

Spearville Middle/High School

Bullying Policy

Bullying Policy

Spearville Public Schools are committed to creating a safe, caring, respectful learning environment for all students. Bullying of students occurring in the schools is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. For the purposes of the policy, “school” includes school buildings, school grounds, and school-sponsored social events, trips, sporting events, buses, and bus stops. Reported incidents of bullying will be investigated promptly and thoroughly by school administration.

Definition of Bullying:

Bullying is a pattern of aggressive, intentional or deliberately hostile behavior that occurs repeatedly and over time. Bullying behaviors normally fall into three categories, physical, emotional, and verbal, and may include, but are not limited to, intimidation, assault; extortion; oral or written threats; teasing; putdowns; name-calling; threatening looks; gestures, or actions; rumor; false accusations; hazing, social isolation, and cyber-bullying.

Preventative Measures:

- 1.) **Student Instruction/Awareness:** Bullying behaviors are unacceptable. Ongoing instruction is to be provided through the Character Education and other instruction programs in the pre-K through 12th grade Spearville Public Schools curriculum.
- 2.) **Staff Awareness/Action:** School personnel shall receive in-service training on anti-bullying policy to ensure a consistent approach is adopted on a district-wide basis. The school administration requires all staff members who observe, suspect, or become aware of an act of bullying to immediately notify an administrator.
- 3.) **Student/Parent Action:** The school system encourages students and parents who become aware of an act of bullying to immediately report the incident(s) to a school administrator for further investigation. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting bullying will also be subject to consequences.
- 4.) **Complaint/Investigative Procedure:** All students shall be informed of their right to protection against bullying behaviors and the right to file a complaint if they believe they have been the victim of bullying behavior. School administrators are responsible for investigating each complaint, determining if the complaint is legitimate in accordance with the above definition, and taking appropriate corrective action. Any student (be they the victim or the bystander) may initiate a complaint by talking to a teacher or completing a confidential reporting form and returning it to a building administrator. Any student or parent may also file a complaint by using the confidential email listed on the school website at www.Usd381.org. **The email address is:** stopbullying@usd381.org

Intervention/Consequences:

Reports of bullying are taken seriously and shall be dealt with quickly and effectively. If a student is found guilty of bullying behavior the consequences shall depend on both the results of the investigation and the severity of the incident. Parental contact will take place despite the result of the investigation.

Consequences may include but are not limited to:

- Classroom detention
- Office detention
- Parent conference
- Removal from extracurricular event(s)
- Counseling
- Suspension (in-school or out –of-school)
- Expulsion (for up to 180 days)
- Referral to local law enforcement agency
- Others as deemed appropriate by administration

As a student and parent/guardian of Spearville MS/HS, you understand that you must comply with all USD 381 Policies. You also understand that non-compliance will result in sanctions as addressed in the policies and this contract. By signing the Signature form it acknowledges that you have read and agree to the above terms and policies.