

## ***NOTICE ON BULLYING***

**BULLYING:** Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic methods, or physical conduct against another student on school property, at a school-sponsored or –related activity, or in a district-operated vehicle, and the behavior:

- Results in harm to the student or the student’s property;
- Places a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or of damage to the student’s property; or
- Is so severe, persistent, and pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.

This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator(s) and the student victim and if it interferes with a student’s education or substantially disrupts the operation of the school.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called “cyberbullying.”

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct.

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. The district will also contact the parents of the victim and of the student who was found to have engaged in the bullying. Available counseling options will be provided to these individuals, as well as to any students who have been identified as witnesses to the bullying.

Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited.

The principal may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. The parent of a student who has been determined by the district to be a victim of bullying may request that his or her child be transferred to another classroom within the district.

In the event of a bullying incident, the following procedures will be followed:

- Parents of students involved in bullying incident will be contacted;
- Teachers and/or Administration will conference with students involved and investigate allegations; and
- If bullying has indeed taken place, the disciplinary procedures may include:
  - Detention
  - In-School Suspension (ISS)
  - Suspension from school
  - Expulsion to DAEP
  - Removal of bus privileges
  - Suspension from extra-curricular activities.

Transfer students who engage in bullying will be withdrawn from La Gloria ISD.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation may appeal through policy FNG (LOCAL).