

BULLYING

The district is committed to maintaining an environment free from bullying, as herein defined. The administration shall propose, and the board shall review and approve, a plan to address bullying on school property, in a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity or event. The plan shall include provisions for the training and education of staff members and students and shall include appropriate community involvement as approved by the board.

Definitions – For the purposes of this policy, terms shall have the following meanings:

- “Bullying” means : Any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act or threat either by any student, staff member (meaning any person employed by the school district) or parent (including a guardian, custodian or other person with authority to act on behalf of the child) towards a student or staff member that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that such gesture, act or threat creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, knows or should know will have the effect of: (1) Harming a student or staff member whether physically or mentally; (2) damaging a student or staff member’s property; (3) placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of harm to the student or staff member; or (4) placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to the student or staff member’s property; (5) taunting, teasing or intimidation that is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment or it substantially disrupts the orderly operations of the district.
- “Cyberbullying” means bullying by use of any electronic communication device through means including, but not limited to: email, instant messaging, text messages, blogs, mobile phones, pagers, online games, and websites.
- In addition, “Bullying” is also defined as any other form of intimidation or harassment prohibited by the Board of Education of the school district in policies concerning bullying.

Prohibition –

- Bullying is prohibited while on or while utilizing school property, in a school vehicle (any school bus, school van, other school vehicle and private vehicle used to transport students or staff members to and from school or any school-sponsored activity or event), or at a school-sponsored activity or event. No student shall use school issued or personal devices to engage in cyberbullying as prohibited by Kansas law and this plan regardless of whether such electronic communication originated on or off the school’s campus.

Jurisdiction –

- The school shall have jurisdiction to prohibit cyberbullying that causes a substantial or material disruption within the school even if the cyberbullying was done using the student’s personal device and even if the incident originated off school property.

Notice – Notification to parents, students and community

- Parents shall receive written notice of this policy during enrollment.
- There will be a Student Assembly regarding the policies.
- The policy will be posted on the District Website.

Investigations –

- Investigations will be initiated if a school official has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student violated the cyber-bullying policy. Electronic devices will be confiscated and an investigation started.
- All searches will be limited to the scope of what we are looking for (the incident at hand).
- Parents will be notified immediately if their child is involved in an incident.
- Any evidence of cyberbullying discovered during an investigation will be preserved. Screen shots of evidence will be saved as part of the investigation, as appropriate. If the picture is inappropriate in nature the school will not save screen shots. The school will simply document the evidence.
- If, during the course of a cyberbullying investigation, images of nude minors are discovered, those images will not be distributed or saved by school personnel or shown to others. The school official will promptly turn it over to law enforcement.

Reporting –

- There is a link on our website (www.tong464.org) for all students to report incidents.
- Students can report an incident to any staff member, who will then report to building administration. All reports **will be** investigated.
- Parents will be notified immediately if their child is involved.

Consequences – If a student is found to be in violation of this policy, he or she will be subject to disciplinary action.

For less severe incidents, the following may occur:

- No senior agreement or final exemptions.
- Removal from athletic team, club, etc. for a game or games, up to the remainder of the season
- In school or out of school suspension.

For more severe incidents, the following may occur:

- If a student is found to have deliberately cyberbullied another student or staff member as prohibited by this policy, the following will occur:
Student will be short term suspended pending an expulsion hearing. The term of any resultant suspension or expulsion may be reduced if the student completes an anti-bullying course off campus.
- If a student is in a student SAFE ZONE when images or video are captured and used for cyberbullying, the abuser will automatically be suspended pending an expulsion hearing. The SAFE ZONES are defined as areas where people have a reasonable expectation for privacy such as bathrooms and locker rooms.
- If a student sends a picture depicting nudity or lewd images, the student will be suspended pending an expulsion hearing, as appropriate. All images or messages suggesting that a potential crime has been committed will be turned over to law enforcement immediately.
- Any offense that results in administration recommending an expulsion hearing will be dealt with as a team of no less than 3 building administrators. This panel of principals will review the incident to ensure that the recommendation of expulsion is appropriate.

Education –

- All students will be required to have their parent/guardian sign a form stating that they have read and understand the bullying policy.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____