



ANTI-BULLYING FAQS

FOR STUDENTS



INFORMATION COLLECTED AT
STOMPOUTBULLYING.ORG

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated over time.

AN IMBALANCE OF POWER: kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people

REPETITION: bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE BEING BULLIED OR WITNESS BULLYING

Tell someone you trust—a friend, parent, teacher, or mentor

Report the bullying incident to your teacher, principal, or online at <https://www.sandiegounified.org/forms/online-bullying-reporting-form>

Don't respond to bullies online. Show a trusted adult what has been going on.

Find safety in numbers. Stay around trusted friends and adults.

If you don't know who to talk to and you feel like hurting yourself, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800.273.8255

REPORT BULLYING ONLINE



San Diego Unified is committed to providing a safe, comfortable learning environment for all students. Bullying incidents can be reported directly to a trusted staff member at your school. This online form may also be used by San Diego Unified students to report being bullied or by someone witnessing a student being bullied.



<https://www.sandiegounified.org/forms/online-bullying-reporting-form>

In its commitment to providing all students and staff with a safe learning environment where everyone is treated with respect and no one is physically or emotionally harmed, the Board of Education will not tolerate any student or staff member being bullied (including cyber-bullying) or intimidated in any form at school or school-related events, (including off-campus events, school-sponsored activities, school buses, any event related to school business), or outside of school hours with the intention to be carried out during any of the above.

Such acts include those that are reasonably perceived as being motivated either by an actual or perceived attribute that includes but is not limited to race, religion, creed, color, marital status, parental status, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, mental or physical disability or any other distinguishing characteristic.

The district further prohibits the inciting, aiding, coercing or directing of others to commit acts of bullying or cyber-bullying, harassment or intimidation. Any staff member that observes, overhears or otherwise witnesses bullying (including cyber-bullying), harassment, or intimidation, or to whom such actions have been reported must take prompt and appropriate action to stop the behavior and to prevent its re-occurrence as detailed in the applicable Administrative Procedure. Students who observe, overhear, or otherwise witness such actions must, and parents/district visitors are encouraged to report the behaviors to a staff member. At each school, the principal or principal's designee is responsible for receiving and promptly investigating complaints alleging violations of this policy. Any form of retaliation in response to a report of such acts is prohibited.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!!!

Students have legal rights in schools. Students have the right to be protected from harassment and discrimination under state and federal laws. Knowing and understanding these legal rights can help students create a safer environment in their schools. Below is a list of the California laws that are in place that protect all students.

AB 1266, School Success and Opportunity Act (2013) provides guidance to schools so they can make sure that all students have the opportunity to do well in school and graduate. It amends the California Education Code and allows students to compete in sports teams and use facilities, including restrooms, based on their gender identity, regardless of whether they are listed as a male or female in official student records. It eliminates all sex-segregated school programs and facilities.

AB 887, Gender Nondiscrimination Act (2011) clarifies the law by explicitly adding gender identity to the list of protected classes. Previously, although the law did protect against discrimination on the basis of gender, it was clearly not stated in California Codes.

AB 9, Seth's Law (2011) tightens anti-bullying policies in California schools by ensuring that all schools have clear and consistent policies and by establishing timelines for investigating claims of bullying. It requires school personnel to intervene whenever they see instances of bullying create a respectful and safe environment for all students. San Diego Unified's Policy A-3550 addresses bullying, harassment or intimidation.

SB 543, Mental Health Services for At-Risk Youth (2010; amended in 2015) permits youth ages 12-17 to consent to mental health treatment without parental permission if the attending professional believes the youth is mature enough to make the decision or if the youth would present a danger of serious physical or mental harm to self and others without services. Previously, parental consent requirements for mental health services created a barrier to treatment that was especially harmful to LGBT youth who may be put at risk of emotional or physical abuse by coming out to their parents prematurely or with support.

SB 572, Harvey Milk Day (2009) requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 22 as Harvey Milk Day, a day of special recognition in California, and encourages public schools and educational institutions to conduct suitable commemorative exercises on that date.

AB 394, Safe Place to Learn Act (2007), requires the California Department of Education to regularly monitor districts' complaint process and procedures and whether or not school districts have adopted, posted and publicized district anti-discrimination policies that include the same protected categories as the Education Code, including sexual orientation and gender identity. It also requires CDE to make available to school districts information about curricula, training and other resources schools can use to prevent harassment and discrimination.

SB 71, Comprehensive Sex Ed Law (2003) requires sexual health education to be more inclusive of healthy attitudes regarding gender, sexual orientation, marriage, family and body image. Requires materials and instruction to be medically accurate, age appropriate, objective and not based on religious doctrine. Requires that school districts adopt an "opt out" policy in regards to sexual health education instead of an "opt in" policy.

California Education Code 200 (2000) states that it is the policy of the State of California to afford all persons in public schools, regardless of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that in the definition of hate crimes (Penal Code, Section 422.55), equal rights and opportunities in the educational institutions in the state.

AB 537, California Student Safety and Violence Preventions Act (2000) amends the California Ed Code specifically prohibiting discrimination against and harassment of students and staff in schools on the basis of sex, ethnic group identification, race, national origin, religion, color, or mental or physical disability. This law added the provision that all students and staff in public schools have the same right to a safe learning environment regardless of the sexual orientation or gender identity.

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INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICES



YOUTHADVOCACY.US

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