

# LODI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Revised**  
**Students**

**Policy 5131.3-~~Policy 5131.2~~**

## **Bullying**

The Board of Education recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student *well-being*, learning and school attendance and desires to provide *a welcoming, safe and supportive* school environment that protects students from physical, *mental*, and emotional harm. ~~District employees shall establish student safety as a high priority and shall not tolerate bullying of any student.~~

No *individual or group* student or groups of students shall, through physical, written, verbal, *visual* or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any other student or school personnel, *or retaliate against them for filing a complaint or participating in the complaint resolution process.*

~~Cyberbullying includes the creation and transmission of harassing communication, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.~~

~~Strategies for addressing bullying in district schools shall be developed with involvement of key stakeholders, including students, parents/guardians, and staff, and may be incorporated into the comprehensive safety plan, the local control and accountability plan, and other applicable district and school plans.~~

~~As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee may collaborate with law enforcement, courts, social services, mental health services, other agencies, and community organizations in the development and implementation of joint strategies to promote safety in schools and the community and to provide services for alleged victims and perpetrators of bullying.~~

## **Bullying Prevention**

~~To the extent possible, district and school strategies shall focus on prevention of bullying by establishing clear rules for student conduct and strategies to establish~~

~~a positive, collaborative school climate. Students shall be informed, through student handbooks and other appropriate means, of district and school rules related to bullying, mechanisms available for reporting incidents or threats, and the consequences for perpetrators of bullying.~~

~~The district may provide students with instruction, in the classroom or other educational settings, that promotes effective communication and conflict-resolution skills, social skills, character/values education, respect for cultural and individual differences, self-esteem development, assertiveness skills, and appropriate online behavior.~~

~~Staff shall receive related professional development, including information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors and effective response.~~

~~Based on an assessment of bullying incidents at school, the Superintendent or designee may increase supervision and security in areas where bullying most often occurs, such as classrooms, playgrounds, hallways, restrooms, and cafeterias.~~

### **Intervention**

~~Students are encouraged to notify school staff when they are being bullied or suspect that another student is being victimized. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall develop means for students to report threats or incidents confidentially and anonymously.~~

~~School staff who witness bullying shall immediately intervene to stop the incident when it is safe to do so.~~

~~When appropriate, the superintendent or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of victims and perpetrators. He/she also may involve school counselors, mental health counselors, and/or law enforcement.~~

~~The Superintendent, principal, or principal's designee may refer a victim, witness, perpetrator, or other student affected by an act of bullying to a school counselor, school psychologist, social worker, child welfare attendance personnel, school nurse, or other school support service personnel for case management, counseling, and/or participation in a restorative justice program as appropriate.~~

### **Reporting and Filing Complaints**

~~Any student, parent/guardian, or other individual who believes that a student has been subjected to bullying or who has witnessed bullying may report the incident to a teacher, the principal, a compliance officer, or any other available school employee. Within one business day of receiving such a report, a staff member shall notify the principal of the report, whether or not a uniform complaint is filed. In addition, any school employee who observes an incident of bullying involving a student shall, within one business day, report his/her observation to the principal or a district compliance officer, whether or not the alleged victim files a complaint.~~

~~Within two business days of receiving a report of bullying, the principal shall notify the district compliance officer, identified in Board Rule 1312.3—Uniform Complaint Procedures.~~

~~When the circumstances involve cyberbullying, individuals with information about the activity shall be encouraged to save and print any electronic or digital messages that they feel constitute cyberbullying and to notify a teacher, the principal, or other employee so that the matter may be investigated. When a student uses a social networking site or service to bully or harass another student, the Superintendent or designee may file a request with the networking site or service to suspend the privileges of the student or to have the material removed.~~

~~When a report of bullying is submitted, the principal or a district compliance officer shall inform the student or parent/guardian of the right to file a formal written complaint in accordance with Board Rule 1312.3. The student who is the alleged victim of bullying shall be given an opportunity to describe the incident, identify witnesses who may have relevant information, and provide other evidence of bullying.~~

### **Investigation and Resolution of Complaints**

Any complaint of bullying shall be investigated and, if determined to be discriminatory, resolved in accordance with law and the district's uniform complaint procedures specified in Board Rule 1312.3.

If during the investigation, it is determined to be discriminatory bullying, the principal or designee shall inform the complainant and shall take all necessary actions to resolve the complaint.

