Party Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other – Please Specify:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Race/Color	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Origin/Ethnic Background/Ancestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Creed	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Summary of Investigation: _____

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approved 12/09/2013

Reviewed 11-21-2016

Revised 12-19-2018