

STUDENT BULLYING

The Cooperative is committed to maintaining a constructive, safe school climate that is conducive to student learning and fostering an environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity.

Persistent bullying can severely inhibit a student's ability to learn and may have lasting negative effects on a student's life. The bullying of students by students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Bullying consists of repeated physical, verbal, non-verbal, written, electronic, or any conduct directed toward a student that is so pervasive, severe, and objectively offensive that it:

- (1) Has the purpose of creating or resulting in an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic environment; or
- (2) Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance which deprives the student access to educational opportunities.

Any staff member observing or suspecting bullying toward another individual is required to report the issue to his or her lead teacher, principal or to the Cooperative Director.

This policy is in effect while students are on property within the jurisdiction of the Cooperative Board; while students are in cooperative-owned or cooperative-operated vehicles; and while students are attending or engaged in cooperative-sponsored activities.

The Cooperative will act to investigate all complaints (formal or informal, verbal or written) of bullying. A formal complaint may be submitted to the building principal, lead teacher or the Cooperative Director. Any student engaging in an act of bullying is subject to discipline pursuant to the Cooperative's student discipline procedure.

This policy may not be interpreted to prohibit civil exchange of opinions or debate protected under the state or federal constitutions if the opinion expressed does not otherwise materially or substantially disrupt the education process or intrude upon the rights of others.

Policy Adopted: October 16, 2013