

## Bullying; Prevention and Education

The West Central School Board supports a secure school climate conducive to teaching and learning that is free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behavior. The purpose of this policy is to promote consistency of approach and to help create a climate in which all types of bullying are regarded as unacceptable.

Bullying is defined as any written, verbal, or electronic expression, physical act or gesture or a pattern thereof, which is intended to cause distress upon any person in the school environment. For purposes of this policy the school environment includes school buildings, grounds, vehicles, busses, bus stops and all school-sponsored activities and events.

A person who engages in any act of bullying is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. The severity and pattern, if any, of the bullying behavior shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made.

The Superintendent, or designee, shall develop a comprehensive program to address bullying at all school levels. The program shall be aimed toward accomplishing the following objectives:

1. To foster a community of mutual respect.
2. To send a clear message to students, staff, parents and community members that bullying will not be tolerated.
3. To train staff and students in taking pro-active steps to prevent bullying from occurring.
4. To implement procedures for immediate intervention, investigation, and confrontation of people engaged in bullying behavior
5. To initiate efforts to change the behavior of people engaged in bullying behaviors through re-education on acceptable behavior, discussions, counseling, and appropriate negative consequences.
6. To foster a productive partnership with parents and community members in order to help maintain a bully-free environment.
7. To support victims of bullying by counseling.
8. To help develop peer support networks, social skills and confidence for all.
9. To recognize and praise positive, behaviors on a regular basis.

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WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT