

Oregon Virtual Education Charter School

Code: **JFCF**
Adopted: 5/14/12
Readopted: 7/20/12

Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Cyberbullying/ Teen Dating Violence – Student **

The Board in its commitment to providing a positive and productive learning environment will consult with parents/guardians, employees, volunteers, students, administrators and community representatives in developing this policy compliance with applicable Oregon Revised Statutes. Harassment, intimidation or bullying and acts of cyberbullying by students, staff and third parties toward students is strictly prohibited. Teen dating violence is unacceptable behavior and 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 public charter school 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 executive director is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented.

Definitions

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

“Third parties” include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors or others engaged in public charter school business, such as employees of businesses or organizations participating in cooperative work programs with the public charter school and others not directly subject to public charter school control at inter-public charter school and intra- public charter school athletic competitions or other school events.

“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 public charter school grounds, at any public charter school-sponsored activity, on public charter school-provided transportation or at any official public charter school 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 orientation¹, national origin, marital status, familial status, source of income or disability.

“Teen dating violence” means:

1. A pattern of behavior in which a person uses or threatens to use physical, mental or emotional abuse to control another person who is in a dating relationship with the person, where one or both persons are 13 to 19 years of age; or
2. Behavior by which a person uses or threatens to use sexual violence against another person who is in a dating relationship with the person, where one or both persons are 13 to 19 years of age.

“Cyberbullying” is the use of any electronic communication device to harass, intimidate or bully.

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

Reporting

The regional administrator 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 regional administrator who has overall responsibility for all investigations. Any employee who has knowledge of incidents of teen dating violence that took place on public charter school property, at a public charter school sponsored activity or in a public charter school vehicle or vehicle used for transporting students to a public charter school activity shall immediately report the incident to the regional administrator. Failure of an employee to report an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of cyberbullying to the regional administrator may subject to remedial action, up to and including dismissal. Remedial action may not be based solely on an anonymous report.

Any student who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this policy or feels he/she has been harassed, intimidated or bullied, teen dating violence and acts of being cyberbullied in violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report his/her concerns to the regional administrator who has overall responsibility for all investigations. Any volunteer who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report his/her concerns to the regional administrator 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 public charter school official.

¹“Sexual orientation” means an individual’s actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality or gender identity, regardless of whether the individual’s gender identity, appearance, expression or behaviors differs from that traditionally associated with the individual’s sex at birth.

Complaints against the regional administrator shall be filed with the director.

Complaints against the director 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 director review the actions taken in the initial investigation, in accordance with administrative regulations.

The public charter school shall 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 public charter school shall incorporate age-appropriate education about teen dating violence into new or existing training programs for students in grade 7 through 12.

The public charter school shall incorporate into existing training programs for staff information related to the prevention of, and the appropriate response to, acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying, teen dating violence and acts of cyberbullying.

The director shall be responsible for ensuring annual notice of this policy is provided in a student or employee handbook, school and district website, and school and public charter school office and the development of administrative regulations, including reporting and investigative procedures.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 163.190	ORS 339.240	OAR 581-021-0046
ORS 166.065	ORS 339.250	OAR 581-021-0055
ORS 166.155 to-166.165	ORS 339.254	OAR 581-022-1140
ORS 174.100(6)	ORS 339.351 to-339.364	
ORS 332.072		HB 4077 (2012)
ORS 332.107	OAR 581-021-0045	SB 1555 (2012)

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

Cross Reference(s):

GBN/JBA - Sexual Harassment
JBA/GBN - Sexual Harassment
JFCM - Threats of Violence