

JICK - PUPIL SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

I. General Statement of Policy

The Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School 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:3, which specifically identifies "bullying" as a form of pupil harassment. Conduct constituting bullying will not be tolerated, and is prohibited by this policy, in accordance with RSA 193-F:3.

II. Bullying and Harassment Defined

Bullying is conduct which subjects a pupil to insults, taunts, or challenges, whether verbal or physical in nature, which are likely to intimidate or provoke a violent or disorderly response from the student being treated in this manner. The Superintendent may develop administrative regulations to implement this definition.

Harassment is defined as verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual on the basis of age, gender, race, creed, color, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, or disability and that: (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive academic environment; (2) has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or (3) otherwise adversely affects an individual's work or academic performance.

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 or harassment, as defined in II above, shall report such incident to the Principal, or his/her designee.

The Principal is initially responsible for receiving oral or written reports of violations of this policy. The Principal may designate, in writing, an additional person to receive such reports. If the Principal received the information verbally, he/she shall reduce the report he/she received to writing within twenty-four hours of receiving the information, and forward it to the Superintendent. If the Principal received the information in writing, he/she shall forward what he/she received to the Superintendent within twenty-four hours of receipt.

The District will make available forms for reporting incidents of bullying and harassment, and shall encourage the use of these forms. Such forms shall be available in the Principal's office in each building, and from the Superintendent's office. After receiving any such report, the Principal shall report the incident to the Superintendent, who shall notify the School Board.

The Principal, or designee, shall by telephone and in writing via first-class mail, report the incident to the parent or legal guardian of all pupils involved within 48 hours of the occurrence of such incident. Any such notification under this policy must be consistent with student privacy rights under the applicable provisions of FERPA. The notice shall advise the individuals involved of their due process rights including the right to appeal to the State Board of Education.

The Superintendent 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. Any waiver granted shall be in writing.

IV. Investigation

The Superintendent shall direct an investigation to be made of bullying or harassment reports in accordance with the procedures specified in Policy JBAA.

V. Training

The Superintendent may develop age-appropriate methods of discussing the meaning, substance, and application of this policy with staff and students in order to minimize the occurrence of bullying, and for staff to effectively respond to any such incidents.

VI. Notice of Policy

The Superintendent shall provide written notice of this policy to students, parents, and staff through appropriate references in the student and employee handbooks, or through other reasonable means. The Superintendent 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 or harassing conduct prohibited by this 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 accord with applicable School Board policy and legal requirements.

VIII. Appeal

Aggrieved parties may appeal disciplinary action to the School Board. The School Board shall notify all parties involved in writing of its decision. The aggrieved party has the right under RSA 193-F:3 to appeal the decision of the School Board to the State Board of Education, who shall, in writing, notify all parties involved of its decision.

IX. Capture of Audio Recordings on School Buses

Pursuant to RSA 570-A:2, notice is hereby given that the Board authorizes audio recordings to be made in conjunction with video recordings of the interior of school buses while students are being transported to and from school or school activities. The Superintendent shall ensure that there is a sign informing the occupants of school buses that such recordings are occurring.

Legal References:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(8), Student Harassment
RSA 193-F:3, Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000
RSA 570-A:2, Capture of Audio Recordings on School Buses Allowed

First Reading: June 2, 2010

Second Reading: July 13, 2010

Final Adoption: August 10, 2010