

MONONA GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy 411.12

BULLYING

The Monona Grove School District is committed to creating a safe, caring, and respectful learning environment for all students and strictly enforces a prohibition against bullying of any of its students by anyone. Site-based initiatives, developed collaboratively between school administration and personnel, students, families and community members will seek to: (1) help students of all ages and abilities stay safe, act wisely, and believe in themselves; and (2) help adults respond effectively to students' reports and their own observations. The Monona Grove School District is committed to training staff regarding bullying, and educating students about what bullying is and issues surrounding bullying.

Bullying is aggressive, intentional or deliberately hostile behavior by a student(s) towards another student(s). Bullying consists of deliberately hurtful behavior, which occurs repeatedly over a period of time. It can take many forms and can occur in any setting. Bullying can include, but is not limited to, intimidation such as name calling or threatening; social alienation such as shunning or spreading rumors; written notes, phone calls or electronic messages that are offensive, hurtful, annoying or worrying; or physical aggression such as assaults on a student or attacks on a student's property. Victims of bullying behavior are often unable to defend themselves.

Bullying can create an atmosphere of fear for all members of the school community. It also can create unnecessary and unwarranted anxiety that affects the ability of a student to attend school, learn in school, ride the school bus, walk in school corridors, eat in the school cafeteria, play in the school yard or recreation areas, participate in or attend special or extracurricular activities, or travel to or from school. Bullying behaviors that are not addressed can lead to devastating consequences for young people, including depression, drops in school performance and attendance. The failure to address bullying behaviors also gives other students the message that it is permissible to engage in negative behaviors. It is the responsibility of everyone who sees an instance of bullying, or potential bullying, to act to stop it. This responsibility applies to all students, teachers, and other members of the staff. Parents who are concerned about bullying issues are always welcome to contact the Principal or any other member of the staff about their concerns.

Bullying of students occurring in the schools is prohibited by law and will not be tolerated by the Monona Grove School District. For purposes of this policy, "school" includes schools, school grounds, school buses, school-sponsored social events, trips, sports events, or similar school-sponsored events and functions and travel to and from school and/or school sponsored events.

The Monona Grove School District takes allegations of bullying seriously and will respond promptly to complaints and allegations of bullying. Students are encouraged and expected to report an incident of bullying to any staff member at his or her school, preferably within 24 hours, for proper investigation. Where it is determined that inappropriate conduct has occurred, the Monona Grove School District will act promptly to eliminate the conduct and will impose corrective action as necessary, which may range from requiring the offender to work with school personnel to correct the behavior, a recommendation for the provision of school counseling, and/or disciplinary action where appropriate, up to and including suspension, expulsion and/or court involvement.

The Superintendent will develop administrative guidelines and procedures for the implementation of this policy.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes 118.01(2)(d)8 (Personal Development)
118.13 (Student Non-discrimination)
947.0125 (Email Harassment)

CROSS REFERENCE:

BOARD APPROVAL: December 14, 2005