

Michigan Educational Choice Center (MECC or District)

Bullying

Bullying Prohibited

Bullying is a form of harassment. For the purposes of this policy, “bullying” is defined as: “The repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, or through attacks on the property of another. It may include, but not be limited to, actions such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, including ethnically-based or gender based verbal put-downs, extortion of money or possessions, and exclusion from peer groups within school.” Such conduct is disruptive of the educational process and, therefore, bullying is not acceptable behavior in this District, and is prohibited.

Students who engage in any act of bullying while at school, at any school function, in connection to or with any District sponsored activity or event, or while enroute to or from school are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students will be subject to one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

- Removal from participation in extra-curricular activities;
- Conference with parent(s)/guardian(s);
- Suspension for up to 10 days;
- Long term suspension for the remainder of the school term;
- Long term suspension for the remainder of the school year i.e.: Longer than one term or semester, but less than a full school year;
- Referral to an appropriate law enforcement agency; and/or
- Permanent expulsion from the District.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations and programs that will increase awareness of the problem of bullying, and train teachers and other staff to effectively intervene if bullying is witnessed in their presence or brought to their attention.

In designing administrative regulations and anti-bullying programs or strategies, the Superintendent or designee should consult with the greater school community, including students.

This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate that is protected by state or federal law.

LEGAL REF: “Policies on Bullying,” Michigan State Board of Education, 7-19-01; Tinker v Des Moines Independent School District, 393 US 503(1969). See also: Saxe v State College Area School District, 240 F3d 200(CA 3, 2001).