

Contoocook Valley School District Policy

Also JBAA, JIC, JICD

PUPIL SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICY BULLYING

I. General Statement of Policy

The Board is committed to providing all pupils a safe school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with respect.

This policy is intended to comply with RSA 193-F, which specifically identifies “bullying” as a form of pupil harassment. Conduct constituting bullying will not be tolerated, and is prohibited by the Policy, in accordance with RSA 193-F.

II. Bullying Defined

For the purpose of this policy the term “bullying” means insults, taunts, or challenges, whether verbal or physical in nature, which are likely to intimidate or provoke a violent or disorderly response from the pupil being treated in this manner.

The Superintendent may develop administrative procedure to implement this Policy.

III. Reporting Procedures

Any school employee, or employee of a company under contract with a school in the District, or the District itself, who has witnessed or has reliable information that a pupil has been subjected to “bullying,” as defined in II above, shall report such incident to the Principal, or his/her designee who shall in turn report the incident to the Superintendent within twenty-four hours of receiving the information. The Principal, or designee, shall within 48 hours of the occurrence, inform by telephone and in writing by first-class mail, the parent or legal guardian of all pupils involved in incidents of bullying as defined in this Policy. The Superintendent or his/her designee may, within the 48 hour time period, grant the principal a waiver from the notification requirement if the Superintendent deems such waiver to be in the best interest of the child. Such waiver shall be in writing. The Superintendent shall, on a monthly basis, inform the local school board of incidents of bullying.

The District will make available forms for reporting incidents of bullying and shall encourage the use of these forms. Such forms shall be available in the Principal’s Office in each building and in the Superintendent’s Office.

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- IV. Investigation
The Superintendent shall direct an investigation to be made of reports of bullying.
- V. Training
The Superintendent shall develop and implement age-appropriate methods of discussing the meaning, substance and application of the Policy with staff and students in order to minimize the occurrence of bullying and methods for staff to effectively respond to any such incidents.
- VI. Notice Of Policy
The Superintendent or his/her designee shall provide notice to parents or legal guardians, students and staff of the Policy through appropriate references in the student and employee handbooks, or through other reasonable means. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall also make all contractors contracting with the District aware of this Policy.
- VII. Discipline
If it is determined, after investigation, that a pupil has engaged in bullying conduct prohibited by the Policy, that pupil shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action which may include, but not be limited to, suspension and expulsion. Any such disciplinary action shall be taken in accordance with applicable School Board Policy and legal requirements.
- VIII Appeals
Disciplinary actions may be appealed. All appeals shall be in writing. Appeals to the Superintendent shall be submitted within five calendar days of the notification of the disciplinary action taken. The Superintendent shall have 15 school days to issue a ruling on the appeal of disciplinary action. Any further appeals to the local School Board and the State Board of Education shall follow a similar format and timeline for submission of appeals.
- IX. Capture of Audio Recordings on School District Property
Pursuant to RSA 570-A:2, notice is hereby given that the Board authorizes audio recordings to be made in conjunction with video recordings on school district property. The Superintendent or his/her designee will ensure that there is a sign prominently displayed on the school property informing the occupants that such video and audio recordings are occurring.

Reference: RSA 193-F:3 (Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000)

Board Adoption: December 19, 2000

Revised: October 17, 2006

(Included in Student Handbook)