

# STUDENTS

## STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### STUDENT CONDUCT

### BULLYING

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FGAC

#### 1. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Bullying* means behavior that is intended to cause harm or distress; exists in a relationship in which there is an imbalance of power; and may be repeated over time. Bullying may implicate and include other punishable behavior including harassment, discrimination, or hazing (See Policies FHAB, FA, and FHAC).

*Utah Admin. Rules R277-609-1 (August 8, 2006)*

- B. *Cyber-Bullying* is the use of any electronic communication device (whether a personal device or the school's Internet system) to convey a message in any form (text, image, audio or video) that is intended to cause harm or distress where such act takes place on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation or at any official school bus stop. In addition, any communication of this form that is generated off-campus but causes or threatens to cause a material and substantial disruption at school or interference with the rights of students to be secure may also be considered cyber-bullying.

#### 2. POLICY

The Tintic School District Board of Education finds that harassment, intimidation and bullying conduct can be best addressed at the local school level through teaching correct principles and behavior and providing appropriate incentives for proper conduct and consideration of others by all members of the school community. Each school is directed to adopt a procedure for identifying incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying and to prescribe procedures for addressing reported incidents and implementing reasonable corrective action. The elements in each school's response plan should include the following:

- A. The District believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. The district, schools, and community should promote mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance.
- B. The District will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student. A student shall not intimidate or harass another student through words or actions. Such behavior includes: direct physical contact, such as hitting or shoving; verbal assaults, such as teasing or name-calling; and social isolation or manipulation.
- C. The District expects students and/or staff to immediately report incidents of bullying to the principal or designee. Such reports, the identity of the subjects and witnesses, and any action taken as a result will be treated confidentially. Staff are expected to immediately intervene when they see a bullying incident occur. Staff shall report all alleged incidents of bullying within twenty-four (24) hours. Each complaint of bullying

should be promptly investigated. This policy applies to students on school grounds, while traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, during the lunch period (whether on or off campus), and during a school-sponsored activity.

- D. To prevent bullying on school campuses, the school district will provide staff development training in bullying prevention and cultivate acceptance and understanding in all students and staff to build each school's capacity to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment. Staff training shall include specific instruction on dealing with:
  - 1. Overt aggression that may include physical fighting such as punching, shoving, kicking, and verbal threatening behavior, such as name calling, or both physical and verbal aggression or threatening behavior;
  - 2. Relational aggression or indirect, covert, or social aggression, including rumor spreading, intimidation, enlisting a friend to assault a child, and social isolation;
  - 3. Cyber bullying, including use of email, web pages, text messaging, instant messaging, three-way calling or messaging or any other electronic means for aggression inside or outside of school.
- E. Student assessment of the prevalence of bullying in schools/school district, specifically locations where students are unsafe and additional adult supervision may be required, such as playgrounds, hallways, and lunch areas shall be conducted on a periodic basis.
- F. Teachers should discuss this policy with their students in age appropriate ways and should assure them that they need not endure any form of bullying. Students who bully are in violation of this policy and are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion, consistent with the school district's Safe Schools policy (FHA).

*Utah Admin. Rules R277-609-3 (August 8, 2006)*

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion (See Policy FHA.) The school or District may also report individuals to law enforcement if necessary.

### **3. CYBER-BULLYING**

The District will take any report of cyber-bullying seriously and will investigate credible reports promptly. Students are encouraged to report an incident immediately to a teacher or principal, who will take appropriate action. Students who make a report are expected, but not required, to preserve evidence of cyber-bullying. For example, a student may save or bring a copy of an email, text message, picture or other electronic transmission that the student believes was intended to cause harm or distress.

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to loss of privileges and/or discipline, up to and including expulsion. A student who uses school equipment or electronic communication system to engage in cyber-bullying may lose the privilege of using any district electronic equipment while at school or school-related activities. A student who uses a personal communication device to engage in cyber-bullying

may lose the privilege of bringing any personal communication device on school property or school-sponsored activities. The school or District may also report individuals to law enforcement if necessary.

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