
Student Services

Laura Meusel, *Executive Director*

PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BULLYING and HARASSMENT POLICY

The Palm Springs Unified School District prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on the actual or perceived characteristics set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code and EC 220 and of a person's disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. This policy applies to all acts related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a district school. EC 234 & 234.1 and BP 5131.2

The Palm Springs Unified School District Board of Education is committed to providing all students with a safe and healthy school environment. To that end, the District, its schools, and the community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance, and not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student, including bullying. Students and staff shall immediately report any suspected or observed bullying to site administration for investigation and appropriate action. For this reason, we are taking an active role in the movement against bullying in our schools and community such as: Educate parents, children and students, teachers, administrators, lawmakers, law enforcement groups, mental health groups, volunteers, and community members about the tragic consequences of bullying in public as well as some private schools. Bullying takes place in all age groups and at all levels of educations.

Bullying is defined as the harassment of students, intimidation, a hazing or initiation activity, ridicule, extortion, or any other verbal, written, electronic communication, or physical conduct, repeated over time, that causes or threatens to cause bodily harm or emotional suffering, creates a hostile learning environment, or disrupts the normal operation of a school, classroom, or school related activity. Bullying includes cyber bullying, which involves the use of electronic communications to post harassing messages, threats, social cruelty, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies. Students who engage in bullying (including cyber bullying) on campus, traveling to or from school, at school activities, or in a manner otherwise related to school attendance, shall be subject to school district disciplinary procedures.

A student shall be subject to school district disciplinary action for off-campus expressions (including via electronic means), when such expressions are obscene, libelous, or slanderous, or when such expression poses a threat to the safety of other students, staff or school property, or disrupts the educational program. Education Codes 32261(f)(g), 48900, 48900.2, 48900.3, 48900.4, 48910, 48911, 48915, 48915.5, 48918, 48918.5

PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BULLYING and HARASSMENT POLICY
PARENT AND STUDENT NOTIFICATION

WHAT IS BULLYING/HARASSMENT?

Bullying is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including or more acts committed by a pupil or group of pupils directed toward one or more pupils that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on the pupil's physical or mental health, academic performance, or ability to participate in school activities.

REPORT IT

Any person that has been a victim of, or witnessed bullying or harassment on school grounds, during school activities, or going to and coming from school is highly encouraged to report the incident immediately to a counselor, administrator, or other adult personnel on campus using the Bullying/Harassment Reporting form located at the school. Students have an option of reporting the incident anonymously using the [Bullying/Harassment Anonymous Complaint form located online on the district's webpage](#). Retaliation and/or witness intimidation will not be tolerated.

INVESTIGATION

The principal or designee shall promptly investigate all complaints of bullying or sexual harassment. The student who filed the complaint shall have an opportunity to describe the incident, present witnesses and other evidence of the bullying or harassment, and put his/her complaint in writing. Within 10 school days of the reported incident, the principal or designee shall present a written report to the student who filed the complaint and the accused individual. The report shall include his/her findings, decision, and reason for the decision.

TRANSFER REQUEST

A child that has been found to be the victim of a violent offense or bullying as defined by state law is entitled to transfer to another school within or outside the District, under California Education Code 46600(b). Placement at a requested school is contingent upon space availability. Transfer requests can be obtained via Student Services Department.

Bullying Prevention

Every student is entitled to a safe school environment free from discrimination, harassment, intimidations, and bullying. The Palm Springs Unified School District's Policy on Bullying can be accessed on the PSUSD website. Copies are available at each school site.

1. PSUSD prohibits bullying. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on the actual or perceived characteristics set forth in Penal code section 422.55 and Education Code section 220, and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Bullying is defined in Education Code section 48900(r).
2. School personnel must immediately intervene if they witness an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, provided it is safe to do so.
3. Acts of discrimination or bullying should be brought to the attention of the principal.
4. You may make an anonymous complaint by contacting the principal. If there is sufficient corroborating information, the Palm Springs Unified School District will commence an investigation.
5. Complaints of bullying or discrimination will be considered confidential. However, it may be necessary to disclose certain information in order to effectively investigate.
6. Students who violate the Palm Springs School District's policies on bullying or discrimination may be subject to discipline, including suspension and expulsion.
7. The Palm Springs Unified School District prohibits retaliation against individuals who make complaints of bullying or provide information related to such complaints.

All school personnel who witness an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying must take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. Any student who engages in acts of discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, or bullying related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a school of the school district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

To report an incidence and/or to receive a copy of the district's anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, anti-intimidation, and anti-bullying policies, please contact **Student Services at (760) 883-2703**.

Resources:

StopBullying.gov

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/>

Are You Being Bullied? How to Deal With Bullies

<https://www.stompoutbullying.org/get-help/about-bullying-and-cyberbullying/are-you-being-bullied>

Boo2Bullying - Outreach, Mentoring, Inspiration & Support

<https://boo2bullying.org/>

Delete Cyberbullying

<http://endcyberbullying.net/what-to-do-if-youre-a-victim/>

National Safe Place

<https://www.nationalsafeplace.org/bullying>

GLSEN.org

<https://www.glsen.org/research/strategies-prevent-bullying-lgbt-youth>

LGBT Youth - Stopbullying.gov

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/groups/lgbt/index.html>

Bullying and Cyberbullying Resources

<https://www.safekids.com/bullying-cyberbullying-resources/>

SafeHouse What's Up App - 24/7 Youth Crisis Line

Download the app or text our toll-free number 844.204.0880 to text with a trained counselor

<https://safehouseofthedesert.com/whatsup-app/>

CA Youth Crisis Line

<https://calyouth.org/cycl/>

Sprigeo - Report Bullying

<https://app.sprigeo.com/>

The BULLY Project

http://www.thebullyproject.com/tools_students