**Discipline**

~~Corrective actions for a student who commits an act of bullying of any type may include counseling, behavioral intervention and education, and, if the behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code 48900, may include suspension or expulsion in accordance with district policies and regulations.~~

Any employee who permits or engages in bullying or retaliation related to bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

*This policy shall apply to all acts constituting bullying related to school activity or to school attendance occurring within a district school, to acts which occur off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored activities but which may have an impact or create a hostile environment at school, and to all acts of the Board of Education and the Superintendent in enacting policies and procedures that govern the district.*

*The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies for addressing bullying in district schools with the involvement of students, parents/guardians, and staff. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee may also collaborate with social services, mental health services, law enforcement, courts, and other agencies and community organizations in the development and implementation of effective strategies to promote safety in schools and the community.*

*Such strategies shall be incorporated into the comprehensive safety plan and, to the extent possible, into the local control and accountability plan and other applicable district and school plans.*

*If the Superintendent or designee believes it is in the best interest of a student who has been the victim of an act of bullying, as defined in Education Code 48900, the Superintendent or designee shall advise the student's parents/guardians that the student may transfer to another school. If the parents/guardians of a student who has been the victim of an act of bullying requests a transfer for the student pursuant to Education Code 46600, the Superintendent or designee shall allow the transfer in accordance with law and district policy on intradistrict or interdistrict transfer, as applicable.*

*District families are encouraged to model respectful behavior, contribute to a safe and supportive learning environment, and monitor potential causes of bullying.*

***Policy Reference Disclaimer:***

*These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

**State**

5 CCR 4600-4670

Bus. and Prof. Code 22589-22589.4

Ed. Code 200-262.4

Ed. Code 32280-32289.5

Ed. Code 35181

Ed. Code 35291-35291.5

Ed. Code 46600

Ed. Code 48900-48925

Ed. Code 48985

Ed. Code 52060-52077

Pen. Code 422.55

Pen. Code 647

Pen. Code 647.7

Pen. Code 653.2

**Federal**

28 CFR 35.107

34 CFR 104.7

34 CFR 106.8

34 CFR 110.25

47 USC 254

**Management Resources**CA Office of the Attorney General  
PublicationCalifornia Department of Education  
PublicationCalifornia Department of Education  
PublicationCalifornia Department of Education  
PublicationCalifornia Department of Education  
PublicationCalifornia Department of Education  
Publication

Court Decision

Court Decision

**Description**Uniform complaint proceduresCyberbullying Protection ActProhibition of discriminationSchool safety plansGoverning board authority to set policy on responsibilities of studentsRulesStudent transfersSuspension and expulsionNotices to parents in language other than EnglishLocal control and accountability planDefinition of hate crimeUse of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; misdemeanorUse of camera or other instrument to invade person's privacy; punishmentElectronic communication devices; threats to safety**Description**

Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints

Section 504; Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievances procedures

Designation of coordinator; dissemination of policy, and adoption of grievance procedures

Notification of nondiscrimination on the basis of age

Universal service discounts (E-rate)

**Description**Promoting a Safe and Secure Learning Environment for All:Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's K-12Schools in Responding to Immigration Issues, April 2018Social and Emotional Learning in California: A Guide to Resources, October 2018Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008Bullying at School, 2003Online Bullying Training Module and Bullying ModuleCalifornia's Social and Emotional Learning: Guiding Principles, 2018

J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District (2010) 711 F.Supp.2d 1094

