

Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Menacing/Bullying/Cyberbullying – Student

The Board is committed to providing a positive and productive learning environment. Hazing, harassment, intimidation, menacing or bullying and acts of cyberbullying by students is strictly prohibited. Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry is also strictly prohibited. False charges shall also be regarded as a serious offense and will result in disciplinary action or other appropriate sanctions.

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion. The district may also file a request with the Oregon Department of Transportation to suspend the driving privileges or the right to apply for driving privileges of a student 15 years of age or older who has been suspended or expelled at least twice for menacing another student or employee, willful damage or injury to district property or for the use of threats, intimidation, harassment or coercion. Students may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

The superintendent is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented.

Definitions

“District” includes district facilities, district premises and non-district property if the student is at any district-sponsored, district-approved or district-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the control of the district.

Hazing” includes, but is not limited to, any act that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or as a condition or precondition of attaining membership in, or affiliation with, any district-sponsored activity or grade level attainment, (i.e., personal servitude, sexual stimulation/sexual assault, forced consumption of any drink, alcoholic beverage, drug or controlled substance, forced exposure to the elements, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, sleep deprivation or any other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of a student); requires, encourages, authorizes or permits another to be subject to wearing or carrying any obscene or physically burdensome article; assignment of pranks to be performed or other such activities intended to degrade or humiliate regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

“Harassment, intimidation or bullying” means any act that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities or performance, that takes place on or immediately adjacent to district grounds, at any district-sponsored activity, on district-provided transportation or at any official district bus stop, that may be based on, but not limited to, the protected class status of a person, having the effect of:

1. Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property;

2. Knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student's property;
3. Creating a hostile educational environment including interfering with the psychological well being of the student.

“Protected class” means a group of persons distinguished, or perceived to be distinguished, by race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, martial status, familial status, source of income or disability.

“Cyberbullying” is the use of any electronic communication device to convey a message in any form (text, image, audio or video) that defames, intimidates, harasses or is otherwise intended to harm, insult or humiliate another in a deliberate, repeated or hostile and unwanted manner under a person’s true or false identity. In addition, any communication of this form which substantially disrupts or prevents a safe and positive educational or working environment may also be considered cyberbullying, harass, intimidate or bully. Students and staff will refrain from using personal communication devices or district property/equipment to harass or stalk another.

“Retaliation” means hazing, harassment, intimidation, menacing or bullying and acts of cyberbullying toward a person in response to a student for actually or apparently reporting or participating in the investigation of hazing, harassment, intimidation, menacing or bullying and acts of cyberbullying or retaliation.

“Menacing” includes, but is not limited to, any act intended to place a district employee, student or third party in fear of imminent serious physical injury.

Reporting

A Helix School District staff member or designee will take reports and conduct a prompt investigation of any report of an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying and acts of cyberbullying. Any employee who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this policy shall immediately report his/her concerns to the superintendent who has overall responsibility for all investigations. Any student who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this policy or feels he/she has been hazed, harassed, intimidated, menaced or bullied and acts of being cyberbullied in violation of this policy shall is encouraged to immediately report his/her concerns to the superintendent who has overall responsibility for all investigations. This report may be made anonymously. A student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate district official.

Complaints against the superintendent shall be filed with the Board chair.

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation and, as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. The complainant may request that the superintendent review the actions taken in the initial investigation, in accordance with district complaint procedures.

The district is encouraged to incorporate into existing training programs for students and staff information related to the prevention of, and the appropriate response to, acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying and acts of cyberbullying.

The superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring annual notice of this policy is provided in a student or employee handbook, district's Web site, and school and district office and the development of administrative regulations, including reporting and investigative procedures. Complaint procedures, as established by the district, shall be followed.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

<u>ORS 163.190</u>	<u>OAR 581-021-0045</u>
<u>ORS 166.065</u>	<u>OAR 581-021-0046</u>
<u>ORS 166.155 - 166.165</u>	<u>OAR 581-021-0055</u>
<u>ORS 332.072</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-1140</u>
<u>ORS 332.107</u>	
<u>ORS 339.240</u>	HB 2599 (2009)
<u>ORS 339.250</u>	
<u>ORS 339.254</u>	
<u>ORS 339.260</u>	
<u>ORS 339.351 - 339.364</u>	

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (2006).