

PREVENTION OF BULLYING OF STUDENTS

POLICY

The South Burlington School District recognizes that all students should have a safe, orderly, civil and positive learning environment.¹ Bullying is a form of dangerous and disrespectful behavior that will not be permitted or tolerated. Bullying may involve a range of misconduct that, based on the severity, will warrant corrective action and/or discipline. Behaviors that do not rise to the level of bullying may still be subject to intervention and/or discipline under other District procedures and policies.

For the purposes of this policy, “bullying” is defined as any overt act or combination of acts, including an act conducted by electronic means, directed against a student by another student or group of students and which:

- A. is repeated over time;
- B. is intended to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate the student; and
- C. either:
 - a. occurs during the school day on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity; or before or after the school day on a school bus or at a school-sponsored activity;
 - b. does not occur during the school day on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity and can be shown to pose a clear and substantial interference with another student’s right to access educational programs.²

Examples of bullying include:

- Name-calling and verbal taunts
- Physical threats or actual physical harm
- Off-campus text messages or social media posts that ridicule or intimidate to the extent that the targeted student is not able to fully access the school’s programs

In order to be bullying, incidents such as the ones described above must be repeated over time, directed at a particular student, **and** intended to ridicule, humiliate or intimidate.

¹ 16 V.S.A. §570(a)

² 16 V.S.A. §11(a)(32)

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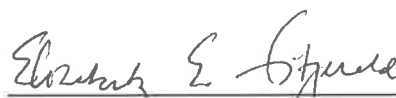
In some cases, acts of bullying may constitute unlawful harassment, where the conduct is based on or motivated by a student(s) or student(s) family member(s) actual or perceived:

Race	Sex
Religion	Sexual Orientation
Creed	Gender Identity
Color	Age
National Origin	Political Affiliation
Marital Status	Ancestry
Place of Birth	Disability

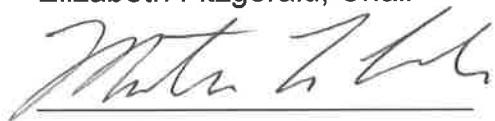
Any allegations of harassment will be addressed under the South Burlington School District's Policy on the Prevention of Harassment of Students.

Date Policy Warned: October 16, 2013
Date Policy Considered: November 6, 2013
Date Policy Adopted: November 20, 2013

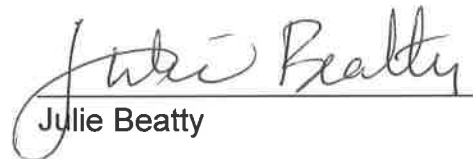
Signed:



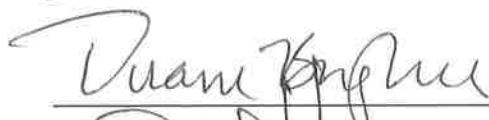
Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair



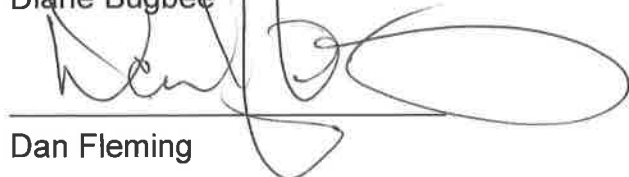
Martin LaLonde, Clerk



Julie Beatty



Diane Bugbee



Dan Fleming