Lavine v. Blaine School District (2002) 279 F.3d 719

<i>Court Decision</i>	<u><a href="#">Wynar v. Douglas County School District (2013) 728 F.3d 1062</a></u>
<i>CSBA Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Building Healthy Communities: A School Leaders Guide to Collaboration and Community Engagement, 2009</a></u>
<i>CSBA Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">School Safety: Bullying and Cyberbullying, Policy Brief, October 2023</a></u>
<i>CSBA Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment for Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Policy Brief, February 2014</a></u>
<i>CSBA Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Addressing the Conditions of Children: Focus on Bullying, Governance Brief, December 2012</a></u>
<i>CSBA Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy Brief, rev. July 2010</a></u>
<i>CSBA Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Final Guidance: AB 1266, Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students, Privacy, Programs, Activities &amp; Facilities, Legal Guidance, March 2014</a></u>
<i>CSBA Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Legal Guidance on Rights of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students in Schools, October 2022</a></u>
<i>U.S. DOE Office for Civil Rights Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Dear Colleague Letter: Responding to Bullying of Students with Disabilities, October 2014</a></u>
<i>U.S. DOE Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Creating Inclusive and Nondiscriminatory School Environments for LGBTQI+ Students, June 2023</a></u>
<i>U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Dear Colleague Letter: Addressing Discrimination Against Jewish Students, May 2023</a></u>
<i>U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Dear Colleague Letter: Discrimination, Including Harassment, Based on Shared Ancestry or Ethnic Characteristics, November 2023</a></u>
<i>U.S. DOE, Office for Civil Rights Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and Bullying, October 2010</a></u>
<i>US Department of Health and Human Services</i>	<u><a href="#">Social Media and Youth Mental Health: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory, 2023</a></u>
<i>US Dept of Health and Human Services Publication</i>	<u><a href="#">Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Health Effects of Social Connection and the Community, 2023</a></u>
<i>Website</i>	<u><a href="#">U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Stop Bullying</a></u>
<i>Website</i>	<u><a href="#">CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</a></u>
<i>Website</i>	<u><a href="#">National School Safety Center</a></u>
<i>Website</i>	<u><a href="#">Partnership for Children and Youth</a></u>
<i>Website</i>	<u><a href="#">Center on Great Teachers and Leaders</a></u>
<i>Website</i>	<u><a href="#">Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning</a></u>
<i>Website</i>	<u><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></u>

*Website*

*California Department of Education, Safe Schools*

*Website*

*California Office of the Attorney General*

*Website*

*CSBA*

*Website*

*U.S. Department of Education*

~~(cf. 5138—Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)~~

~~(cf. 5144—Discipline)~~

~~(cf. 5144.2—Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)~~

~~(cf. 6159.4—Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students)~~

~~Legal Reference:—EDUCATION CODE~~

~~200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination~~

~~32282 Comprehensive Safety Plan-~~

~~32283.5 Bullying; online training~~

~~35181 Governing board policy on responsibilities of students~~

~~35291-35291.5 Rules~~

~~48900-48925 Suspension or expulsion~~

~~48985 Translation of notices~~

~~52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan~~

~~PENAL CODE~~

~~422.55 Definition of hate crime~~

~~647 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's  
privacy; misdemeanor~~

~~647.7 Use of camera or other instrument to invade person's  
privacy; punishment~~

~~653.2 Electronic communication devices, threats to safety~~

~~CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5~~

~~4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures~~

~~CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28~~

~~35.107 Nondiscrimination on basis of disability; complaints~~

~~CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34~~

~~104.7 Designation of responsible employee for Section 504~~

~~106.8 Designation of responsible employee for Title IX~~

~~110.25 Notification of nondiscrimination on the basis of age~~

~~UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 47~~

~~254 Universal service discounts (e-rate)~~

~~COURT DECISIONS~~

~~Wynar v. Douglas County School District, (2013) 728 F.3d  
1062~~

~~J.C. v. Beverly Hills Unified School District, (2010) 711  
F.Supp.2d 1094~~

~~Lavine v. Blaine School District, (2002) 279 F.3d 719~~

~~MANAGEMENT RESOURCES:~~

~~CSBA PUBLICATIONS~~

~~Addressing the Conditions of Children: Focus on Bullying,  
Governance Brief, December 2012~~

~~Safe Schools: Strategies for Governing Boards to Ensure  
Student Success, 2011~~

~~Providing a Safe, Nondiscriminatory School Environment  
for All Students, Policy Brief, April 2010~~

~~Cyberbullying: Policy Considerations for Boards, Policy  
Brief, July 2007~~

~~CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION~~

~~PUBLICATIONS~~

~~Health Education Content Standards for California Public  
Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2008-~~

~~Bullying at School, 2003~~

~~U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL  
RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS~~

~~Dear Colleague Letter: Harassment and bullying, October  
2010~~

~~WEB SITES~~

~~CSBA: <http://www/csba.org>~~

~~California cybersafety for Children:~~

~~<http://www.cybersafety.ca.gov>~~

~~California Department of Education, Safe School Office:~~

~~<http://www.cde.ca.gov/Is/ss>~~

~~Center for Safe Responsible Internet~~

~~Use:<http://cyberbully.org>~~



National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

National School Safety Center: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil

Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

Policy

adopted: 12/10/13

revised: 05/19/15

revised: 08/15/17