

PROHIBITION OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING

It is the policy of the Mount Vernon School District to maintain a safe, respectful, and secure learning environment for all students that is free from harassment, intimidation and bullying. Harassment, intimidation and bullying of students by other students, staff members, volunteers, parents or guardians are prohibited.

It shall be a violation of this policy and the District's student discipline policy for any student of the District to harass, intimidate or bully another student through electronic, written, verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct as defined by this policy while in or on school property (or in reasonable proximity thereto), school transportation, or at school-sponsored activities off school property.

Prevention

The district will provide students with strategies designed to prevent harassment, intimidation and bullying. In its efforts to educate students, the district will seek partnerships with families, law enforcement, and other community agencies.

Interventions

Interventions will be designed to address the impact that harassment, intimidation and bullying has on victims and upon others impacted by the violation. Interventions will also be designed to change the behavior of the perpetrator, and to restore a positive school climate.

The district will consider the frequency of incidents, developmental age of the student, and severity of the conduct to determine intervention strategies. Interventions may include counseling, correcting behavior and discipline, to law enforcement referrals.

Students with Individual Education Plans or Section 504 Plans

If allegations are made that a student with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan has been the target of harassment, intimidation or bullying, the school will convene the student's IEP or Section 504 team to determine whether the incident had an impact on the student's ability to receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE). The meeting will occur regardless of whether the harassment, intimidation or bullying incident was based on the student's disability. During the meeting, the team will evaluate issues such as the student's academic performance, behavior issues, attendance, and participation in extracurricular activities. If a determination is made that the student is not receiving a FAPE, as a result of the harassment, intimidation or bullying incident, the district will provide all necessary additional services and supports, such as counseling, monitoring and/or reevaluation or revision of the student's IEP or Section 504 plan, to ensure the student receives a FAPE.

Retaliation

Retaliation against those who report or participate in an investigation of harassment, intimidation and bullying is prohibited. Such retaliation will result in appropriate discipline.

False Allegations

Knowingly reporting false allegations of harassment, intimidation, and bullying is prohibited. Students or employees will not be disciplined for making a report in good faith. However, persons found to knowingly report or corroborate false allegations will be subject to appropriate discipline.

Compliance Officer

The superintendent will appoint a compliance officer as the primary district contact to receive copies of all harassment, intimidation, and bullying Incident Report Forms and to ensure policy implementation. The name and contact information for the compliance officer will be communicated throughout the district.

The superintendent is authorized to direct the development and implementation of procedures to carry out this policy.

Cross References:	Policy 2161	Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
	Policy 3200	Student Rights and Responsibilities
	Policy 3207P	Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
	Policy 3210	Nondiscrimination
	Policy 3240	Student Conduct, Corrective Actions and Punishment

Legal Reference:	RCW 9A.36.080	Malicious harassment—Definition and criminal penalty
	RCW 26.44	Abuse of Children
	RCW 28A.300.285	Harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention policies and procedures—Model policy and procedure—Training materials—Posting on Web site—Rules—Advisory committee
	RCW 28A.600.480	Reporting of harassment, intimidation or bullying—Retaliation prohibited—Immunity Sexual Equality
	RCW 49.60	Discrimination—human rights commission

WAC 392-190	Equal Educational Opportunity—Unlawful discrimination prohibited WAC 392- 400-215 Student rights
Title IX	Education Amendments of 1972