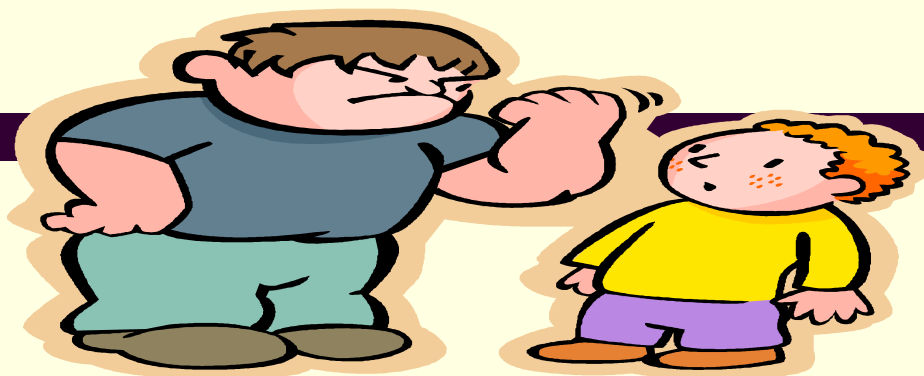




Compton Unified School District

Pupil Services Department

Bullying and Harassment Prevention



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Board Policy

(Adopted January 2013)

- The Compton Unified School District Governing Board has adopted a policy recognizing the harmful effects of bullying on student learning and school attendance and desires to provide safe school environments that protect students from physical or mental harm. This policy states that no forms of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on the actual or perceived characteristics relating to a person's disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.
- The Compton Unified School District will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety or well-being of students, staff, or any other person within the district's jurisdiction whether directed at an individual or group.
- This policy is in effect during the school day, while students are on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; going to or coming from school, on school-owned and/or school operated vehicles, attending or engaged in school sponsored activities; and/or away from school grounds if the misconduct affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

Bullying Defined...

- Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power of influence. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both students, those who are bullied and those who bully others, may have serious and/or lasting problems.

Legal References

California state laws that cover bullying:

- **EC § 32261-32262; EC § 32265; EC § 32270; EC § 35294.2**
- In addition, these education codes provide authority to discipline a pupil for conduct that amounts to bullying: **EC 48900, 48900.2, 48900.3, and 48900.4**
- Governor Brown signed **AB 746** which allows California schools to suspend students for bullying classmates on social networking sites
- **AB 9** – Seth’s Law was signed in March 2011. It was named in memory of Seth Walsh, a 13 year-old gay student facing years of relentless anti-gay harassment at school.

Bullying Involves:

- **Imbalance of Power**

Individuals who bully use their power such as physical strength or access to embarrassing information, or popularity to control or harm others. This power can change over time and with different situations.

- **Intent to Cause Harm**

The primary purpose of the person's action is to cause harm to the intended target.

- **Repetition**

Incidents of bullying behavior that occurs more than once and repeated by the same individual or group of individuals.

Types of Bullying

Bullying can occur in many forms. Examples are:

- **Verbal bullying**

Saying or writing mean things (i.e., teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, threatening to cause harm, etc.).

- **Social bullying**

Referred to as relational bullying. It involves hurting another person's reputation or relationships (i.e., spreading rumors, leaving people out on purpose, breaking up friendships, telling others not to be friends, embarrassing someone in public, etc.).

- **Physical bullying**

The act of hitting, kicking, pinching, punching, spitting, and tripping/pushing.

- **Cyber-bullying**

Uses the Internet, mobile phones, or other digital technologies to harm others.

Warning Signs of Bullying

There are numerous warning signs that an individual may be affected by bullying behavior – either this individual is bullying others or being bullied. Too often students being bullied or bullying others do not ask for assistance.

Potential warning signs are:

- Look for changes in the student
- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness
- Changes in eating habits – skipping meals and/or binge eating
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to come to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social interactions
- Feeling of helplessness or decreased self esteem
- Self destructive behaviors such as running away from home, talk of suicide and/or harming themselves

Effects of Bullying

Bullying affects everyone. It is linked to several negative outcomes such as:

- Mental health
- Substance abuse
- Depression and anxiety
- Health complaints
- Decreased academic achievement (GPA) and school attendance
- Suicide

How to Support Students Who are being Bullied

- Get the Facts
- Determine if the behavior is actual bullying
- Listen and focus on the student
- Reassure student that bullying is not their fault
- Understanding that talking about the incident may be difficult for the student
- Provide meaningful advice about what to do
- Work together with the student, his/her parents and/or guardians, school, and other students to resolve the situation
- Support the student

What to Do

(When a student knows someone else is being bullied)

- He or she needs to take an active stand to prevent unwarranted behavior – do not participate or support the behaviors
- Do not watch another student being bullied – audience
- Speak up regarding disapproved bullying behavior
- Support the student being bullied (help them report the bullying incident and/or report it for them)
- Talk or discuss the bullying issue with a trusted adult (i.e., teacher, administrator, counselor, parent, and or community member)
- Be a friend to a student being bullied

What to Do

(When the student is being bullied)

The number one priority is for the student's safety. The following strategies can be shared with a student being bullied:

- Tell the individual causing the harm to stop
- Attempt to defuse the problematic situation
- Walk away
- Help the bullying student get away
- Protect yourself – if all else fails
- Seek immediate help from an adult you trust to help stop bullying behavior
- Avoid interacting with a student and/or group of students who engage in bullying
- Find opportunities to befriend different groups of students

Next Steps...

All efforts are to made to resolve bullying issues at the school level

Possible Interventions

- Counseling/informal mentoring
- Referral to outside Board Approved Intervention Provider
- District Guidance Review Committee (DGRC)

Possible Consequences

- Warning
- Suspension/Expulsion
- District Administrative Hearing Panel (DAHP)

Report Incidents of Bullying

- Any student who has been a victim of bullying or has witnessed bullying needs to report the incidents to the school principal or designee or file a complaint with the Senior Director, Pupil Services Department at 417 W. Alondra Blvd., Compton, CA 90220; Telephone: (310) 639-4321, Ext. 63042 or 63048.

Resources

Learn more about bullying prevention at:

- www.stopbullying.gov
- www.beyondbullies.org
- PBIS
- OLWEUS Bullying Program
- Pax Good Behavior Game and DVD
- No-bullying Program: Grades K-8
- Bullying 101 DVD: Basic tools to Stop Bullying in Middle School
- Bullying and How to Handle It DVD: A Video for 3rd and 4th Grades
- Cyber-Bullying: A Prevention Curriculum for Grades K-12
- It's Not OK to Bully Video
- Preventing Bullying – A Manual For Schools and Communities
- Compton Unified School District Police Department (Bullying Assembly)

