

## **Cyberbullying Prevention**

The District prohibits all forms of bullying, harassment, hazing, and intimidation, and specifically prohibits cyberbullying.

### **Definitions**

For purposes of this policy “cyberbullying” means electronic communication that:

- (1) Targets a specific student;
- (2) Is published with the intention that the communication be seen or disclosed to the targeted student;
- (3) Is in fact seen by or disclosed to the targeted student; and
- (4) Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment on the school campus that is so severe or pervasive as to substantially interfere with the targeted student’s educational benefits, opportunities, or performance.

### **Reporting**

Any school employee who has information, or a reasonable suspicion, that a student is being cyberbullied shall report the matter immediately to the campus principal, the superintendent, or both. Reports shall be reduced to writing on the district’s Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying or Hazing Report Form. If the reporting school employee does not complete the report, the receiving administrator is responsible for completing the form.

### **Investigation**

Upon receipt of a report of cyberbullying, the campus administrator or designee shall take immediate steps to promptly investigate the report, and to document the findings from that investigation. All reports of cyberbullying shall be investigated and documented within 20 school days. If more time is needed for an effective investigation, the responsible administrator shall notify the relevant parties.

### **Disciplinary Action**

Appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken in response to the findings from a cyberbullying investigation, including but not limited to confirmed instances of cyberbullying. Consistent with state law, where cyberbullying is found, disciplinary action will be by the least restrictive means necessary to address a hostile environment on the school campus and may include, but is not limited to, counseling, mediation, and appropriate disciplinary action consistent District policy.

### **Training**

All instructional and licensed school personnel shall be provided with annual training on recognition and prevention of cyberbullying.

### **Legal Reference:**

NMSA 1978 § 22-2-21 (2013).