



Last Revised: April 28, 2014

Creating a safe and respectful learning environment

KEY MESSAGE: CCSD policy is very clear on prohibiting all bullying and cyberbullying. Administrators and counselors are trained to discuss it, report it and stop it. Together we can create a culture of respect. It is our responsibility as educators to increase our students' awareness so they can safely report incidents.

- CCSD and the Board of School Trustees take any form of harassment very seriously.
- Administrators and counselors are trained to take all allegations of bullying and cyberbullying seriously and talk with students on how to resolve the situation. Discipline – up to and including suspensions and expulsions – can also be a consequence.
- School district administrators and teachers talk about anti-bullying efforts in classrooms and students learn about bullying behaviors.
- The district has coordinated efforts to deter bullying and cyberbullying via age-appropriate educational campaigns.
- These initiatives empower students to respect other's differences while creating environments that are inclusive.
- Students who feel valued and respected are able to focus on their studies.
- Districtwide staff development focuses on issues associated with bullying and cyberbullying, Educators learn differences between normal peer conflict and identifying the traits of a bully, target, or bystander.
- CCSD Policies and Regulations regarding a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment are followed, as well as strategies for reporting, prevention and intervention.
- It is up to all of us to deter any harmful student interactions and stop them.
- Staff training and student education are crucial in the prevention of bullying and cyberbullying, but the base of a child's education on how to respect others should come from parents/guardians.
- Parents/guardians are vital to providing support and lessons about appropriate behaviors to their children.

Superintendent's Task Force on Bullying:

To prepare for the 2014-15 school year and the 2015 legislative session, Superintendent Skorkowsky assembled a Superintendent's Task Force composed of principals, teachers, support staff and others from throughout the district to:

- Review existing state law and corresponding CCSD policies.
- Make recommendations for changes and/or updates to policy; and recommend potential legislative action, if appropriate.
- Examine current implementation of CCSD policy across the District to determine if schools are in compliance and consistent in their practices.
- Make recommendations of how schools can improve in consistent implementation of both the intent and spirit of the policies.

The Task Force will present its findings to the Board of School Trustees at its work session on May 7.

Parents/guardians can:

- Tell their child that it is never okay to be bullied or cyberbullied.
- Tell their child it is never okay to bully or cyberbully another person.
- Watch for signs that their child might be experiencing bullying, such as: a fear of going to school, unexplained injuries, sudden difficulty in school, no desire to eat, becoming withdrawn or becoming aggressive.
- Meet with their child's school principal, counselor, or teacher and report the bullying and/or cyberbullying right away.
- Let their child know that they will work together with the school to resolve the problem and they are not alone.
- Let their child know that the situation is not their fault and encourage their child to discuss their feelings.
- The district provides bullying and cyberbullying resources on its website at ccsd.net.
- Parents and students can report a bullying or cyberbullying incident anonymously on the district's website at ccsd.net/students/bullying.