

# Ensuring a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment

## Reporting, Prevention and Intervention

The Washoe County School District is committed to working with the community to prevent bullying, cyberbullying and harassment in our schools. During the 2015 Session of the Nevada Legislature, Senate Bill 504 made important changes to the laws which prohibit bullying and cyberbullying (NRS 388.121 – 388.145), to increase the supports and interventions available to students, and to create a culture of respect and prevention in our schools and community.

All of us in the Washoe County community have an important role to play in the prevention of bullying, cyberbullying and harassment. We encourage you to report incidents of bullying, cyberbullying and harassment and the District has various methods to do this. (See sidebar) We will make every effort to investigate the allegation, install remedies, use prevention efforts and offer interventions and supports to your child(ren).

It is important to understand the difference between bullying and conflict. Conflict is a normal part of life. Learning to deal with conflict will help children learn the social skills they will need as adults. When peer conflict occurs, both people involved have equal power in the relationship. While both people may be upset and emotional, neither is seeking power or attention. When people experience conflict, they generally feel remorse and take responsibility for what they did wrong. In other words, they want to solve the problem so they can start having fun again. Also, conflict happens occasionally and is *usually* not serious or emotionally damaging to either person.

Bullying is generally deliberate, unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived imbalance of power and is designed to hurt, insult or threaten another person. Bullying is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time; pervasive or widespread; or can be a single severe physical act. An imbalance of power, such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity, is used to control or harm others.

### How do I Report?

- Report online at [www.wcsdbullying.com](http://www.wcsdbullying.com)
- Report verbally to any WCSD staff member. Such reports will be forwarded to the appropriate school administrator.
- Contact the District's Head of Counseling, Katherine Loudon, at [kloudon@washoeschools.net](mailto:kloudon@washoeschools.net) or 775-850-8011.
- Notify school police (775-348-0285), local law enforcement or Secret Witness (775-322-4900 or text 847411).
- Contact the District's Title IX Coordinator by email at [titleix@washoeschools.net](mailto:titleix@washoeschools.net)
- Contact the U.S. Dept. of Education ([www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)) Office for Civil Rights (email: [ocr@ed.gov](mailto:ocr@ed.gov))
- Contact the Nevada Dept. of Education (775) 687-9130 or on the web at [bullyfreezone.nv.gov](http://bullyfreezone.nv.gov).



For more information, visit the District's Complaint Resolution page at <http://washoeschools.net/domain/209>

The Washoe County School District prohibits bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, and/or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, veterans or military status, marital status, disability or the presence of any sensory, physical or mental handicap in any of its educational programs/activities and employment. The District prohibits discrimination against any youth group listed in Title 36, as a patriotic society, (i.e. Boy Scouts of America) from access to public school facilities use.

### SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO STATE BULLYING LAW FROM 2015 SESSION OF NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Definition of Bullying	The term "bullying" was expanded to include, but is not limited to: Repeated or pervasive taunting, name-calling, belittling, mocking or use of put-downs or demeaning humor regarding the actual or perceived protected class; Behavior that is intended to harm another person by damaging or manipulating his or her relationships with others by spreading false rumors; Repeated or pervasive nonverbal threats or intimidation such as the use of aggressive, menacing or disrespectful gestures; Blackmail, extortion or demands for protection money or involuntary loans or donations; Blocking access to any property or facility of a school; Stalking.
Mandatory Reporting by Staff	A teacher, administrator, principal, coach or other staff member who witnesses bullying or receives information that bullying has occurred shall report the violation to the principal/designee as soon as practicable, but not later than a time during the same day on which the violation was witnessed or information received regarding the occurrence of a violation.
Action by Principal (Administrator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principal/designee shall immediately take any necessary action to stop the bullying and ensure the safety and well-being of the reported target(s).</li> <li>• Notification of the parents/guardians of the reported aggressor or a reported target of the bullying shall be provided by telephone, electronic mail or in person.</li> <li>• Investigation shall include interviews with the target, aggressor and parents/guardians of those students</li> <li>• Generally, investigations shall be completed not later than 2 school days after receiving the report.</li> </ul>
Follow-Up	Not later than 10 school days after receiving the initial report, the principal/designee shall meet with each reported target of the bullying to inquire about the well-being of the reported target and to ensure that the reported bullying is not continuing.