

## **BULLYING**

The Monterey County Board of Education (County Board) recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student learning and school attendance and desires to provide safe school environments that protect students from physical and emotional harm. The County Board expects that student safety is ensured in the schools operated by the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) and that bullying of any student shall not be tolerated.

“Bullying,” is a severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, to have the effect of placing a reasonable student in fear of harm to his/her person or property, causing a substantially detrimental effect on his/her physical or mental health, causing substantial interference with his/her academic performance, or causing substantial interference with his/her ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or privileges. [Education Code (EC) 48900]

No individual or group shall, through physical, written, verbal, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, retaliate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any student or school personnel.

*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*

*(cf. 5136 - Gangs)*

*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*

*(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)*

*(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)*

## **Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying includes the creation or transmission of harassing communications, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

Cyberbullying can originate on or off the school site. Thus, for purposes of determining whether the conduct may be subject to suspension or expulsion, the act does not necessarily need to have been committed while at school, while coming to or from school, or during a school-sponsored activity. [EC 48900]

*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*

Strategies for addressing bullying in MCOE schools shall be developed with involvement of key stakeholders, including students, parents/guardians, and staff, and may be incorporated into the comprehensive safety plan, the local control and accountability plan, and other applicable district and school plans.

*(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)*

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*

*(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)*

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

*(cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)*

*(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*

As appropriate, the Monterey County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) or designee may collaborate with law enforcement, courts, social services, mental health services, other agencies, and community organizations in the development and implementation of joint strategies to promote safety in schools and the community and to provide services for alleged victims and perpetrators of bullying.

*(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

32282 Comprehensive safety plan

32283.5 Bullying; online training

35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students

35291-35291.5 Rules

48900-48925 Suspension or expulsion

48985 Translation of notices

5145.12 Search and seizure

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

6163.4 Student Use of Technology

PENAL CODE

422.55 Definition of hate crime

647 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanor

647.7 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; punishment

653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47

254 Universal service discounts (e-rate)

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.107 Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504

106.8 Designation of responsible employee for Title IX

110.25 Notification of nondiscrimination on the basis of age

COURT DECISIONS

*Wynar v. Douglas County School District, (2013) 728 F.3d 1062*

*J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094*

*Lavine v. Blaine School District, (2002) 279 F.3d 719*

Adopted: 11/04/15