



Partnering with families to realize each child's potential

ANTI-BULLYING/ ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

UPDATED JULY 2016

Purpose

The Widener Partnership Charter School (WPCS) strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students. It shall be the policy of the school to maintain an environment in which bullying is not tolerated. WPCS recognizes that bullying has a detrimental impact on school climate. Students who are threatened, intimidated and fearful cannot devote single-minded pursuit of a quality education. Every student has the right to an education and to be safe in and around the school and at school activities.

Definition

Bullying is a pattern of abuse or aggressive behavior by one student or a group of students, carried out repeatedly and over time, typically targeted towards someone less physically or socially powerful. Bullying behavior includes physical intimidation or assault; oral or written threats; teasing; putdowns; or name calling; that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating hostile, or abusive environment; threatening looks; gestures or actions; psychological cruelty, such as spreading rumors or false accusations and shunning the individual.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to bully another student on school grounds, during the time traveling to and from school, or at any school activity on or off campus.

Investigation Procedures

Upon learning about a bullying incident, the principal or designee shall interview students, and thoroughly investigate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents/guardians and school staff; the review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues. Students will be encouraged to willingly volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the use of school property in the commission of bullying activities.

Consequences/Intervention

Depending upon the severity of a particular situation, the building principal may also take appropriate steps to ensure student safety. Such steps may include the implementation of a safety plan; separating and supervising the students involved; providing employee support for students as needed; reporting incidents to law enforcement, if appropriate; and developing a supervision plan with parents/guardians.

Consequences for students who bully others will be subject to interventions and/or disciplinary actions that may include counseling, restorative actions, a parent conference, detention, suspension, Disciplinary Hearing, or a recommendation for Expulsion depending on the severity and incidents.

Student and Family Reporting

The school strongly encourages all students and parents/guardians who become aware of any act of bullying to immediately report that conduct. Students may report acts of bullying to their teachers, building principal or other school employees supervising school-sponsored activities. Parents/guardians may contact the building principal to report acts of bullying.

Confidentiality

WPCS recognizes that both the complaining student and the alleged bully/extorter have strong interest in maintaining the confidentiality of the allegations and related information. The privacy of the complaining student, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses will be respected as much as possible, consistent with legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with Family Education Privacy Rights Act (“FERPA”) and any discovery or disclosure obligations. As limited by FERPA protections, the principal or his/her designee may inform the complaining student/parents of the outcome of the investigation.

Reprisal

Any student who retaliates against another student for reporting bullying or extortion or for assisting or testifying in the investigation or hearing may be subject to disciplinary action including suspension and expulsion.

Any use of the network for commercial or for-profit purposes, product advertisement, political lobbying, or illegal activity is prohibited.

Enforcement of Policy:

WPCS uses a technology protection measure that blocks or filters access to some World Wide Web sites. This measure protects against access by adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or –with respect to use of computers with Internet access by minors – harmful to minors. Filtering may be disabled for adults engaged in bona fide research or other lawful purposes. To ensure enforcement of the policy, WPCS will monitor use of technology resources through direct supervision, monitoring Internet use history, or various software and hardware tools.

Violation of this Policy:

Violation of WPCS’s Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy in any way may result in suspension or the loss of the privilege to access the Internet and World Wide Web or other technology resources provided by the school. Other disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with existing WPCS policy. When necessary, the WPCS may call in law enforcement agencies.