

5054 Student Bullying

Definition of Bullying. South Dakota statute defines bullying as:

“A pattern of repeated conduct that causes physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students that may include threats, intimidation, stalking [as defined by state law], physical violence, theft, destruction of property, any threatening use of data or computer software, written or verbal communication, or conduct directed against a student that:

- Places a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; and either
- Substantially interferes with a student's educational performance; or
- Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying also includes retaliation against a student for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as:

“Any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.”

Teachwell Solutions’s administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. These definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

Bullying Prohibited. Students are expected to behave in a civil manner in compliance with the law and all school rules. Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying behavior.

Reporting Bullying. Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or

administrator. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

Anonymous Reports. Students can use the state’s anonymous platform Safe2Say to make this report. District administration may choose to consider anonymous reports made by other methods.

Bullying Investigations. Teachwell Solutions staff will investigate allegations of bullying using the same practices and procedures that Teachwell Solutions observes for student disciplinary matters. In no circumstance will Teachwell Solutions staff be deliberately indifferent to allegations of bullying.

Disciplinary Consequences. The disciplinary consequences for bullying behavior will depend on the frequency, duration, severity and effect of the behavior. A student who engages in bullying behavior that materially and substantially interferes with or disrupts the educational environment, Teachwell Solutions’s day-to-day operations, or the education process, regardless of where the student is at the time of engaging in the bullying behavior, may be subject to discipline to the extent permitted by law.

Support for Students Who Have Experienced Bullying. Regardless of where the bullying occurred, Teachwell Solutions will consider whether victims of bullying are suffering an adverse educational impact and, if appropriate, will refer those students to Teachwell Solutions’s student assistance team.

Bullying Prevention and Education. Students and parents are encouraged to inform teachers or administrators orally or in writing about bullying behavior or suspected bullying behavior. School employees are required to inform the administrator of all such reports. The appropriate administrator shall promptly investigate all such reports. Each building shall engage in activities which educate students about bullying, bullying prevention and digital citizenship.

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