



Indian Valley Middle School Anti-Bullying Policy

Indian Valley Middle School (IV) recognizes that bullying is an inappropriate behavior that has destructive and negative effects on individual students and on the overall climate of a school. IV believes that all students are entitled to a safe and secure learning environment; bullying works against the achievement of that goal. Bullying of a student by another student is strictly prohibited on school property, in school buildings, on school buses, and at school-sponsored events and/or activities whether occurring on or off campus. Bullying is a behavior that should never be tolerated. It is important that teachers, students, and parents take a stand against all bullying behaviors.

WHAT IS SCHOOL BULLYING?

School bullying is when one or more students repeatedly act towards another student in a way which is intended to hurt, intimidate, or diminish that other student. These behaviors are generally categorized as follows.

- **Relational bullying** is sometimes referred to as “social” or “psychological” bullying. This takes the form of disrupting another student’s peer relationships through gossiping, whispering and spreading rumors. It also includes turning your back on them, giving them the silent treatment, leaving them out. In contrast to face to face bullying, social bullying is often indirect; students communicate negative representations of the target to third parties, often through cyber-bullying such as cell phones, computer, pager, personal communication device, instant messaging, chat rooms, postings on web pages or blogs.
- **Verbal bullying** such as threatening, taunting, intimidating, insulting, sarcasm, teasing, ridiculing, making faces, rolling eyes and other gestures.
- **Physical bullying**, both to the person (such as hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking, pinching, holding down) and to their possessions (through extorting money, stealing or causing their possessions damage).
- **Sexual bullying**, which includes unwanted sexual attention and comments, gender-demeaning remarks and jokes, using sexually offensive names, circulating pornography, touching the private parts of another student’s body, molestation, assault, and rape. Sexual bullying is often referred to as sexual harassment.

****Harassment, intimidation, or bullying is either (1) an intentional written, verbal, or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both (a) causes mental or physical harm to the other student, and (b) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it causes an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student; or (2) violence within a dating relationship.**

Education Code: those behaviors listed above that are considered bullying are often violations of Ed. Code and/or criminal code. It is very important to be aware of this. The Ed. Code violations associated with bullying are from EC. 48900: A1, caused, attempted, threatened physical injury also Penal Code Section 415; I, committing an obscene act or engaging in habitual profanity; K, willful defiance of valid authority; O, witness harassment or intimidation; Q, hazing; 48900.3 Hate Violence; and Penal Code 212.5, committed sexual harassment.

IV staff is committed to a policy that identifies and corrects those students who become involved in bullying behaviors. Each year, IV staff will be provided training needed to help educate students in all grade levels to help them identify and respond to the dangers of bullying.

IV expects that all students will refrain from becoming involved in any bullying behaviors. Failure to comply with these expectations will result in disciplinary action. In addition, it is expected that all bystanders (third party witnesses) will refrain from supporting bullying behaviors in either an active or passive manner and will report bullying behaviors to the appropriate authorities.

Reporting Procedures:

- A student who is bullied by another student should contact an adult (parent, teacher, coach, mentor, or counselor). Likewise a bystander should also contact an adult. A Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form needs to be filled out. This form is available in the office as well as online for anonymous reporting.
- A counselor or administrator will review and investigate the report from the student and/or reporting adult to verify illegal acts. Student reports that are found to have been intentionally filed under false pretenses or in retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action depending on the severity of the report and length of time needed to investigate.
- Student's "custodial" parent or guardian will be notified and have access to reports of bullying incident.

Disciplinary Action:

- Student offenders will be disciplined in a progressive manner including warnings, detention, Saturday school, suspension, and recommendation for expulsion.
- Interventions to correct inappropriate behaviors may include but are not limited to counseling, violence prevention intervention meetings, behavior intervention packet completions, and District Intervention Team meetings.

Confidentiality and Protection:

Indian Valley Middle School recognizes that both the complaining student and the alleged bully have strong interest in maintaining the confidentiality of the allegations and related information. The privacy of the complaining student, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses will be respected as much as possible, consistent with legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and any discovery or disclosure obligations. As limited by FERPA protections, the principal or his/her designee may inform the complaining student/parents/guardians of the outcome of the investigation.

Depending upon the severity of a particular situation, the building principal may also take the appropriate steps to ensure students' safety. Such steps may include separating and supervising the students involved; providing employee support for students as needed; reporting incidents to law enforcement, if appropriate; and the implementation of a safety plan and/or a supervision plan with parents/guardians.

Indian Valley Middle School has implemented the following programs and curricula to promote anti-bullying:

Building Wide Initiatives

- Bully Buster Group
- Peer Mentoring
- Character Education- word and activities each month
- Assemblies and Field Trips

Positive Behavior Supports

- Honor Roll
- Student of the Month
- Random Acts of Kindness
- Classroom Recognition

Disciplinary Intervention

- Parent Collaboration
- Conference with Principal
- Conference with Counselor
- Behavior Monitor Sheets
- Student Responsibility Sheets
- Student Handbook

Community Collaboration

- DARE program

Guidance Intervention

- Group Counseling
- One-on-one Counseling
- Character Education Lessons

Curricular Integration

- **Social Studies**
 - Slavery in all civilization
 - Exclusion to women
 - Persecution due to religion
- **English Language Arts**
 - Novels: *“Outsiders”*, *“Freak the Mighty”*
 - Cause & Effect essays and debates
 - Reflective & Persuasive Essays
- **Math & Science**
 - Anti-Bullying Week
 - Posters, contest, fun

[BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION REPORTING FORM](#)