

School Culture

Two Rivers' Bullying Prevention Policy

Bullying is prohibited on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at school- sponsored or school-related activities, functions or programs whether on or off school grounds, on or off school bus or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school, at any transit stop at which youth wait to be transported to the school or an event sponsored by the school, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school.

Bullying is also prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school, if the act or acts in question create a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringe on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Administrators will make expectations clear to students and staff that bullying will not be tolerated and will be the grounds for disciplinary action up to and including suspension and dismissal for students. Retaliation against anyone who reports bullying, provides information about an act of bullying, or witnesses an act of bullying is also prohibited.

Definitions

Bullying means any severe, pervasive, or persistent act or conduct whether physical, electronic, or verbal that:

1. May be based on a youth's actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, intellectual ability, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, place or residence or business, or any other distinguishing characteristic, or on a youth's association with a person, or group with any person, with one or more of the actual or perceived foregoing characteristics; and
2. Can reasonably be predicted to:
 - a. Place the youth in reasonable fear of physical harm to their person or property;
 - b. Cause a substantial detrimental effect on the youth's physical or mental health;
 - c. Substantially interfere with the youth's academic performance or attendance; or

d. Substantially interfere with the youth's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by an agency, educational institution, or grantee.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is defined as any bullying done through electronic means which meets the definition of bullying above, including, but not limited to, social media, electronic mail (email), texting or tweeting.

Retaliation

Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

Reporting Bullying

Any student who believes that they have been the target of bullying or who is aware of bullying is strongly encouraged to promptly report the matter orally or in writing to the school principal, another administrator, or to any other faculty or staff member or member of Two Rivers with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Also, any student who is subject to retaliation in violation of this policy or who knows of another student who has been subject to retaliation is urged to report it as soon as possible.

A parent or guardian who witnesses or becomes aware of bullying /retaliation is strongly urged to promptly notify the principal or another administrator.

Anonymous Reporting

Reports may be made anonymously, although no formal response will be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report. However, such a report may trigger an investigation.

Bystander Policy

Students are expected to report rumors of bullying, planned bullying, as well as bullying actually observed. Students who watch and laugh, but do not report what they have witnessed, are considered bystanders and will be treated as participants.

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Investigations

Two Rivers will investigate and address all incidents of bullying that school personnel know or reasonably should have known are occurring. Incidents of bullying will be promptly investigated by the school principal or a designee. If the investigation reveals that bullying occurred, Two Rivers will take prompt and effective steps to end the bullying, eliminate its effects and prevent it from recurring.

Prior to the investigation of an incident, the principal (or their designee) will take steps to ensure the safety of the alleged victim referenced in a reported bullying incident. Once an investigation is concluded, further steps will be taken as needed to assure the continued safety of the victim from additional incidents of bullying or retaliation.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment, sexual assault and dating violence are strictly prohibited on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at school sponsored or school related activities, functions or programs whether on or off school grounds, on or off school bus or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school.

Sexual harassment, sexual assault and dating violence are also prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school, if the act or acts in question create a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringe on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Retaliation against a youth, volunteer or staff member who reports sexual harassment, sexual assault and dating violence, provides information about any such acts, witnesses any such acts, or who testifies, assists, participates or refuses to participate in an investigation, proceeding or hearing is also prohibited.

Administrators will make expectations clear to students and staff that sexual harassment, sexual assault and dating violence will not be tolerated and will be the grounds for disciplinary action up to and including suspension and dismissal for students.

Reports of bullying or harassment can be made to:

Aqueelha James
Chief Academic Officer
ajames@tworiverspcs.org
202-388-1360

McKenzie Baecker
4th Street Interim Principal
mbaecker@tworiverspcs.org
202-543-8477

Ashley Stone
Two Rivers Middle School Principal
astone@tworiverspcs.org
202-388-3177

Derrick Miles
Two Rivers Middle School Assistant
Principal dmiles@tworiverspcs.org
202-388-3177

Megan DeRitter
Young ES Principal
mderitter@tworiverspcs.org
202-388-1360

Staff can also be reached on ParentSquare.

Counseling and Interventions for Accused Students

Two Rivers will work with its wellness and mental health providers to identify appropriate counseling and intervention strategies for students alleged to have committed acts of sexual harassment, sexual assault or dating violence, and to determine whether it is a referral to the Child and Family Services Agency is required where the accused's behavior indicates that he or she may be the victim of child sexual abuse or child abuse.

